

## **DPEW Report**

*A note by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)*

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everybody enjoyed their Christmas break and exams (should you have had any) went well.

### **Meetings**

I have attended the following meetings since the last meeting of Council:

#### Plagiarism Working Party

First meeting of this small Working Group. This looks to be very promising with a very student focussed mind set and an open attitude to suggestions and improvements. I was extremely impressed.

#### Student Portal Project Board

Ticking along nicely. Just waiting to start the guinea pig stage.

#### Westminster Police Team

Imperial College and Westminster Council are launching a survey to find out student opinion about crime and fear of crime on campus. They are looking to make improvements to the current feeling of safety on campus and want to raise awareness of problem areas such as Hyde park after nightfall and pick-pocketing on campus.

#### Student Accommodation Project Board

This project is looking at the allocation software used and how to improve allocation of students to one of their chosen preferences. The target is to have 90% of students applying to Halls receiving one of their chosen rooms (five choices of room will be allowed).

#### Meeting with Staff from GSLSM

Steve, Chileya and I had a meeting with Bernie Morley and Sally Baker to discuss the future of Postgraduate Representation. Bernie and Sally have shown a lot of support from the GSA and we are developing ideas to improve PG Academic and Welfare Representation within the Graduate School of Life Sciences and Medicine.

### **Reports**

I am currently compiling information and writing reports on the following topics:

#### PhD Writing Up Status

With the new member of GSA support staff in place we are moving ahead in terms of Postgraduate representation. I have vast amounts of supporting documents to put forward a comprehensive argument for continued registration of PG students during their writing-up period. This report will be presented to the Strategic Education Committee in May.

#### Examination Feedback

After last terms Feedback Forum I now have lots of pretty graphs showing exactly what I wanted them to. It is now just a question of whether College takes any notice. The report will be discussed at the College Assessment Feedback Working Group and any contentious issues will be taken to the Strategic Education Committee in May.

#### Green League Table

Intrigued by the 'Making your University Greener' poster boards that have appeared in the Ante-room I decided to do some digging as to our position amongst other UK Universities. From the People and Plant 'Green league Table' published in the THES last year we are ranked 60<sup>th</sup> overall out of 120 institutions that took part. In itself this doesn't seem *too* bad but when compared to other Russell Group institutions we are third from the bottom of the table (Only Kings and Birmingham managing to be worse than us). Commenting on this to Nick Roalfe from estates received no reply. As did a request for advice on the Green Roof Project passed by Union Council last term.

### **Surveys**

I have been playing around with a survey website online called 'Survey Monkey' that we have decided to give a trial run. We will be paying the subscription for one month to cover the following two surveys:

#### Higher Education Funding Debate

The questions as agreed by RWB have been set (with some suggested tinkering and rewording) and the Survey is good to go. We will launch the topic along with articles in Felix and on Live! and will hopefully be hosting a panel debate with the help of Debating Society.

#### Hall Laundry Charging

The results from this survey will hopefully help to back up the current attempt to get financial reimbursement from College for Hall Seniors who due to an oversight in their Hall Contracts have technically paid twice for their laundry provision.

### **Campaigns**

Campaigns this term include:

#### Green Week

A London wide campaign for the first time in conjunction with Mayor of London (yes, them again!) but luckily this time People and Planet are taking quite a leading role and it seems better organised. Hannah, Adele, Lawrence (from Esoc) and I have been working with estates to coincide a Green Fair with rolling out the new College Recycling Scheme. Watch out for new colour coded bins in a building near you.

#### Fairtrade Fortnight

So far have not been able to arrange a meeting of the Fairtrade Steering Group as everybody is too busy to answer their emails. I have however had contact from an external charity offering help during the week and will be coordinating efforts from the Union to do at least something. Hopefully.

#### Healthy Living Week.

An initial meeting has taken place to discuss the scope of the week with Ally, myself and staff from Sport Imperial. The week will concentrate on all aspects of health and well being and will see lots of interactive events on campus.

### **Representation and Welfare Board**

RWB is on Thursday.