

Officer Trustee Report Board of Trustees

PRESIDENT – LUCINDA SANDON-ALLUM

Union Space Review

The Union Offices have recently undergone a restructure. The reception desk and more student facing teams (student activities, student development and education and welfare) are now located on Level 2. This has received positive reviews and we hope students will find the Union to be more student facing and accessible.

Housing Project

Jennie and I have both been working on a housing campaign that we aim to run over the course of the academic year. We have been working on a proposal for a College run Guarantor Scheme. We have also been in touch with CitizensUK regarding the link between the housing crisis students face and the London Mayoral Elections. I've also been investigating a landlord accreditation scheme with use of a website called Move'm. I'm awaiting a response from Universities currently using the website.

Feedback Platform/App

I've been looking into ways the Union could host a feedback platform, aimed to allow students to have a say and opinions on decisions the Union may make. Discussions with the Officer Trustees and staff in the Union have led to development of the idea of the Union having its own iOS/Android App. This App would be a 'lite' version of our website, whilst also hosting a feedback platform. I've researched and spoken with several companies who develop Apps, as well as contact with ICT and the team who run the Student Centric Project. This is a work in progress, but with aims to get something up and running within this academic year.

Royal Mixer

In order to build relationships with Royal College of Music (RCM), Royal College of Arts (RCA) and Royal Veterinary College (RVC) I am organising another Royal Mixer (first one was November 2014). I've collaborated with the presidents from the other 3 unions and we are currently organising a large event to be hosted at Imperial College Union, in November. This will be a good opportunity for students from all 4 colleges to mix with each other and build relationships. This is especially important as the other colleges can use our facilities and buy associate membership for the Union as well.

Halls Allocations

Due to the unprecedented number of first year students starting at Imperial in October, the College found itself with a large number of bed spaces short. This led to Fisher Hall and Bernard Sunley being reinstated as halls of residences for this academic year. We have been collaborating with College to ensure the first year students in these halls have a good experience. Both halls have had swift renovations to the living spaces and will have hall wardening and senior teams. All rooms will be standard singles at £132pw – an extremely reasonable price under the new halls pricing strategy.

Women in STEM/Gender Equality

I've been working with College outreach on their women in STEM projects. We are working on organising a week of events around International Women's Day. This week will range from

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celebrating women in STEM to inspiring young girls into STEM through related activities. I've also been involved in the upcoming Greenlight4Girls event and Stemettes Hackathon.

On 8th October the College and Union are hosting the HeForShe UK tour, consisting of student engagement on campus and a panel discussion. This is a very exciting opportunity for the Union and the College to be at the forefront of institutions supporting gender equality.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) – JENNIE WATSON

Operations

Since returning to the office after our time at Gilwel park, I have been chipping away at my year plans, but also working on additional small projects as they have arisen.

Mental Health Training

I recently had my first real victory as DPW and secured funding from the Student Support department to allow all Wardens and Assistant Wardens in halls to receive 2 days Mental Health First Aid training and all Subwardens to attend Mental Health First Aid Lite half day courses.

Advice Services

In terms of my main objectives for the year, at the time of writing I am midway through interviewing candidates for the new position of Advice Services Manager. I can't wait to have someone in post and start developing the Union's advice services from the ground up, with a view to create something innovative and sector leading.

Housing Project

The major housing project in conjunction with Lucinda is progressing, with a draft proposal for a College run Rent Guarantor Scheme well underway. I have also introduced Lucinda to my contacts in CitizensUK; we are hoping to get involved with their long running West London housing campaign as well as their major rally in the run up to the London Mayoral elections.

Liberation and Welfare Officers

I've also been working on getting to know the part time Liberation & Welfare Officers, helping them develop their plans, and doing everything I can to help them achieve their visions. Of particular interest for the near future is Black History Month, run by Lami Akinwuntan, our Black, Minority & Ethnic Students Officer. She is working alongside African Caribbean Society to run debates, a jazz night and a food festival in celebration of BHM. Lami is also planning to use her interest in photography to run a photographic exhibition to celebrate Women of Colour at Imperial. Similarly, the International Students Officer, Sautrik Banerjee is planning to work with the Activities team to hold International Imperial, a festival celebrating cultural diversity on campus. Finally, I'm also very excited about Emma Little, LGBT+ Officer, who has a huge amount of ideas to improve inclusivity of Imperial's LGBT+ community as well as campaigning around transgender issues.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES) – BENJAMIN HOWITT

Operations

I have been processing a high volume of routine queries with clubs. Work with the Activities team is slowly reducing this workload.

