

A Report by the Deputy President (Graduate Students)

Departmental talks

I have been asked to attend many small departmental welcome talks. At these I have introduced myself and my role at the union and then subsequently spoken to students individually. We have come upon particular ideas that the students feel the GSA can help them with and will also help establish the role of the GSA amongst the postgraduate community.

GSA Provisional meeting

I have been trying to locate all those who were involved in the GSA last year. I have invited these people, students who would like to get involved this year and also the candidates standing for GSA positions in the elections to a meeting on Friday 27th. The purpose of this meeting will be that of a brainstorm to see what is achievable this year and to come up with new ideas.

Deputy Returning Officer

I have been helping John Collins in the election procedures-meetings, hustings. I have also been speaking to individual students standing to confirm that they are indeed standing and also to inform them of procedures.

PhD Buddy Scheme

The Centre for Environmental Policy were funded last year by the Graduate Schools to have a buddy scheme. Of this money there was some remaining so have been liaising with CEP and Aziz in order to allow access to this money. I have also attended meetings with Pro-Rector Mary Ritter and have spoken to her about funding from the Graduate Schools to have in place a college-wide buddy scheme and she has provisionally agreed to fund the Faculty of Medicine in Hammersmith campus. But this is dependant on the results of a fact-finding mission i.e. number of students, estimate of cost etc.

Similarly, I have brought this issue up in a GSEPS Management Committee meeting and in principle they are happy to support this so I will be having a meeting with Dick Kitney, Bernie Morley (the Directors of the Graduate Schools) and Mary Ritter sometime in the next two weeks.

PG Common Room

I have spoken to Mary Ritter about this and there might be a possibility of finding space in College but there will be further meetings on Monday with Dot Griffiths.

If not, the idea will have to come back to the drawing board and we will have to start brainstorming again.

Merit Scheme

There are talks of Imperial changing their marking scheme for Masters students in that a Merit mark may be awarded (60-69%). Both Graduate Schools are in favour of this, however a relevant point was made regarding the devaluation of the "Pass" mark in the eyes of employers. Thus it was asked to go back and ask the student body whether this is what they really want. I will be asking the Faculty Research and Taught Reps to conduct an investigation and local surveys based on which a report will state findings.

Event on the 9th November

I have been liaising with the Royal College of Art and the Royal College of Music and in principle they are keen to join forces for this event. The RCA has solely postgraduate students so they in particular are willing to advertise. Work still in progress.