

Council Report
Lucinda Sandon-Allum - Union President

Operations

Chair of Board of Trustees

In the last Board Meeting held on 29th October, Neil Sachdev was appointed as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees. Neil Sachdev was appointed as an External Trustee by the Board on 23 January 2015, and ratified by Union Council on 10 February 2015. He brings widespread strategic experience and non-executive experience. He is also an Advisory Board member at the Grantham Institute and is a visiting Professor at Salford University.

Starfish

The Officer Trustees and I attended a presentation of Starfish by the ICT Department. Starfish is a personal tutoring system hosted by Blackboard. A lot more work needs to be done on this, including student consultation. We will be attending a further demo next week to suggest improvements before it is widely used by students.

Monash University visit

Monash Students Union visited Imperial last week. Several Union staff and sabbaticals were involved in giving them an introduction to our Union, how it is run and what we do. The Union received extensive praise by Monash.

Vice-Provost (Education)

I'm part of the Vice Provost (Education) appointment panel and we recently long-listed all the applicants. This is the first time a student representative has been asked to sit on such an appointment panel, which shows the College's commitment to involving students and the Union in its major decision-making.

Student safety and security

There have been several personal and property security issues recently, with a number of private student houses being burgled. I met with Nigel Ward (Senior Investigations and Crime Prevention Officer at the College) to discuss the best ways of getting a regular crime prevention message out to as many students as possible. So far we are considering using newsletter and social media channels to regularly warn students about seasonal crime issues and advice on staying secure.

Objectives

Housing - "Tackle the issue of finding quality, affordable housing in London"

On 23rd Nov I will be attending a meeting to ratify 3 asks for London's top housing priorities and make a plan with Citizens UK for London. I need as many students to accompany me as possible – all volunteers are welcome to attend.

CSPs - "Deliver new income streams for our Clubs, Societies & Projects"

Work has started on a sponsorship fair. I'm currently going through several options for dates and structure and will be contacting external organisations and internal clubs and societies to assess sponsorship interest.

Feedback - "Produce a simple online platform for students to give their feedback on potential changes that affect them"

After the concerns raised by Council with regards to using an external organisation to create an app, I've decided to organise a survey for students, with subsequent focus groups following. The survey

Council

10 November 2015

can be found here: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/what-would-you-want-union-app>. The link will be widely publicized later this week.

Women in STEM and Gender Equality - *“Work with the College and external organisations to encourage more women to engage in education and research in STEM”*

I'm currently working with the Business School and MSc and MBA students to incorporate the Women in Business Club with the Tandem Society, as part of the Union. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the Union to build relationships with the Business School students, as well as supporting current female students and alumni in business.

Community - *“Work to create more of a sense of community within the student body”*

The Royal Mixer has been confirmed to take place between Royal College of Music, Royal College of Art, Royal Veterinary College and the University of Arts on Saturday 21st November at our Union. I've been working hard to organise this to make sure students from all Colleges have the opportunity to engage with each other.