

**Imperial College Union Board of Trustees**

**30/10/2019**

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| **AGENDA ITEM NO.** |  |
| **TITLE** | President Report to Board |
| **AUTHOR** | Abhijay P. Sood |
| **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** | Report on recent and upcoming activities as well as notes on my wider goals – highlights include involvement in Commemoration Day, College Council, and work on the strategy (see separate paper). |
| **PURPOSE** | Information |
| **DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED** | None |

Union President report to Board – October 2019

*Abhijay P. Sood*

# Updates:

* Training/Handover

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| **Week Beginning** | **Activities** |
| 15 Jul | Handover (predecessors present); induction sessions; intro meetings |
| 22 Jul | Handover (predecessors present); induction sessions; intro meetings |
| 29 Jul | Handover period complete; Induction sessions/intro meetings continued |
| 5 Aug | Residential; Team building with OTs/SMG; Work start in earnest |

* College Council
  + St Mary’s sale – making sure any proceeds are spent appropriately
    - External members – expertise/common sense
* FoNS Dean Interview panels
  + Arranged a team of student reps from across FoNS depts and UG/PG study
  + Met with 4 candidates for conversational interviews
  + Delivered feedback to Provost – candidate has since been selected
* Welcome talks to all first year UGs & “not in halls” students and PGTs (w/ DPW)
* Sick leave ☹
* Attended Commemoration Eve Dinner & Commemoration Day ceremonies
* Complaints
  + At the moment every complaint goes through me
  + This is being reviewed (DPCS/HoSE/HoCS)
* Access & Participation Plan – DPW & I involved in widening participation in the College – focus on black students, disabled students, and those from deprived areas
  + Also examining how we can improve access for refugees/asylum seekers
* Involved in Rep Training
* Preparatory work on the Union Strategy (see paper)

# Upcoming:

* Negotiations
  + Price of rent in halls, alongside Shervin
    - Will be bringing a paper to Council with options this term
  + Union’s Block Grant (see Union Goal 3)
* College Council:
  + Ethical investment
    - Existing Union Policy mandates us to campaign for the College to remove its investments in Fossil Fuels
    - The response so far from College has been firm opposition
    - I am putting together a paper for College Council or another senior committee create a working group to examine ethical investment generally rather than particular divestments
  + Will be bringing changes to the ICU constitution to College Council

# Key goals:

## College Goal: Change the way decisions are made – **Beginning**

* To make sure College is making decisions in the best interests of students and staff, I want to make sure **people affected by decisions are involved in the decision-making process.**
* I’m sitting down with the Managing Director to talk about places in College where our hand would be strengthened with seat(s) at the table.
* I intend to get input from the following in order to formulate a proposal:
  + Direct input from students at pop-up stalls etc.
  + Union Council/its subcommittees
  + Heads of Department
  + Faculty Education Managers, Deans, Vice Deans
  + Key staff from central support departments (Registry, Campus Services, etc.)
  + Staff Trade Unions
  + Senior College Staff (President, Provost, CFO, Secretary, etc.)

Let me know if I’ve missed anyone obvious off this list!

* This process will be conducted alongside work on the Union Strategy
* This is a big project, but I believe it’s likely the easiest way to bring significant change to Imperial.

## Union Goal 1: Transparency – **In progress**

* We’ve written a plan for OT communications, committing ourselves to:
  + More frequent posts on social media
  + An interview series in *Felix*
  + “OT Tours” across our campuses
  + Our blogs/written articles for more detailed stuff
* If students can’t easily find out what we’re up to, we aren’t doing our jobs properly – whenever something big happens, we’re going to communicate about it directly

## Union Goal 2: Protecting/Improving our Services – **In progress**

* Primarily due to staffing and equipment challenges, we have not been able to offer a totally complete provision of services
* DPFS & I are meeting the Head of Catering Operations to discuss h-bar
* These issues will be matters for discussion at Services and Sustainability this year

## Union Goal 3: London Living Wage – **Not yet started**

* As we -- primarily the DPFS and myself -- renegotiate the terms of the Union’s block grant from College this year, I’m committed to including a real (London) living wage for student staff as part of our costings
* I’ll have updates on this later in the year once the negotiation commences, and will be bringing this back to Council and the College Funding Strategy Subgroup to discuss updates and fresh input

### union.president@ic.ac.uk | @icu\_president | 020 7594 8060 | IC ext: 58061