

# Deputy President (Education) November report to Union Council

Daniel Lo

## Updates:

- Met with departmental reps before their first student-staff committees (SSCs) to understand issues affecting students in various departments
- Conducted initial analysis on postgraduate research experience survey (PRES) and drafted initial recommendations with the President in the PRES task and finish group and PG research quality group
- Organised and co-delivered a total of 6 sessions of remote PG year rep training and in-person UG year rep training. Over 250 UG and PG year reps were trained. The overall turn-up rate was approximately 70 percent. A rep social was also organised and led by me and the DPW
- Supported recruitment for the Advice Caseworker role under the representation team
- Supported ICU staff members with the referendum and promoting it to students on campus
- Lobbying the College with academic concerns, such as summer exam arrangements, modification of the new SOLE survey and issues with shared modules between some departments in Faculty of Engineering

## Upcoming:

- Chairing the Taught Academic Rep Forum (22/11), second Education and Representation Board (23/11) and Research Academic Rep forum (2/12)
- To continue promoting the referendum and explaining to reps about the UCU strike action and potential effects of student's learning experience
- To sit on the Learning and Teaching promotions as well as the UROP bursaries panel
- To continue lobbying the College with summer exam arrangements in the In Person Exam Group (IPEG)

## Education and Representation Board (ERB) updates:

- Presented my project initiation document for the Mums and Dads project. Members have provided valuable insights and suggestions on this. The project initiation document presented in the last Council meeting will require some modification
- Had initial updates on the summer exam arrangements. I followed up with the College and lobbying them to include student representation in exam arrangement decisions. I will bring this topic back again in the next ERB

## Objectives:

### **Objective 1: Work closely with faculty and departmental (dep) academic reps to ensure departments are actively addressing the issues/feedback raised in the NSS response - [In progress]**

I have managed to meet the vast majority of departmental academic reps before their SSCs to ensure they are comfortable of chairing the meeting, especially if they haven't done so. I also followed up with some reps after the SSCs to check out whether issues they raised have been discussed and resolved. A majority of issues brought in the SSCs were identified by departmental reps and written in the NSS departmental recommendations. I will continue engaging with reps to follow up on the NSS issues raised in departments and provide support.

### **Objective 2: Providing support on development training for reps and foster the sharing of good practice across different departments - [In progress]**

The rep training for UG and PG were a success and I am delighted to have such a high turn-up rate and engagement from year reps, and faculty, departmental reps who attended the training. I have also included a Kahoot! game at the end of the session and giving out Union tote bags to the winners. We will consider all feedback from reps to improve our rep training in the future. In addition, academic rep forums allow reps from each department to interact and sharing good practice. More information will follow in my next Council report.

Some figures of the year rep attendance if you're interested.

Attendance Record		
Year rep training	Number of attendees	Turn-up rate (percentage)
PG Engineering	40	73
PG Natural Sciences	45	65
PG Medicine	34	69
UG NatSci + Med	53	74
UG Engineering	79	70

**Objective 3: Work closely with PG AWOs to ensure the departments are actively addressing the recommendations raised in the PRES response - [In progress]**

I am going to consult PG research reps and the AWOs in the Research Academic Rep Forum with the initial PRES recommendations. The President and I will work on this together in the second term, including a wider student consultation and report writing. I will be scheduling catch-ups with the newly elected AWOs soon, as they have just attended the training session today (22/11).

**Objective 4: Review the Mums and Dads scheme to investigate what the right cause of action is - [In progress]**

Most officer and staff time has been reprioritised into sorting out the logistics for the referendum, which has meant logistical steps on this has taken a back seat. Given that there are more urgent academic issues (ICU strike action and the associated action short of strike, as well as summer exam arrangements) this term, I prioritised other these issues. The timeline of the student consultation for the Mums and Dads review will be in late January to avoid clashes with exams.

**Objective 5: Enhance the Imperial experience for international students to ensure there is parity with home students - [Not yet started]**

This objective still needs to be started.

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [dpe@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpe@ic.ac.uk) or drop me a message on Teams:)