

Deputy President (Education) February report to Union Council

Daniel Lo

Updates:

- Strongly advocated for a timely decision for exam arrangements beyond January in the Education Committee on 16/12. This was later discussed on 20/1 and they have decided to allow departments to decide their desired exam format. This is not a unified approach, which means exam formats may vary within the faculty. Some departments have already notified their students with their decisions.
- Successfully lobbied with the College for more in-person teaching this term. Departments will be in touch with students later.
- Organised and facilitated the ICU Christmas Buddy Scheme to help students stay connected to the Imperial community during the holidays. I have collected feedback from participants in mid-January. A report of the scheme will be written soon, which forms part of the Mums and Dads review.
- Attended Quality Assurance and Enhancement committee, Programmes Committee, Regulations and Policy Review Committee (RPRC)
- Brought up the cross-module issue and safety net enquiry to the Vice Dean (Education) of the Faculty of Engineering. The VDE is looking into the issue, explaining that exam timetabling clashes were due to timezone differences which they can only schedule them in the morning. There will be no safety net policy this year and this was not discussed in the faculty.
- Lobby with the College to allow re-sits for postgraduate taught (PGT) students in the same academic year. Currently, PGT students will have to resit on the next available occasion, which is usually in the following academic year.
- Addressed my concerns regarding College's arrangements of distributing Post-Nominal Awards (Associateship of the RCS, RSM, ICSM). No certificates for Post-Nominal Awards of the College have been issued to graduating students since January 2020. No further actions have been made by the RPRC.
- Attended the EDI Seed panel meeting and helped with the funding selection with the DPW.
- Assisted the Union's marketing team for filming Lunar New Year videos

Upcoming:

- Publish the ICU NSS College and departmental recommendations
- To analyse the outcome and effectiveness of the Christmas Buddy scheme.
- Work closely with the College to minimise impact on students' academic experience. This include exam arrangements, Action Short Of Strike (ASOS), in-person teaching, PGT re-sits.
- Closely involve in the NSS Task and Finish Group to discuss the implementations of the recommendations.
- Work with the College to understand student feedback on the Module Evaluation Questionnaire (MEQ, previously SOLE)

Education and Representation Board (ERB) updates:

- Informed reps with the recent decisions made in the Education Committee. Reps were consulted whether they feel there are enough study spaces on campus and how they feel about moving between campus buildings. Reps were noted with the PG engagement review report.

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 will meet up with reps in the ARF in February to follow up with reps after their SSCs/SSLGs to check out whether issues they raised have been discussed and resolved. I will also continue engaging with reps and provide support. Once the NSS task and finish group has been set up, I will discuss the recommendations with senior College staff.

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

I am working on to improve how academic feedback can be raised to strengthen the rep network and ensure students can raise feedback effectively. I have initially started working on this and consulted senior staff members of the College. I will consult the reps soon to understand the optimal way to improve. On the other hand, I have co-delivered a training session for the recently elected PGT AWO.

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

The President and I will continue working on this together, including a wider student consultation and report writing. I was taking an annual leave so I did not attend the last PRES task and finish group meeting. However, I will actively work with the Graduate School and the President to ensure our recommendations are feasible and effective.

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

I will be evaluating the effectiveness of the Christmas Buddy scheme which will contribute to the Mums and Dads review. Key questions include but not limited to: Whether the representation team and I have enough capacity to do the matchmaking, whether it is more effective to match up people with different departments with similar interests, and how can we better engage students. I will start reviewing the scheme once I have completed the evaluation. I have just received feedback from participants and I will spend time analysing them in early February.

Objective 5: Enhance the Imperial experience for international students to ensure there is parity with home students - [In progress]

I have just started this objective in late January and I have had a meeting with the international officer to discuss issues affecting international students. Key questions include: How can the College improve its services for international students, and how can the ICU better represent them, do international students feel the College and ICU's services are helpful for them and effectively addresses their concerns. This project will last for half a year until my term ends in late July. A town hall meeting is planned to happen in late Feb and a report will be written in term 3.

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