

# Imperial College Union Council Report

Becky Neil, Deputy President (Welfare)

## Introduction

Highlights include funding for the Suicide Prevention action point, close of the inclusive technology stage 1 and wellbeing map being decided.

## Report on Progress

### Goal 1 - Reform our Liberation offering to build stronger communities that are listened to.

- Board have agreed to looking closer at the current full picture of liberation and community zones and having agreed that the EDI strategy is a priority, the Union needs to look at how it does that.
- I'm currently working on the quick wins to improve the situation for officers next year including: having a pool of volunteers, improving the training and handover, helping officers create an action plan and having more support for celebration days/ months from the Union.
- Alongside this I am compiling data to look at the culture we are trying to tackle as well as the representation aspect, so that plans for a structure that is more effective can be created.
- The LCOs have some great plans/ have been running some fab events, shout out to you all, you're doing a great job!

Next steps: Carry out quick wins and research project.

### Goal 2 - Audit the Outreach activities run by ICU and Clubs & Socs to understand our Widening Participation Activities.

- This project will be underway as soon as budgeting for CSPs has been approved. I have outlined key stakeholders and have looked into an effective method for auditing this.

Next steps: Get started!

### Goal 3 - Finalise and implement the Student Support Strategy

- The strategy is going to Provost Board this month. By next Council I am hoping I can say it's been approved. The current state is that College will still do the things whether it's approved or not, but it will make it a lot easier to get funding if the strategy is approved.
- Hannah Bannister, Director of Student Services, presented the strategy and what is happening with it to CWB. Currently Hannah has drawn up a timeline of when to do actions and is submitting relevant parts to budgeting rounds. I'll share the final version when I see it.
- Hannah has collected funding from alumni donations and a few small leftover pots of other pieces of work to put towards the Suicide Prevention action point.

Next steps: Continue to be a part of all discussions around the strategy. Wait for it to be formally approved.

### Goal 4 - Produce a Wellbeing map outlining all wellbeing services across Imperial.

- This will take the form of a webpage on the website as an interim solution, before College creates a new version of Student Space and the Union looks into redoing the website to have a search engine function. It should be uploaded soon.
- The details of the sections went to CWB who gave some feedback but were mostly happy with the way it looked.

Next steps: Some of the finer details still need ironing out but then it's ready to publish and promote.

## Goal 5 Review the welfare-related work carried out by various volunteers across the organisation.

- Lots of work has been done on the Halls and Union project – one bit of which is the Halls Social Fund Policy. Next steps are getting hall seniors involved in Welcome Week and developing training.
- Mums and Dads consultation has started with focus groups being arranged and a survey to go out to all students soon. CUs, DepSocs and Rep Teams have been highlighted as the stakeholders invited to the focus groups, however if anyone from council would like to attend [you can find information here](#). Any comments are welcome, please email if you'd like to be consulted!

Next steps: Carry out the Mums and Dads Consultation and implement the Halls and Union project plan.

## Operational Achievements

Significant operational tasks I have completed are as follows:

- Comms about the 2015 bursary cohort went out to all students and any individual problems have been dealt with.
- Working on the bursary survey response.
- Under Pressure will be running from 18<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Planning for this is taking place.
- Helped direct students through the campaigns procedure that is still being set up by systems.
- Scoping out possibilities for reduced or free sanitary products.
- Working to support staff getting gender neutral toilets in the Union Building entrance. Unfortunately they won't be able to be wheelchair accessible at this stage as a big chunk of the floor would need to be removed and the Union doesn't have funding for this.
- Stage 1 of the Inclusive technology project has come to an end, with the inclusive technology suite rolled out on Software Hub and cluster computers. The next stage is embedding it into university life.
- College EDI forum highlighted a lot of significant work from the sexual harassment working group. They still have some aspects to iron out but progress is good.

## Items for discussion

No items

## Closing Comments

Please get in touch with any issues, ideas, problems and solutions. Your input is really important to me. I am available in person and via email for any questions you may have on my report or the Union's work.

[dpwelfare@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpwelfare@ic.ac.uk) | [@icu\\_DPW](#) | 020 7594 8060 | IC ext: 58064