

Council Report **Lucinda Sandon-Allum – Union President**

Operations

Week Zero

I have been in discussions with Jane Neary (Head of Campus Services) to draw up a plan for a potential 'Week Zero' to be held at the beginning of each academic year. Students would arrive a week early, allowing them to settle in before lectures start. Many Universities have a similar structure to their Autumn Term, which seems to work very well both for the satisfaction and welfare of students. Jane and I have since drafted a paper, which will be put forward for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Vice-Provost (Education) Recruitment

Cyin organised and chaired a very successful student panel to question the candidates on key issues. The report submitted was highly praised by the panel and the candidates themselves spoke about how impressive the students were. I would like to thank all those involved in the panel for the time and effort put into the interviews. The Provost also said the College would be delighted to involve students in key College staff recruitment in the future.

I was part of the final College interview panel last Friday, in which we decided upon a candidate.

Union strategy

Work on the Union 2016-19 strategy has begun, with the formation of three work streams; Advice, Advocacy and Action, Our People, and Diversity. A strategy conference will be held next month, which all students will be invited to attend.

Provost's Board

Cyin and I attended Provost's Board, presenting the NSS response and the Future Student Services recommendations. The recommendations in both papers were passed and implementation actions are going ahead.

Extras

- Progress is advancing on the College's Community Engagement taskforce for the new White City campus.
- The student amenity fund group have decided to keep the halls amenity fund at £2 per student per week.
- Mental Health: I attended Mentality's Anthony Seldon Talk – a very successful first lecture event for them, with a great turnout.
- Interview panels: Interim Managing Director, Interim Head of Student Voice and Communication, Systems Manager, Student Trustee appointment and Vice-Provost (Education).

Dame Julia Higgins

As Dame Julia steps down as Chair of the Board of Trustees, I would like to personally thank her for her support and guidance. She has helped the Union grow its reputation and standing within the College, helping us to gain greater support and funding. Her service has been incredible and I would like to thank her for her time, effort and patience in her enormous contribution to the Union.

Objectives

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

Jennie and I have submitted a paper to be discussed regarding Citizens UK membership, including the benefits and details of the charity.

I've connected extensively with the landlord and property accreditation website Move'm. At time of writing, I have a phone call scheduled for later today where I will be finalising plans for them to come to campus and research the local area to start building a portfolio of student properties. I also hope to get them a stand for the Private Housing Fair.

Jennie and I have been involved in the organisation of the Private Housing Evening with The Student Hub. We will be writing and presenting a section of the official talks, called 'the student journey'. This will aim to guide students through all the steps of finding a house and living in it, as well as tips and advice that Jennie

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and I have picked up personally. The Union will also have a stand for the fair, promoting our services related to housing support, such as the Advice Centre.

CSPs – “Deliver new income streams for our Clubs, Societies and Projects”

After some research and discussions with students and Union staff around the feasibility of a Sponsorship Fair, it was decided that empowering students and giving them the skills to find their own sponsorship would be a lot more beneficial to clubs, instead of just putting sponsors and clubs in one room together.

Therefore, I will be focussing on sponsorship training. The sponsorship training will ensure funding is sustainable for clubs year on year. My idea is to hold a training session at least once a term to give advice, tips and skills for clubs to market themselves well. For example, this may come in the form of tools to prepare better pitches by improving letter writing.

I will also be looking at hosting an event where clubs can attend to learn more about sponsorship processes and get tips. I would be looking to invite alumni and professionals to speak on a panel, followed by a Q&A and distribution of helpful information packs.

App – “Produce a simple online platform for students to give their feedback on potential changes that affect them”

I have collated all the information from the app survey and invited the interested students to a focus group. The focus group will be the initial platform to share ideas and discuss the project going forward. The focus group will be held in Meeting Room 6 at 12:00-13:30 25th February. If you would like to join this group please send me an email, union.president@imperial.ac.uk.

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've been extensively involved in the Women@Imperial Week planning group. The student and Union involvement will be on International Women's Day (8th March) and the schools outreach event (11th March). The celebration event on 8th March will take place to showcase the talents of female staff and students; this will come in the form of stalls, informal mingle and entertainment performances (by female Union dance/music societies).

In addition the Union will be hosting an after-party in Metric. We would aim to have as many students and alumni there as possible to celebrate women at Imperial.

The schools event is being run by the College outreach department, with assistance by myself. We will be looking for enthusiastic female (UG and PG) student volunteers to help on the day, by guiding, tours and hands-on experiments with the children.

My further outreach work speaking to schools and girls of school age to encourage them into STEM is ongoing.

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

I have been in contact with Sautrik (International Liberation Officer) and Umar (OSC Chair) to organise an international event, as per my manifesto promise. We will be looking to organise an event based around celebration of countries, where societies and students can represent their culture and learn about each other's, via food, music and traditional dress. I have spoken to the OSCs at their OGM and they expressed a keen interest in the event (scheduled to take place end of March). At time of writing, planning is going ahead later this week.