

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO.</b>	
<b>TITLE</b>	Deputy President (Welfare) Report
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Fintan O'Connor
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The three major strategic projects the Union has led for student welfare in the last six months are: the Wellbeing Representation Network (WBRN) the Wellbeing Strategy; and the Liberation Review.</p> <p>The WBRN is a new representation network for every undergraduate at the College. It operates at department and faculty level, has been well received by staff and students, and has had a positive impact on the student experience. It has meant that our representation network has expanded by 15%, from 522 to 597 volunteers. The future expansion of the network, postgraduate representation, and the purpose of the network should be planned for to the end of the current 2017-20 strategy.</p> <p>The Union has challenged the College to create a student wellbeing strategy. The strategy would demand more unified planning of student services, as well as declaring student wellbeing as a core objective of the College. The Director of Student Services is writing a draft strategy based on our vision. We have been seeking support from the College leadership for the project.</p> <p>The recommendations of the liberation research have been translated into a comprehensive action plan. A team of six staff members share responsibility for the project. Student activity related to liberation and activism has increased. The organisational changes are long-lasting, and difficult to implement at an acceptable pace. The support the Union can offer student activism and events in this area is limited.</p>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To inform the board of the Union's long-term student welfare projects
<b>DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED</b>	None

## Imperial College Union Board of Trustees Report

Fintan O'Connor, Deputy President (Welfare)

### Wellbeing Representation Network

- The new network has been well received by students and staff.
- Student feedback states that students are achieving the objectives of the network, defined thus far as CASPER: **C**ampaigning, **A**wareness raising, **S**ignposting (to support), **P**romoting positive conversations, **E**ncouraging early intervention, and **R**epresenting students
- 82 representatives were elected. Every representative attended training.
- The role of the network is becoming embedded in the College. Students and staff are engaging with and understanding the roles. New department and faculty student-staff committees are standing items, with new, fruitful discussion and outcomes.
- Training volunteers and offering them effective support is time and resource intensive.
- Further thought and planning required for:
  - Expansion of the network to postgraduate students
  - Expansion of the number of reps

### Wellbeing Strategy

- We have asked the Director of Student Services (DSS) and the Vice Provost (Education) to create a student wellbeing strategy for the College, which Imperial College Union plays an important role in shaping.
- The wellbeing strategy will create a cohesive vision to support student wellbeing at the College. It will aim to assess the impact that all decisions made at the College have on student wellbeing, and include promoting and preserving student wellbeing as core objectives of the College.
- The President, Head of Student Voice and Communications and I have worked to create a defined project brief, and are working to earn support for the project from the wider College leadership.
- We are working closely with the DSS, who is preparing a draft of the strategy based on our draft vision and objectives.

### Liberation Review

- The Union's work has placed a greater emphasis than ever before on supporting liberation officers. We have improved the support we offer our liberation officers, and have seen a corresponding increase in activity related to liberation.
- A comprehensive action plan has been created from the report we commissioned, which is being led by a team of six: President; DPW; MD; Head of SVC; Education and Welfare Manager; and Wellbeing and Campaigns Coordinator
- The extent of the project is challenging, and a stretch for our resources. As activity in every area of representation has increased, achieving a quality of service for students coming to us for support is not always achievable within the time available.