

Council
15 January 2012

Imperial College Union

Deputy President (Welfare) Report

A report by Becky Lane

Unseen Imperial

The project focuses on LGBT students, interfaith issues, BME students, Gender Equality, International students and students with disabilities, but is not restricted to only these areas. Many different campaigns will come under the umbrella Unseen Imperial including campaigns working on destigmatising mental health issues. The main aims are to speak out against discrimination of any kind, to open our eyes and minds to the diverse student body we are and to give minorities a voice. Upcoming initiatives include LGBT history month and mental health awareness days.

London wide mental health campaign planning

I went to a meeting with other welfare sabbaticals based in London and representatives from the charity Mental Wealth. We plan to meet semi regularly as a working group to steer campaign ideas and share best practise.

Green initiatives

This term there will be lots of new green initiatives starting at Imperial College Union. I hope to establish a Green Network as a focal point for student focus on green issues, and also as a launch pad for environmental campaigns. There is also the potential that there will be a food co-op developing throughout this term.

Personal Safety

This year we hope to get some better personal safety advice out there in a fun and informative way. This info will help students get home safely from a night out, help students spot con artists (especially if you are new to Imperial/the UK) and keep students up to date with any incidents happening across all campuses.

Sexual Health

Fingers crossed, I should be organising for some more pop up STI checks in the Union building. As many STI clinics are already very stretched and many charities are having their government funding cut (Thanks Mr Cameron!) it is proving to be tricky to find someone to provide this service. However I am continuing to explore as many avenues as possible as I feel STI testing in your own Union would be a great service.

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Student led campaigns

Soon the campaign form will be available online, and we want to know what issues students are passionate about. The role of the Deputy President (Welfare) is to run but also support student campaigns. There is a pot of money set aside for student led campaigns which can be accessed to campaign about pretty much anything effecting Imperial students. It doesn't matter whether the issue is specific to Imperial, or to raise awareness about a certain international matter. There will shortly be publicity about this encouraging campaign groups to come forward.

Student Experience Survey

We have just received all of the data from registry and the analysis will take some time. This data will feed into a report written by myself and some of the Union staff members. It will be used to lobby college on issues that have been highlighted, whether that is increasing counselling provision or communicating the welfare services to the student body more effectively. The report will be available online so you can see what we are actually changing. The responses about the Union will also be analysed and we will be trying to introduce changes to make your experience here better.

Exam stress

During the summer term myself, and Doug, Deputy President (Education) will be coming up with some innovative ways to help students cope with exam stress.