

# President Report to Union Council

Dr Lloyd T. James

## Updates:

- Initiated an all-student referendum concerning Union support for the upcoming UCU strike action. Supported the Representation Team in planning and execution of this referendum, including supporting comms and speaking to students directly.
- Lobbied the College to prioritise 3/4 year degree graduates (Undergraduate + PhD) in a March catch-up Graduation ceremony (expect verbal update).
- Spent more time than I would like engaged in discussions around ongoing disciplinary cases (both CSP and Membership).
- Revised the set of Union questions to be included in the Student Experience Survey (to ensure these are aligned with our annual measuring round plans).
- Attended College Council - interesting Covid update: situation on campus is very good, with positive case rate in the College community at 1 in 500, much lower than ONS data of 1 in 50 for England. Additionally, the Contact Tracing Hub has shown that transmission is not happening on campus. From PCR test genotyping, it has been shown that there are no clusters of infection.
- Supported Nathalie with the Union Town Hall regarding the anti-spiking campaign. My only contribution was anonymously reported to Felix as 'disgraceful and disrespectful' so clearly this was not entirely successful on my part.
- GSU Review Working Group - the 'data-gathering' phase is drawing to a close and the process of developing recommendations is beginning (see objective update below).
- Joined the new 'Imperial Together Task Group' which will have oversight over the College and Union's actions towards improving the working culture within the College.
- Continued to engage with the College's Partnerships Working group - set up to outline the ethical/values-based requirements which have to be met for the College to engage in any kind of partnership (e.g. research or teaching). Helping shape a student consultation process on this.
- Engaged a barrister specialising in disciplinary cases (and also former ICU President) to consult informally on our work reviewing the College and Union disciplinary processes.
- Analysed data from the PRES survey and computed Departmental breakdowns.
- Successfully appointed a new Governance and Democracy coordinator who will take over Victoria's role from early Jan.
- Chaired this year's first Governance and Identity Board (see update below).
- Took w/c Nov 8th as Annual Leave.

## Upcoming:

- Ongoing project work (see below).
- Lots more recruitment / interviews over the coming weeks.
- Continuing to spend more time than I would like on disciplinary matters.

- Board of Trustees meeting on December 8th - will approve updated Vote of No Confidence Bye Law and Associate Membership Policy.
- Initiation of construction of permanent Union Helpdesk on ground floor of Beit (no I will not be building it myself).
- Identification of 4-5 minor capital projects for ICU building improvements to go into College funding round.

## Governance and Identity Board Updates:

- Governance and Identity Board has met once since last Council.
- GIB has re-approved our Mascotry Policy, subject to my bringing a proposal to next GIB for how Mike the Micrometer might be rendered violate.
- GIB has re-approved our Union Bar Policy, subject to an extension on the deadline by which tie clubs may collect their inactive tankards.
- GIB has re-approved our Union Awards Policy, subject to an update to the list of area-specific awards.
- GIB discussed support for Constituent Unions (see update to Objective below).

## Objectives:

### Objective 1: Reviewing our Offer to Postgraduates - [In progress]

**Current progress:** I have interviewed a number of former engaged GSU volunteers to build an evidence base for this decision-making. I have also coordinated the efforts of the Representation Team in gathering other data on PG engagement from eActivities, Student Experience Survey, eVoting etc. The deadline for compiling all written/data evidence was Nov 26th. We will be meeting again on Dec 3rd to hammer out some basic recommendations, which will then be refined and compiled into a report over the period before Christmas. This will then be presented to Council for approval in January.

### Objective 2: Reviewing our Democratic Structures - [In progress]

**Current progress:** I invited interested members of Council to put themselves forward for a Working Group to progress this, however I had no volunteers. I would once again ask Council Members to consider joining this group - if we have no working group the project will not be able to proceed.

### Objective 3: Understanding Community Development - [In progress]

**Current progress:** Some early consideration around this going into the development of the revised Student Experience Survey questions. This will then be progressed further through Term 2.

### Objective 4: Supporting Constituent Unions - [In progress]

**Current progress:** Continued to have semi-regular catch ups with CU Presidents, and provided ICU representation at CU events. Discussion at GIB suggested a need for Leadership and Management training for Constituent Union Presidents which I have actioned.

### Objective 5: Developing a coherent lobbying agenda for Campus Services and Estates - [In progress]

**Current progress:** Continuing to engage regularly with senior stakeholders in Estates, including Neil Alford (Associate Provost - Academic Planning), who has been invited to attend this Council meeting. Initiated project to map out key decision-makers and decision-making committees around estates decisions in the College. Fed back on plans for significant increase in student space on the North side of the White City campus.