

Council
Monday 18th February

DPEW Report

A note by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Firstly I would like to apologise for getting my report in late. I hope the following updates on what I have been up to will somehow serve to justify this.

Higher Education Funding Survey

Has closed! We had 508 responses and the answers are very interesting. I have spent the weekend sifting through responses to find those that are relevant to the amendments we are discussing today and these are presented later on in the meeting. The full report will be available at RWB and the next meeting of Council (and also in Felix if you miss the Council Papers). Thanks to everyone that filled it in this is a great response. Prizes will be announced shortly (again in Felix).

Departmental Visions of E-Learning

Over the past fortnight I have been meeting individually with reps from every department to gain opinions on the development of learning technologies over the next 3-5 years. The report, commissioned by the Rector, will look at the differences in expectations and desires between departments, academics and students. This involved approximately two hours everyday during lunchtime talking through the 17 page questionnaire to get a good idea of what students want from their teaching and learning and where things need to be improved. I then typed up all the responses to be submitted online. The overwhelming message was that e-learning should support the work of academics in teaching but should not replace the more personal, face-to-face learning that is currently used.

Student Portal Project Board

The project has now gone live with a tester group of about eight students, some of whom (including myself) are on Council. There are still some minor glitches that need to be ironed out before the Portal is rolled out to a larger pilot group. Useful aspects of the portal have included news feeds (so I can stop College propaganda from filling up my Inbox and get the latest Live! news), single sign on solutions and having all the interactive aspects of College Life in one place.

Westminster Police Team

Imperial College and Westminster Council have launched 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. A short article appeared on the Union Page in last weeks Felix and you can fill in the survey from the Union website. Alternatively, all students should have received an email from Professor Julia Buckingham on this matter. College are planning to use a SOLE-style League table of Departments to try and increase participation in the survey which has had about 100 responses so far. This will open until 29th February.

Student Accommodation Project Board

The software for allocating rooms is being changed around so that more students will be able to get a place in one of their favourite halls. It has been proposed that the choice be reduced to five rooms (no more than two per hall) of which none have a rank greater than the others. It is thought using this method 85% of students will receive one of their first choices. This is slightly lower than the original 90% target which has now been revised.

Graduate Students' Association

After the elections, in which we have now got a GSA Chair and treasurer, we had a short and rather intimate committee meeting. Intimate in the way that it consisted of only myself, the GSA Chair and the Postgraduate and Faculty Union Coordinator. Tracks are being made on Postgraduate Writing Up Status and SCR opening times with initial meetings having been made for each.

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Campaigns

Campaigns this term include:

Artsfest

Last week. This was excellent, as usual, and well done to AEB for organising another great week of cultural celebrations at Imperial!

Green Week

I hope everyone has seen the new recycling bins! I happen to have fallen in love with them although it does particularly annoy me when people swap the lids round or put half eaten food waste into them. Please use the bins responsibly. They have been introduced as a response to student opinion and we should not take advantage of this. It will put us in a bad position for asking for stuff in the future. Watch out for lots of other exciting events this week including a Whole Food market cooking demonstration, bio fuels display, talks, stalls and much more throughout Imperial and London.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Is coming up. Hope everyone has seen the posters around campus. The campaign this year is based around the theme of 'Ask a Question about Fairtrade' and can be found on Facebook or on the Fairtrade Society Website.

Healthy Living Week.

This is moving on with events planned, more departments buying in with new ideas and external companies contacted. There will be everything from Healthy Heart food options to aerobics on Dalby Court. We just need to design posters now!

Representation and Welfare Board

The next meeting of RWB is on Thursday 28th February. At this meeting we will be discussing the full results from the HE Funding Survey and drafting a policy to be presented before ICU Council. Please feel free to attend if you are interested in getting involved in the process.

KMP 16/01/2008