

## **Imperial College Union Council Report**

**Nas Andriopoulos, President**

### **TEF Submission**

The TEF submission was made on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January with Luke and I inputting right up until the final deadline. We thought that overall the document was a fair representation of the teaching experience across the College. On numerous occasions Luke and I were able to challenge the other authors and engage in constructive discussion, resulting in a more accurate report.

The College have confirmed that the document will not be public prior to HEFCE's evaluation, which is the position of most universities.

For more information on the TEF submission and next steps:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-opt-in-to-the-teaching-excellence-framework>

### **West Basement**

I attended the final design meeting for Phase 2 of the works on the J&R studio. The design includes all the elements which I would have hoped for at the beginning of the project and every practical measure to reduce sound transmission will be included in the works to the control room wall as well as the ceiling void. This includes the removal and rerouting of all services between the control room and the J&R studio. This, combined with improvements to the blockwork and the replacement of the window is estimated to give a 75% reduction in audibility of the J&R studio from in the control room. This will be a significant improvement to the experience of other users of the basement.

The works should be finished towards the end of term with full hand over back to students at the beginning of the spring term. The project costs are estimated to now be at £180k rather than the initial £140k - this reflects the additional costs associated with substantial works that need to be conducted to the services. We are committed to working in partnership with College to cover the additional expense and are in discussion about sharing the cost.

### **Citizens UK**

I have represented the Union at a community meeting of West London Citizens where we discussed a draft Regeneration Charter for the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, alongside safety and security in North Kensington. This will guarantee certain conditions for leaseholders and tenants currently in social housing during and after regeneration projects in the borough. This particular issue does not directly affect many, if any, of our students, but it was useful to see how the organisation works. Following this I co-chaired a meeting between WLC, the leader of the council and the council member with responsibility for housing during the negotiation of the charter. A follow up meeting will take place in the next few months.

I will make my recommendations on whether we should re-affiliate with Citizens UK at the next Council.

### **Week Zero**

Week Zero is the idea of having a teaching-free welcome week at the beginning of the academic year.

Along with Campus Services we have organised the first meeting of the cross-college week zero working group in order to further explore the possibility of enacting a week zero for the 2018/9

academic year. The various departments and faculties were supportive of the idea and were able to highlight things that will need to be addressed in order to deliver a successful welcome week. Particular principles were emphasised:

- Principle aims should be to build community within halls and departments, provide information (in a manageable way) to students and provide time for students to explore and understand services before academic pressures begin. Above all students should be able to comfortable with their new environment, get to make friends and have fun.
- Some faculties were clear that it would not be possible to insert a welcome week in the current week one and also deliver the current curriculum. A week zero, however, would be feasible and supported.
- A week zero has to be valuable to students - not just an extra week at university - with structured non-academic activities at departmental and college level.
- It is clear that a week zero would not just impact first year students, but all students and staff. Consultation will need to happen to fully understand the implications to all.
- Affordability is a key issue to consult on and requires further exploration into the potential mitigations that could be utilised.
- Consultation with prospective students, UGs, PGTs and alumni should also be conducted to understand what activities should constitute a welcome week.

### **Advancement**

I have continued to work with College's advancement division, including on shaping of their first "Giving Day". These are common at American universities and chiefly aim at raising awareness about the various ways people can give to the university and the impact it has, whether to student experience, facilities or research. #GiveImperial will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and there will be various activities on campus to engage students. One of the aims that we encouraged is to get student participation (rather than finances!) and close the loop between what happens when someone makes a donation and the end result. All too often money is given and it is not clear how it was spent, we hope to help change this. The advancement division have also planned to "pledge match" any donations made on the day. So if you gave to a particular fund you can double the impact.

We are supporting advancement to look for volunteers to be representatives, both physically on campus and virtually on social media, in order to engage with students, alumni and members of the public alike. If you are interested to find out more, please get in touch.

I am also in early discussions about reshaping the Advancement's Student Experience Fund, in order to separate funding for the Student Union from the Disabilities Advice Service and the Counselling Service. Further discussions around starting an additional fund, alongside Harlington and IC Trust, for Clubs & Societies specifically are at a very preliminary phase.

Finally, a reminder that I am happy to talk to any student about any of the Union's work at any time.

pres@ic.ac.uk | @icu\_president | +44 (0)20 7594 8060

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS ARE NOW OPEN – if you would like to discuss what it is like to be an Officer Trustee (it's hard work but definitely worth it) or tips for running a campaign please get in touch!**