

Council
23rd May 2011

Deputy President (Education) report

A note by Alex Dahinten

Representation Policy (and Appendix) and Feedback Policy

This document was created last year by “the Johns” (Silver and James). This year, Andrew Keenan (Rep Coordinator) and I have been changing/updating it and creating the Appendix that lays out every single representative position the Union has. The document is almost done and will be brought to the next RWB on 12 May.

Regarding the Feedback policy, a certain member of College staff has FINALLY gotten back to me with his recommended changes, however since I am currently away on leave I won't have a chance to work on this until the week of Council. I will keep council updated via email on when and how I will move forward with this.

Aldwych

On the 26th and 27th May we are going to be hosting the Aldwych Group meeting on Postgraduate Students. For these events, the Sabbatical Officers for all Russell Group institutions come together to discuss current issues and share best practise. Both Kendall and myself have been working on this and it's shaping up to look like a very promising meeting. The GSA will also be actively during these two days.

Transferable Skills Working Group

College have launched numerous working parties that have looked at the transferable skill provisions to PGs (who are losing the funding for their TS courses) as well as UGs. The GSA has been involved with the PG discussion, and I have attended the ones on UG. The general consensus is that we currently provide very limited transferable skills to our UGs and that this will change in the future. The idea we agreed vaguely on is a cross-faculty course on how to communicate science, and go about thinking about and discussing current topics ranging from Medicine to Engineering and Science. This is very much blue sky thinking at the moment and no steps can be taken until we have looked into this idea in depth and also found the necessary resources. Work for next years DPE hopefully!

SEC (Strategic Education Committee) Presentation

Every year the Union gets invited to give a presentation to the Strategic education Committee (the only high ranking College Committee we do not sit on). We get to choose exactly what we would like to speak about every year; last year feedback was discussed. This year we will be highlighting issues on student expectations before coming to Imperial, while at Imperial and after they leave Imperial. This will tie into the higher fees discussion as well as the “reputation” we have to potential students. The Union would like to play a greater role in publicising our successes to the wider public and in the process begin dispelling the Imperial reputation of being boring, geeky and only worth it because of the degree you get! Our Communications team and I have also met with the International office and taken the first steps.

NSS Response Rate

The NSS closes on the 30 April; please find below the participation rates from the 28 April. Together with the Year and Departmental Reps, the AAOs, FU Presidents and myself have played a very large role in this improvement; congratulation to all! I will make sure to pass on how exactly this was done to next year's DPE so that we can continue this positive trend in our survey participation.

Department/Degree Stream	NSS Response Rate (02.03.2011)	NSS Overall Response Rate 2010	Δ
Earth Science and Engineering	98%	68%	30%
Bioengineering	76%	56%	20%
Business School	75%	<50% (results not published)	-
Medicine	69%	68%	1%
Mechanical Engineering	68%	59%	9%
Biology	68%	57%	11%
Biochemistry	65%	60%	5%
Computing	64%	68%	-4%
Physics	64%	58%	6%
Aeronautics	64%	58%	6%
Chemistry	63%	56%	7%
Materials	63%	61%	2%
Biomedical Sciences	62%	56%	6%
Civil Engineering	59%	52%	7%
Chemical Engineering	58%	53%	5%
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	57%	52%	5%
Mathematics	50%	<50% (results not published)	-
Overall	64%	58%	6%

Handover

I have begun collating handover documents and writing an agenda for when Jason Parmar takes over my position.