

# DPW report to Union Council

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## Updates:

- My [paper](#) on the College's commitment against using NDAs has received some promising feedback from Central Services, which includes the College's legal department. To quote an email from them, "[t]his paper makes fair points and the wording of the pledge it suggests is specific and reasonable." The next step will be to present the paper at Provost Board (31/05/2022) for final approval and discussion of a communications plan.
- Met with two evidence groups for the College's review of its disciplinary procedures: the Disability Advisory Service (DAS) and the officer trustees (OTs), the latter of which includes myself.
- Lloyd presented the [paper](#) on expanding remote provisions for disabled students at Student Experience Committee, as I was too ill to make it that day. The paper was well-received; the committee broadly agreed with the aims, and there was approval to set up a working group to take the actions of the paper forward.
- Met with the Targeted Scholarships Sub-Group to discuss provisions for disabled students. There was a consensus that the College can and should do more to support disabled students, particularly PG students, students based outside of South Kensington, and students with different needs around assessment. A paper is currently being drafted by the group for the Scholarships Steering Committee to propose a dedicated Imperial College scholarship for disabled students whose needs are not currently covered by the Disabled Students Allowance.
- Daniel (Deputy President (Education)) and I decided to combine two of our objectives: the well-being representation network review (formerly mine) and the implementation of an academic feedback board (formerly Daniel's) to have a joint Review of Student Representation at Imperial College Union (ICU). The purpose of this is to build a better understanding of both the academic and well-being representation networks, particularly around the experiences of reps and what their needs are.
- Supported Lottie (Mental Health Officer) in finalising her report on the review of the student counselling service. She came up with some interesting results and recommendations that will be presented to relevant stakeholders at College.
- Attended an extraordinary meeting of the Education Committee to give feedback on financial prioritisation bids at different departments in the College. Most notably, Student Services submitted a bid to have a full-time trained counsellor available to support students dealing with experiences of sexual misconduct in the College. Additionally, the Registry submitted a bid to have an additional full-time member of staff available to help with disciplinary casework. I voiced support for both of these bids.
- Published an all-student survey with Sam (Deputy President (Finance & Services)) to get a better understanding of safety and accessibility within the Union venues. You can complete the survey [here](#)
- I joined a WhatsApp group chat with other student union sabbatical officers from across the UK and signed an open letter to Universities UK (UUK) on recommendations for supporting students that are affected by the conflict in Ukraine. More signatures have been added after I signed it, but the copy that I obtained after doing so can be found [here](#). UUK gave [this response](#). This was followed up by three nominated sabbatical officers being invited to join a working group with UUK.

## Community and Welfare Board

- The fourth ordinary meeting of the Community and Welfare Board (CWB) was held on 21/03/2022.

- The first item on the agenda was a paper presented by Awais (Disabilities Officer) on expanding the provision of financial support for disabled students. This paper was well received, but there were unfortunately not enough voting members present to be quorate. Despite this, I have still decided to take forward some actions from the paper in the Targeted Scholarships Sub-Group (see my updates above). I will also send around an email to voting members asking for additional feedback on the paper.
- The other two items on the agenda were the statements from the Liberation and Community officers (LCOs) and ICUsToo on the College's review of student discipline. I wanted this to be an opportunity for the individuals I have interacted with throughout this process to share their views with one another in an open forum, as in the gathering of my reports I noticed quite a lot of intersectionality in the issues that were raised.

## Upcoming:

- Will present the recently passed Council [paper](#) on expanding the powers of halls committees at the next Residential Life Committee, set to take place on 10/05/2022.
- Will meet with student stakeholders to talk about CSP culture (see Objective 2 below).
- Will work with the OTs to submit a statement for the Student Disciplinary Review.
- Will follow up on with Registry on their data crunching, and then meet with the EDI strategy's task and finish group.
- Will continue to meet with the Advice Centre to do project planning on well-being campaigns.
- Will host a presentation for Imperial staff on the culture of student belonging at Imperial on 17/05/2022.

## Objectives:

### Objective 1: Post-Pandemic Reintegration of the Imperial Community - [Complete]

I am meeting with the Advice team on the week of 02/05/2022 to continue my work on wellbeing campaigns. Additionally, I will be holding a presentation together with Daniel for Imperial staff on the Culture of Belonging at Imperial for the Festival of Learning and Teaching, set to take place on 17/05/2022.

### Objective 2: CSP Culture Review - [In progress]

I have succeeded in setting up regular meetings for this objective moving forward. We are setting up an action plan together with India, current Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) (DPCS) until the end of her term, with the aim of bringing a paper to the Clubs, Societies and Projects Board (CSPB) and Union Council on short and long term goals around improving culture within our clubs and societies. The next step will be to consult with relevant student groups on how they perceive culture to be present within their groups. We will also work to involve Dylan Hughes, the incoming DPCS, to make sure he is fully on board with these plans.

### Objective 3: Improving Safeguarding and Disciplinary Procedures - [In progress]

As noted above, I met with DAS and the OTs to submit feedback for the review. DAS had some interesting perspectives on the process - namely that it is important to support students with disabilities throughout the entire process, not just at the stage of panel deliberation where mitigating factors are considered for the chosen penalty. It would be particularly helpful to have them involved as part of the risk assessment process. The OTs are going to submit our own statement to the next disciplinary review working group, which is set to take place on Friday, 07/05/2022.

### Objective 4: Welfare Representation Network Review Review of Student Representation - [In progress]

Daniel and I worked together to create a survey to measure a few key indicators, including how well reps understood their role, how well students understood the role of reps, how often reps communicated with each

other. This survey was open through the Easter period and recently concluded with 176 responses. Some initial analysis shows that while reps have a good understanding of their role, students are less knowledgeable about the representation network. The next step will involve piloting a feedback board in a couple of departments, which Daniel will take the lead on. Meanwhile, I will work on doing the analysis of the data that pertains to the well-being reps.

### **Objective 5: Developing the Union's EDI Strategy - [In progress]**

Koreo's discovery conversations with Union staff have now concluded. The Task and Finish Group will soon meet again to discuss the overarching themes that were discovered as well as next steps. We are still waiting on some demographic data to come through from the Registry.