

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A note by Stephen Brown

Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI)

I attended the first meeting of the fourth cohort of Students' Unions who are taking part in SUEI. SUEI is a scheme supported by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills and is essentially a 2 year program that will provide the Union with an independent audit of its effectiveness. This will mainly focus on fairly dry topics such as governance, management, finance and staff development and the results will form a good starting point for discussions about the Union's next strategic review as our current strategy document is coming to the end of its life.

Graduate Students' Association

Results are now in. The GSA Chair is Kilian Frensch and the Treasurer election was won by Olayinka Bisiriyu.

NUS London Regional Conference

I attended Spring Regional Conference at City and Islington FE College. In typical NUS style this event stuck to the same old formula. In the morning we talked about student representation in London and a lot of good ideas were put forward but it was mostly a navel gazing exercise. Then in the afternoon some of the more revolutionary elements got all uppity about the NUS Governance Review and the NUS leadership attempted to get support for a National Bursary Scheme which I wasn't particularly impressed with as I am a firm believer in the concept that all student fees collected from Imperial students are used at Imperial and not at other Universities.

ULU Senate

I attended a meeting of ULU Senate to discuss the impact of the document released by the University of London on the future of ULU.

Speaker guidelines

Avid Felix readers will have noticed that there was a bit of a controversy caused when the Political Philosophy Society invited an inappropriate speaker to the academic, civilized debate that they were wishing to hold on Israel/Palestine. Whilst this Union is committed to upholding free speech over the coming months I will be working to create guidelines for groups to follow so that appropriate arrangements for speakers can be put in place and so that clubs are sure that the people they are inviting will contribute positively to the aims and objectives of the event that the club is hosting.

Court Hearing

I spent quite a bit of time in preparation for and attending the Court hearing in light of the preliminary constitutional interpretation I made at the last meeting of Council. The full determination is included as an agenda item for Councils information.

Elections

Sabbatical, NUS delegate and Student Trustee elections are currently ongoing and a timetable has been set for the Officer and Faculty Union elections. In particular I would like Council to note how delighted I am at the number of candidates standing for the 2008/09 Sabbatical team as it indicates that our democracy is stronger than the majority of other Students' Unions.

Exam offences hearings

Last week I spent an afternoon sitting on a disciplinary panel considering cases of several students accused of plagiarism. Several issues arose from this exercise that I am currently addressing with relevant members of College staff.

Standard meetings

College Secretary, Pro-Rector (Education), Pro-Rector (Postgraduate and International Affairs), Director of Commercial Services, GSLSM Management Committee, Alumni Office.