

## **Higher Education Achievement Reports (HEAR)**

*A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont*

### **Background**

The 2007 Burgess Report published recommendations that Universities review how they measure and record their students' achievement.

The HE White Paper (June 2011) announced the government's 'expectation' that most institutions would develop a Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) that would list (on degree transcripts) a more detailed report of a student's life at University.

### **Potential things to include on a HEAR**

- Qualification title, subject and classification
- Level of study, duration, entry requirements
- Access to further study, professional status
- Verifiable extra-curricular activities, achievements and awards

### **Potential concerns**

- Students take up volunteering and as many clubs and societies as possible to enhance their 'CV' transcript.
- Students who *just* manage to attain a grade may be perceived to be disadvantaged by this system.

### **Potential advantages**

- Value is added to students' involvement in volunteering and extra curricular activities
- The full extent of a degree course (ie, specific modules) could be covered in one transcript

### **Things to consider**

- ICU already offers a CV of activities and awards students gain whilst at Imperial (though not well advertised)
- If modules are to be listed, should their content be listed too? We know the College teaches a lot, but a potential transcript containing only subject titles doesn't cover this.
- Would individual module marks be something people are fine with releasing?
- Should ICU award ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) credits for extra-curricular and volunteering activities?

### **Discussion**

What, in the view of Imperial College Union, should Imperial College do?