

**Trustee Board Report**  
**David Goldsmith- ICU President**

**Consultation Framework**

I am in the process of developing a 'Consultation framework' to be used by the College and the Union when seeking to consult with students. The idea is that this framework will promote and standardise student consultation in order to legitimise decision-making, manage student expectations and ultimately produce better outcomes.

It will enable the user to produce a series of consultation methods to be completed as a guideline, related to the potential impacts of the decision being made. The level of consultation the platform recommends will be standardised according to balanced input from consultations with numerous members of staff and students across the College. If completed, the Union will award the consultation a Mark of Approval. It is important to stress that this will not be approval for the decision made, but rather for the process of consultation which was used to reach the decision.

In tandem with a working group I have produced a plan for the development and implementation of this framework. The first draft has been completed and I am in the process of meeting with members of College staff for early feedback.

**Anti-Immigration Bill Campaign**

The Immigration Bill (1) is making its way quickly through Parliament. If it is passed non-EEA migrants, including international students, will have to pay an annual fee of around £200 for use of the NHS and may be subject to immigration-status checks by landlords

Since passing the motion at Union Council to oppose the bill a few of us met with Daniel Stevens (International Officer for the NUS) to discuss how we could join in with the national campaign as well as make our own voice heard. Our campaign page can be found here <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/news/oppose-immigration-bill>. The page directs people to e-mail their MP and sign the NUS petition. I have worked with Charmain (OSC (2) Chair) to send out an e-mail to all OSC society presidents asking them to e-mail all their society members to encourage them to use the page and to organise visits to local embassies to put pressure on them to do something about the bill.

I am in the process of publishing an open letter to members of the House of Lords who are associated with Imperial College, to be published on our website, in Felix and possibly elsewhere- asking them to speak out against the bill. Marissa (Deputy President Welfare) presented our Council paper on the matter to the Vice-provosts Advisory Group for Education with approval from the members on our stance. I also alerted the Provost and the Rector to the matter. While choosing not to take a public stance against the bill the

College are currently working behind the scenes with the Russell Group and Universities UK to fight the bill.

I contacted the lords to notify them that we will be publishing this letter and received a response from Lady Manningham-Buller and Lord Winston with whom I discussed the matter at the Science Challenge (3) Launch drinks last week. I will be meeting Lord Winston for lunch, once the bill reaches the House of Lords, to discuss the matter. Both appear keen to oppose the Bill. I also received a response from Lord Darzi who is keen to speak out against the bill.

Our campaign featured on the front page of Felix in an article written by Marissa and as the headline of the Weekly Union newsletter from me.

### **Meeting with the Royal College of Art Students' Union (RCASU) and Royal College of Music Student Association (RCMSA)**

Yas (Deputy President Clubs and Societies) and I met with the presidents of these two Unions to discuss how we could make the most out of being so close to each other. We have decided to set up a meeting between us, to happen at the start of each term, rotating in its location, and to continue into the future. A few copies of Felix will be distributed to the Colleges and their students will be able to write articles for the publication. They have agreed to encourage their students to buy associate membership of our Union and to join our clubs and societies. We all agreed to keep each other updated on events that we hold. These will be excellent opportunities for students at Imperial to mingle with artists and musicians.

### **Meeting with the Constituent Union Presidents**

I met with the Constituent Union Presidents before the end of the last term and we decided that it would be useful for us to have a meeting together each month in order to discuss how things are going, how the Union can better help them and to share best practice.

### **Residential Experience Review**

Marissa and I will be sitting on board to review the residential experience at Imperial College with a particular focus on the first year experience of undergraduates along with some representatives from the College and some external members. The aim is to consider evidence, including current policies and procedures, and to make recommendations on good practice, areas for change and enhancement. Kieron (Deputy President Finance and Services at the Union) will be presenting to the board a submission of evidence from the Union.

### **Rent Guarantor Scheme for International Students**

This is regarding implementing a scheme by which the College would act as a rent guarantor for international students- therefore an international student studying at the College would not need to pay 6-12 months rent up front when renting from a private landlord. After initially receiving a negative response from College management I sent them the proposal LSE Students' Union made to their University. I highlighted how the scheme was working well at a

few Universities - College management are now very keen on this being implemented at Imperial College. We have decided to make this a part of the Residential Experience Review- I will be writing a submission to the Review Board (of which I am a part) detailing evidence of this guarantor scheme and the benefit it would have for our international students.

#### References

- 1) Immigration bill: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigration.html>
- 2) OSC: Overseas Societies Committee: The management group for all Overseas Societies (E.g. Romanian Society)
- 3) <http://rcsu.org.uk/sciencechallenge/>