Freshers' Fair

The plan for Freshers' Fair and the week has mostly taken shape, with the only remaining major workstream in arranging performances. Thanks to Joe, James Lindsay and Tegan Pickles for their assistance and advice.

RAG Conference

I have attended the annual RAG conference and one regional BUCS meeting. Both were of good networking use and have started some conversations with engaged club volunteers.

Budgeting

I have set an ambitious target to have the budgeting process and major decisions taken by mid November. This work stream is behind at the time of writing, and I will update the Board verbally at the meeting, given the fast turnaround necessary once the academic session begins.

Projects

Sports Review

The first meeting for the sports review took place at the end of August, and was informative and encouraging. I am leading on the student engagement side of the Varsity planning group, and am pushing for the involvement of non-Sportspeople and liberation representatives.

Club Training

The Activities team had already begun work on more relevant club training for new officers when I came into office, and publicity & training documents for the next year were mostly completed by the Development team. I have made some comments on readability and accessibility, and plan to remain engaged in club volunteer training. I have been talking to Paul Buckley around identifying additional relevant and useful training sessions for students engaged in Union or community activity.

Documentation and meetings

Owing to the volume of club queries, I have been unable so far to make significant progress on the policy redrafts I had planned. I am triaging what will have the most positive impact before the start of term, and will pick up the remainder during Spring and Summer Term.

Wider Student Development

This project has been put back awaiting the arrival of students, to ascertain whether this would be best delivered in the short term to entrepreneurs or casual Union employees.

Community Outreach

I am in talks with the RAG committees and the Development team regarding a broader offering for volunteering and fundraising opportunities. I would like to see significantly higher uptake of fundraising activity by CSPs in the next academic year, but have yet to investigate the student body's appetite for this change.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION) – CHUN-YIN SAN

Academic Representation Network

Efforts to streamline the structure of the Undergraduate Representation Network has begun. Academic Affairs Officers and Academic & Welfare Officers have been given clear responsibilities

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and status within the Rep Network, including membership on a Central Rep Team led by the DPE for greater engagement on the Faculty level.

Introductory meetings with GSU Academic & Welfare Officers have raised concerns about AWOs' workload. 'Quick fixes' such as changing meeting times and reducing AWO meeting commitments have been done where possible. Further changes will be actioned as soon as possible, including better direct engagement between the DPE and the PG Reps and ensuring as many Reps can attend training.

All incoming Reps will receive a Welcome Pack and be able to participate in a revamped training workshop. I am also in discussion with the Business School towards organizing a Leadership Development workshop for Reps.

Finally, the new Imperial Horizons representation structure has been drafted. Subjected to approval from Education & Representation Board and Union Council in October, the new structure should give way to a November election for Horizons Reps.

Academic Affairs

Work towards NSS and PRES responses have begun. This year we are making sure to engage on all levels – for example, having a College-wide NSS response but also making sure Reps understand their Departments' data and has the time and support to come up with recommendations that they can push for towards Departments' action plans.

I am currently in the process of scrutinizing the new academic regulations for Taught programmes, with the view of changing some regulations e.g. zero-tolerance for late submissions and excessive word count that has generated criticism from the student body.

A Students' Statement on Quality Feedback has support from the Academic Affairs Officers, and work will begin in late October with view of completion by late November.

Learning Environment

A position statement has been published with regards to the South Kensington-Hammersmith shuttle service. Further discussions with Estates to realize the recommendations are in progress. Conversations have begun with ICT to explore how to reduce the technical issues affecting Panopto uptake.

Student Development

Currently exploring with the Careers Service and Student Hub how to revise the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and the housing options available to students on the scheme, with the aim of making the scheme fairer and more accessible to students from less privileged backgrounds.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) – CHRISTOPHER KAYE

Operations

A lot of my time has been taken up with getting to grips with processes and helping students with enquiries. This will continue as the new academic year gets underway.

Bar services

During the first six weeks I have been very pleased to engage in the work the Bar is doing in revamping the menu. I have already noticed a drastic improvement in our service and will continue to put the student point of view across. I am keen to involve students in taking a look at our services.

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I have enjoyed being involved in appointing our new team out at The Foundry Bar in Acton and look forward to attending to grand opening.

Gift Aid

I have decided on a deadline for implementation of Gift Aid and a donations platform, the 6th April (the start of the new Tax Year) and am starting research on this, with the help of the Finance Team, now.

Hall Room Swaps

I am following up one of my successful goals from last year – Hall Room Swaps – with the College's Accommodation Service in October. We will review the data and decide on next steps.