

Deputy President (Education) May report to Union Council

Daniel Lo

Updates:

- Created an all rep feedback survey with Union staff to evaluate and improve how the Union support reps.
- Initiated the creation of an online feedback board to streamline day-to-day feedback processes in each department better. Students can submit feedback or enquiries on a centralised platform. Reps are then able to raise feedback to the relevant staff members. The feedback board aims to close the feedback loop and ensure Staff-Student Committees (SSCs) are focused on high-level issues. We hope this platform can make a positive change for students.
- Engaged with the College's Learning and Teaching (Training and Development) Group to ensure they make education more inclusive. For example, Blackboard Ally helps to teach staff to create content that is accessible for students with learning difficulties and a disability.
- Involved in planning for the Union Awards 2022 (previously the Student Choice Awards)
- Attended Lifelong Learning Steering Group to develop the College's strategic priorities. A few options were presented, such as credit transfer, online degree courses for international students, industry training short courses and Level 7 (equivalent to a master's level) apprenticeship. The next phase will include developing these further into a more detailed model that considers the policy environment and drivers, including funding, demand, market size and supply-side factors. The meeting will happen again in May.
- Discussed with the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences the shared modules Council paper. For FoE, I met the Head of Education and Student Experience and Education Officers to ensure they have concrete plans to solve this issue in the next academic year. This will be discussed in this Friday's Faculty Teaching Committee. FoNS has fewer shared modules, and coordination between departments seems to work quite well. Despite that, I suggested that FoNS be aware of this to improve their cross modules delivery further.
- To find my successor:)
- Assisted with Leadership Elections results night (not the Election hustings as I am out of office)

- Supported prospective DPE candidates, such as talking through the responsibilities of my role. I also encouraged faculty reps to run for my role too
- Assisted with Marketing and Engagement Manager interviews
- Attended a Fitness to Practise Panel on 7/3
- Engaged with Koreo, a learning consultancy which helps the creation of the EDI strategy in the Union
- Drafted and completed the Christmas Buddy Scheme Report

Upcoming:

- To sit on President Awards Panels - Excellence in Supporting Student Experience, Teaching and Teaching Innovation
- To sit on the Learning and Teaching Innovation Funding panel
- To receive MEQ departmental results (yes, I still haven't got them) and student feedback.
- To run the feedback board trial in 3 departments.
- To represent the Union to present in the Festival of Learning and Teaching in mid-May
- To assist Summer Ball planning

Education and Representation Board updates:

- A drafted Council paper was brought to ERB to look at increasing the funding and capacities for UROP placements. Members agreed that more transparency is needed for the selection criteria. In addition, the College should make UROP funding opportunities more visible.
- MEQ feedback was also discussed. Students are happy with the re-branded MEQ questions, but some are unhappy that they can no longer rate and comment on individual lecturers. The College will review the MEQ, and I will be involved in the process.
- College PRES action plan, elections update and my buddy scheme report were noted. Newly elected faculty reps were invited to 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 - [Complete]

This was completed in March.

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

There is a considerable change in this objective. We have delivered all rep training in the first term. The "sharing of good practice" part is to create a feedback board to improve the feedback process for reps and students after identifying several challenges with the current feedback system. The pilot date is slightly delayed (by two weeks actually) because I wanted to make sure the feedback board will work because this is a massive change for the team, reps, and students.

After the Union's rep team revisited the project plan, Nathalie and I have decided to merge our objectives. We are now reviewing both academic and well-being rep networks altogether. Hence, I will conclude Objective 2 and start a new objective (see objective 6). The feedback board project will form part of the project outcome. I have completed all the fundamental work during term 2, so we can start working on it quickly in the start of term 3.

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

Most departments have already published their PRES action plans. PG Dep reps are involved in the consultation process too. Most of the actions will start in the next academic year. The Union will not produce separate departmental and College-level recommendations as I did for the NSS. Ongoing work is needed for the next DPE to monitor their action plans once they start to implement them.

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

Please see my buddy scheme report if you are interested. The Student Opportunities team will take this project forward to ensure departmental societies are better supported when delivering Mum's and Dad's in September/ October. We are unsure whether the Union will

have a separate M and D scheme during the same period. This is yet to be decided by the Union staff.

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

The Student Experience Survey (SES) results for 21/22 show that most key College services received a high rating, making it difficult for us to provide recommendations to improve their services for international students. I will focus on the Centre for Academic English (CAE), as the English language is one of the significant barriers for international students (myself included). I will also work closely with the Union's Advice Centre to understand international students' issues. I will be discussing this with the Director of CAE next week.

Objective 6: Academic Representation Network review - [In progress]

We send out a rep feedback survey before the Easter break to evaluate and improve how the Union support reps. This includes looking at how we can support reps to collect feedback, supporting reps to support students, and ensuring that they can communicate with everyone they need. 164 responses were recorded. We have analysed the survey results, and decided to pilot the feedback board, as over half of the respondents suggested the Union should create an online feedback tool to better support their work.

After careful consideration, we have selected 2 UG (Materials and Physics) and 1 PG (Chemistry) department(s) to run the feedback board trial. The trial will run between the 9th of May until the 20nd of June. I firmly believe that by doing a more comprehensive rep experience review, the feedback board can effectively target reps and students' pain points when closing the feedback loop. I can't demonstrate the platform here, but I have attached a project brief if you're interested to see.

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:)