

President Report to Union Council

Dr Lloyd T. James

Updates:

- Completed the PG Engagement Review, as described below and in the separate agenda item.
- Engaged in discussions around student return-to-campus in January. Lobbied strongly for as much in person teaching as permitted by Government guidance, with students being expected to be present to physically attend campus.
- Successfully bid for £43,607 for the Union from a pot of money awarded to the College to be spent by July 2020 on improving research culture. This will be used to fund 3-month research projects investigating Postgraduate community and support networks within Departments, aiding in the implementation of the PG Engagement Review.
- Passed updated Associate Membership Policy and Vote of No Confidence / Censure Bye Law at Board of Trustees.
- Continued to spend significant time on Union and College disciplinary cases.
- On leave from December 23rd - January 3rd during Union closure period.

Upcoming:

- Procurement/development of leadership and management training for Constituent Union Presidents.
- Initiation of the Democratic Structures Review and first meeting of the corresponding Working Group.
- Work on the College Disciplinary Review which formally starts this month.
- Shaping of student consultation process relating to College partnerships.
- Development of project plans for Research Culture funded PG projects.
- Identification of 4-5 minor capital projects for ICU building improvements to go into College funding round.

Governance and Identity Board Updates:

- Governance and Identity Board has met once since last Council. No formal governance decisions (i.e. policy changes) were made. Discussions were held around possible mascotry rules for Mike the Micrometer, Constituent Union support, management of tankards, and alumni engagement.

Objectives:

Objective 1: Reviewing our Offer to Postgraduates - [Complete]

Current progress: The 'Review' component of this objective is substantially complete. Please refer to the other agenda item on this topic for further detail. While there remains significant work to be done on implementation in the coming months, I consider the objective of undertaking this review to be complete.

Objective 2: Reviewing our Democratic Structures - [In progress]

Current progress: Following the last meetings of Council and the Governance and Identity Board, I have managed to gather together enough volunteers to form a Working Group, the first meeting of which shall be convened very soon. From there, a consultation process will begin, with recommendations due to come back to Council towards the end of the academic year.

Objective 3: Understanding Community Development - [In progress]

Current progress: Some early consideration around this going into the development of the revised Student Experience Survey questions. This will then be progressed further through Term 2.

Objective 4: Supporting Constituent Unions - [In progress]

Current progress: Continued to have semi-regular catch ups with CU Presidents, and provided ICU representation at CU events. Discussion at GIB suggested a need for Leadership and Management training for Constituent Union Presidents which is a priority for this month.

Objective 5: Developing a coherent lobbying agenda for Campus Services and Estates - [In progress]

Current progress: Continuing to engage regularly with senior stakeholders in Estates, including Neil Alford (Associate Provost - Academic Planning), who attended the last Council meeting.