

# Deputy President (Education) January report to Union Council

Daniel Lo

## Updates:

- Presented students' views on exam arrangements in the In-Person Exam Group (IPEG). This was done before the government COVID restrictions were announced. This will also be discussed in the Education Committee on 16/12.
- Organise and facilitate the ICU Christmas Buddy Scheme to help students stay connected to the Imperial community during the holidays. I have written a project initiation plan and blog post around it.
- Attended the December Trustee Board meeting and Senate.
- Sat on the Learning and Teaching promotions panel, Programmes Committee.
- Discussing with the College about students returning to campus in January. The main aim of the meeting is to establish scenarios for next term's teaching and associated plans and communications.
- Raised with the Vice Dean (Education) from the Faculty of Engineering about issues with shared modules between some departments in FoE. I will present the Council paper to other Vice Deans once the paper has been amended. I have also raised this matter to the Director of Central Timetabling in the IPEG meeting.
- Starting my A/L from 18/12 to 9/1, which means I don't have too much to report on.

## Upcoming:

- Work closely with the College to minimise impact on students' academic experience. This include exam arrangements, Action Short Of Strike (ASOS) potentially carried out by the UCU, in-person teaching.
- To analyse the outcome and effectiveness of the Christmas Buddy scheme.
- To follow up on the Council paper submitted by the Council rep.
- Facilitate the set-up of the NSS Task and Finish Group.

## Education and Representation Board (ERB) updates:

- Invited Dr Camille Howson from the Centre for Higher Education Research and Scholarship (CHERS) to discuss with students about JISC learning analytics platform and the new Module Evaluation Questions (MEQ). MEQ has replaced SOLE survey starting from December 2021.
- Chaired two subcommittee meetings of the ERB - Taught and Research Academic Rep Forum (ARF). Discussions were around UCU strike action, exams arrangements, NSS and PRES recommendations.

## Objectives:

### **Objective 1: Work closely with faculty and departmental (dep) academic reps to ensure departments are actively addressing the issues/feedback raised in the NSS response - [In progress]**

I chaired and facilitated discussion in the Taught ARF to allow reps to feedback on the NSS departmental recommendations. Most reps have already presented their recommendations to the Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUGs) or during the SSCs/SSLGs (both of them are student-staff committees). In term 2, I will follow up with reps after their SSCs/SSLGs to check out whether issues they raised have been discussed and resolved. I will also continue engaging with reps and provide support.

### **Objective 2: Providing support on development training for reps and foster the sharing of good practice across different departments - [In progress]**

The ARFs allow reps from different departments to share and discuss academic issues affecting them. This also allow them to understand how other departments operate. In the following term, I will work on to improve how academic feedback can be raised to strengthen the rep network and ensure students can raise feedback effectively. I will provide more details on it when I start working it next term.

It is a shame to postpone the rep Christmas social (n=60) which may disappoint some. Hopefully the DPW and I can deliver it in term 2.

### **Objective 3: Work closely with PG AWOs and reps to ensure the departments are actively addressing the recommendations raised in the PRES response - [In progress]**

I have consulted PG research reps and the AWOs in the Research ARF with the initial PRES recommendations. The Graduate School also provided a College-wide PRES recommendations. The President and I decided to provide departmental recommendations to the College because supervision issues are specific to the department and supervisors. The satisfaction score varies across each department (from 60 to 90+ percent). The President and I will work on this together in the second term, including a wider student consultation and report writing.

### **Objective 4: Review the Mums and Dads scheme to investigate what the right cause of action is - [In progress]**

Given that there are more urgent academic issues (ICU strike action and the associated ASOS, as well as summer exam arrangements) this term, I prioritised other these issues. The timeline of the student consultation for the Mums and Dads review will be in late January to avoid clashes with exams.

I will be evaluating the effectiveness of the Christmas Buddy scheme which will contribute to the Mums and Dads review. Key questions include but not limited to: Whether the representation team and I have enough capacity to do the matchmaking, whether it is more effective to match up people with different departments with similar interests, and how can we better engage students.

### **Objective 5: Enhance the Imperial experience for international students to ensure there is parity with home students - [Not yet started]**

This objective still needs to be started.

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [dpe@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpe@ic.ac.uk) or drop me a message on Teams:)