

DPEW's Report
A report by the DPEW

Education and Skills Committee Inquiries into Higher Education

The Education and Skills Committee of the House of Commons is inquiring into two areas of higher education policy: the future sustainability of the HE sector and the Bologna process. These are two areas which have a key impact on the future of university education and students across the UK. As part of the process the committee is seeking submissions from interested parties. Whilst NUS is submitting a response I think it would also be worthwhile to respond on behalf of ICU, particularly as issues such as Bologna affect the four year integrated masters (MSci/MEng) more than bachelors degrees and the majority of our students are on these programs. I will draft a proposal and take it to RWB this week for approval. Please get in touch if you have any issues you think should be addressed in this submission.

External Relations

Following a paper to exec I am currently chairing a committee which will be overseeing all aspects of the transition from ULU to NUS. The first meeting of the committee is this week, and I will prepare a report for the next Council.

ICT Student Experience Stream

Recent reorganisation means that ICT now has a dedicated section which deals with projects affecting students. I have been invited to sit on this committee and I am taking a major role in some projects, such as the student portal (essentially a personalised website which will draw together all the relevant online services which students use in interacting with College). I am currently helping to coordinate student requirements with the help of a small group of students. There will be wider consultation in the New Year.

Policing London post 7/7

The Chaplaincy organised a forum between the Met Police and students as to how London should be policed in the current climate. The panel had several high ranking police officers and members of the Muslim community. The debate brought to light several interesting issues and is hopefully the starting point for a more consensual approach in this area.

Fairtrade

After several years of lobbying College has transferred almost its entire catering operation (with the exception of the two Costa outlets) to Fairtrade tea and coffee. This is a major step towards becoming a Fairtrade University, which should be accomplished this year. Full details will be announced in the New Year.

Strategic Education Committee

The Union has been invited to give a presentation to the SEC. This is a chance to influence a key decision making body within the College. The presentation will be given by myself Shama and John, and we are currently deciding which issues should be raised (we only have 10 minutes). This will be discussed at RWB but any suggestions are welcome.

Key College Committees

Have attended:

- Science Studies
- Engineering Studies
- Quality and Academic Review comm.
- Quality Assurance and Advisory comm.
- College Libraries comm.
- Senate

There are no major issues to report – College is generally being very supportive at the moment. There are several papers regarding regulations post UoL. Generally these are either identical to the current regulations or an improvement (in terms of the effect on students). Several possible issues (such as charging students who ask for an administrative recount of exam marks) have eventually turned out to be much ado about nothing.

Other activities

I continue to represent the Union at several college committees (such as Southside Project Board). I am also continuing my work with individual students on a case by case basis.

Christmas

I shall be taking Christmas and the New Year off, and I wish everyone a very happy holidays/Christmas/Yuletide/etc.

BTH – 09/10/06