

Council 8th June 2009

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Education and Welfare) Report
A Note by Hannah Theodorou
Deputy President (Education and Welfare)

Apologies for the lateness (and briefness) of this report... It's been a hectic couple of weeks and there's a lot to cover. If you have any further questions about any aspect of it, please drop me an email or pop in for a chat.

QA Review/ QAA Audit

The QAA Audit looms ever closer, as does the deadline for the Student Written Submission. Myself and Ashley attended training for the student reps that are going to be involved next year, which had useful tips on what should be included. The recommendations from the QA review have been passing through various committees with a mostly positive response, although there is always resistance to change.

Welfare Website and Handbook

There have been extensive discussions about the future of the Student Page on the College website, with more of a focus on student welfare and admin which I have been feeding in to. This ties in with the future of the Student Handbook which is currently a fairly redundant resource considering most of them get left at home and the information goes out of date very quickly. It is anticipated that most of the information will be incorporated into the new web pages.

Disability Training

I attended a College disability training workshop which is highly recommended to all Union Officers involved in Welfare. I will hopefully be incorporating some of the ideas into a disability policy for the Union over the summer.

Green Imperial and Halls Recycling Project

A new task force has been established to look at Imperial's Corporate Social Responsibility which I have been asked to sit on. We anticipate that we will be moving up in the University Green League, mostly due to the fact we have become a lot better at advertising our successes. The winning entries for the Greening Imperial competition included a competition to make Halls more sustainable and a strategy for reducing paper cup usage in the catering outlets.

David Lammy

Myself and Jenny headed up to Bristol to get an insight into the future of the Higher Education Strategy in England. I asked David Lammy about the Burgess Report recommendations and the future position of Degree Classifications. He mostly skirted around the subject, after commending us for our excellent question. Oh well.

Graduate School meetings

I have attended a lot of Graduate School meetings in the past 2 months where we have been discussing changes to the MPhil/ PhD transfer process. There is also some debate about the criteria for Merits and Distinctions at Masters Level.

Research Ethics Committee

I have sat on 2 meetings of the Research Ethics Committee so far this year. It would be ideal to recruit a Postgraduate Researcher, particularly in the School of Life Sciences and Medicine to take over the post of student representative next year. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let me know.

Biochemistry

I have been working with the students in the Department of Biochemistry to resolve some issues they have had with the course. Thank you to Joe Illingworth who brought this issue to my attention, and who has put in a huge amount of effort to represent the 2nd year students on his course. There is now going to be a review of undergraduate teaching in the Department, with a view to introduce more tutorials and laboratory work.

Personal Tutors

Following the SEC presentations, and renewed interest in this issue a new Dean has been appointed for Learning and Teaching who will be responsible for building up the academic interaction between Personal Tutors and their students. It is anticipated that a system similar to CATE in the Department of Computing will be rolled out across the College Departments so that students and Personal Tutors will be able to access live results. This should have a positive knock-on effect on turnaround of work and also improve the situation regarding feedback.

Humanities Review

This will be detailed in a separate report.

Handover

John James attended 2 meetings whilst I was away on training- the Student Accommodation Committee and the Student Opportunities Fund.

Battle for the Ball

On a fun note, I helped judge the Battle for the Ball competition. It made me very tired though.