

Council
11 June 2013

Union Council Report

Graduate Students' Association/Union (GSA/U) 2012/2013

June 2013

President's Report

Maryam Habibzay

- There were a number of periodic reviews organised by the graduate school where the GSA represented the PG students. I was a student representative on a periodic review of Masters courses at Hammersmith in Feb. Natasha (GSA VP) attended the translations unit review.
- Attended a number of meetings: MCQ, GTA working party, PRQC, PPDC and arranged GSA executive committee meetings.
- Highlighted PG issues at quarterly dinners with Debra.
- Attended IG Nobel awards organised by Graduate School.
- Attended Imperial West launch.
- Arranged a meeting with Jane and Jemma for the GSA to view level 0 project (Holland club) developments. Paul, Becky, James, Sarah, Helen and myself attended this meeting.
- Attended all budgeting meetings with GSA/U treasurer.
- Discussed feasibility of a sabbatical union deputy president with a major PG role with Paul, Andrew and Debra.
- Meeting with Paul re GSA/U constitution: the GSA proposed a few changes such as addition of deputy president (operations), deputy president (representation) and change of GSA to Graduate students' Union (GSU). GSA -> GSU transition was passed at the Union Executive council.
- Presented with Helen (AWO Life Sciences) at an event organised for MSc students who want to do a PhD organised by graduate school.
- Events: we have had a number of successful events: PG students networking event organised with LSE and King's College; Trip to Canterbury and theatre trips (Matilda and Charlie the chocolate factory). The events were organised by Maija (events officer), James (treasurer) and myself.
- Sent role descriptions of GSA/U roles for the summer election candidate's booklet.
- Preparation of GSA newsletters with Nick (AWO Eng) and Maija (Events officer).
- I was a part of the judging panel to choose best research supervision at Student Academic Choice Awards (SACA).
- Part of the judging panel to choose President and Rector's Research supervision awards 2013.
- It has been hard to get student volunteers for GSA/U positions for next year. This year's GSA/U elections seem to be a repeat of last year's.
- Planning and organising GSA/U colour awards to be held in July.

AWO Business Report

Simon Schillebeeckx

Since the last report, I have not really started up new initiatives as an AWO. However, progress has been made on issues previously brought forward which is

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hopeful. Importantly, I had a couple of discussions with Andrew George and Debra Humphries regarding the extension of the student status. Andrew is finishing a proposal that will be voted on in the next Senate meeting. We expect the change to move forward but at the moment it is not quite sure yet which students will be affected, although it looks like everyone who starts their third year of the PhD programme in September would benefit from the change. Success Furthermore I have assured my succession as I will be stepping down as AWO in the end of July. Two business school PhD students have volunteered for the position and the votes are being counted. Besides these things, I have attended a variety of meetings (MCQ, PPDC, QAAC, GSA/GSU executive committee...) and have also been a student reviewer for the medicine programmes on the 17th of May. Finally, I was on the committee to select the most innovative lecturer and presented the SACA award for best supervision.

AWO Physical Sciences' Report

Ross Webster

Since my last report, I have attended Master's Quality Committees, the Postgraduate Research Quality Committee, the Education and Student Strategy Talk, and Education and Representation Boards. In addition, I have also stood on the Student Academic Choice Awards (SACA) Panel and University Awards Panel. This term, I have primarily been in contact with course and year reps, rather than departmental reps, due to varying workloads, awkward timetables and rather one-sided communication. I have also been trying to recruit applicants for next year's GSA Exec committee, but to little avail - this year's GSA elections seem to be a repeat of last year's. During the summer, I intend to attend the final Master's Quality Committee of the academic year, and stand on the Life Sciences Review panel.

AWO Engineering's Report

Nicholas Ng

- Nothing on academic affairs to report.
- Received one request on student welfare and resolved by directing to College Tutor
- Presented a lecture on writing and setting up websites
- Student representative on a periodic review of NHLI in June.
- Updated GSA/U website with event details etc and formatted GSA/U newsletter