

Report to ICU Council  
Jonathan Silver, Deputy President (Education)

QAA Institutional Audit 2010

As Ashley is reporting tonight, eight senior reps attended the student briefing meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. See his report for more details. Detailed information on the audit process is in my last Council report.

RWB funding

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, a decision was made that the representative functions of Faculty Unions would now be funded by money allocated by the Representation and Welfare Board. Money for clubs under Faculty Unions will continue to come from the Clubs and Societies Board. It's a bit of a shake-up but long overdue, and means the following things:

- Clubs under FUs are protected from their money being spent on representation and welfare support.
- Representation and welfare support money cannot be spent by clubs.
- At last RWB gets the power to co-ordinate representative activity better in FUs. We can allocate money appropriately and, because we've paid for it, we can ensure that money is spent on doing what FUs were meant to do in the first place: represent their students.
- The DPW and I have an awful lot more work: we have to hold a budgeting round at RWB too!
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Tightening up academic representation

Here's another request for input for this new Academic Representation Policy that I'm going to write, which I detailed in my last report. Senior College staff have seen my plan and they're very pleased with it! I've been too busy preparing papers for College and Union meetings to really get cracking on this but by the time of this meeting I should definitely have something to show.

Meanwhile, I'm implementing a few measures to tighten up ship: the biggest one is asking Academic Affairs Officers (including the three Medic Ed Reps) to present a report on their activities at RWB. They're reporting on Thursday. I might consider turning it into policy in the future.

Staff-student meetings

College are very keen to keep a close eye on staff-student meetings, to find out if they're working. They've asked me to keep all eyes on them, and need me to report about them regularly, so a huge chunk of my time has been taken up over the last couple of weeks writing an epic 2,700 word report on them. I'm presenting it to the Quality Assurance Advisory Committee on Thursday, but if you're involved in staff-student meetings, I'd very much like it if you could come to RWB on Thursday where I'll present this paper again and we'll have a little bit of a discussion on the meetings, what goes on in them and what should be going on in them.

It turns out that departments have been a little bit rubbish about discussing things that are meant to be standing agenda items: things like external examiner reports and Annual Monitoring Reports are just not discussed—ever—and personal tutoring is rarely mentioned. These are all things that are meant to be discussed at these meetings. On the bright side, the meetings are doing a lot of good: many departments are taking issues brought up in the meetings very seriously and are working hard to please the students. I am spotting where there are holes and staff who can't be bothered to resolve problems, and I'm making sure they get followed up.

National Student Survey

The opening of the NSS is looming (8<sup>th</sup> of February) and I urge all final year students to complete it! I have a box of all manner of incentives in my office, particularly beer mats (although on the covering letter they describe them as 'coasters' – I wonder why.) The DPW has a plan for encouraging students *en masse* to complete the NSS.