

Council

9th June 2015

Deputy President (Welfare) report to Council

Christopher Kaye, Deputy President (Welfare)

This is my final report to Council as Deputy President (Welfare). It's been a very interesting year for me. I've learnt a lot, had my mind changed on things, and I also like to think I've changed others' minds on things.

Women in Science

Following my manifesto pledge to make Imperial more female-friendly, you may remember I lobbied successfully for sanitary products to be sold at-cost on Campus. I also look forward to next year working on improving access to women's sports and laying ground rules for participation in sport regardless of background of gender.

Donations to Student Support Fund

In-keeping with my promise to donate a third of my salary to (what is now called) the Student Support Fund, I can declare that to the date 4th June I have donated £3,526 to the Fund. With Gift Aid this has been topped up by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs to £4,408. I expect to exceed £5,000 (reflecting 1/3rd of my salary next of NI/Tax/Pension) by the time of my final DPW payslip in August 2015 – which will of course also be topped up by HMRC by 25% meaning over £6,000 will have been given to the Fund by the end of the academic year.

Engaging Under-18s

You may recall that we have an alcohol-free club night at the Union called Dri, which was a hugely successful and popular event. The Union must continue to commit to providing wherever possible identical services to our under-18 year old members as we do to our over-18 year old members.

“Back to basics” Union

I pushed for more transparency and scrutiny in the appointment of appointed Trustees to the Board. I'm delighted to report that the majority of panellists on appointments have been students.

Room Swaps

After some success on this front, I look forward to working with Jennie Watson to push College further to allow inter-hall room swaps next year.

Student Led Campaigns

I'm delighted by the success of student led campaigns this year, which have truly become a significant part of what the Union does and funds students to do. I will push for more direct advocacy next year.

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Things I wish I could have done

I wanted to work on changing the Late Coursework penalty back to however hit a brick wall early on by being told that it was becoming “standard” in the University sector. I still fundamentally believe that students shouldn’t get 0% for being a few minutes late submitting and I hope I can have more success next year.

One thing I forgot to do

Exploring how we can improve the accountability of sabbatical officers. Is it really as easy as putting votes on Honorary Life Membership to a student-wide vote? Probably not.

Looking Ahead

Next year I will be DPFS. It will be my 6th year here and I relish the challenge of spreadsheets, number-crunching, and being the democratic oversight of our services. I look forward to Clubs being able to receive donations direct from members/alumni. I look forward to a revamped menu in the bar with my input.

I look forward to working with College on making the student experience in Acton the best it can be. I will make myself available in Acton, will visit Acton and make use of our Union facilities out there. I also look forward to feeding in to Imperial West (White City) development to get the very best services for students on the new Campus.

2015/16 is going to be a very exciting year.