

Imperial College Union

Deputy President (Welfare) Report

A report by Becky Lane

Handover

Nic, my predecessor, provided me with a handover document written by Charlotte Ivison the previous year. This helped to give a good basis of essential knowledge for the role of Deputy President (Welfare).

Welfare Action Plan

Along with Denis Wright the Dean of Students, Teaching and Learning and Tom Pearson the Education Strategy manager, I participated in the development of a Welfare Action Plan. Data captured from last years Student Experience Survey was used to make five action points. I will be presenting the Welfare Action Plan at the first meeting of QAAC.

Welfare Survey

I have worked with a number of different people to edit the Student Experience Survey before it is conducted this year. My suggested changes were reviewed at the Survey Group Working party. All attendees agreed that significantly shortening the survey was a positive change. Many tick box questions were cut out and replaced with a simple text box. It was found from last years SES that free text answers actually generated some really insightful and useful feedback. Again this year The SES will run alongside autumn SOLE.

Buddy Scheme

I worked with The Deputy President (Education) Doug Hunt on this – much of the groundwork had been done last year. This year the code was improved by a student. The buddy system was rolled out much earlier than in previous years. Doug has been working hard to put pressure on departmental societies to run events. Doug and I hope to run an event in January to renew and revive interest in the buddy scheme.

Students Not in Halls

‘Not in Halls’ was set up as a society last year by Nic. This year I secured some funding from Denis Wright to develop a robust program of events for the first year students not living in halls. The idea was that students from last year would form a committee; however this was not possible this year. The first event was held on Thursday 4th October and was well attended. The event was a meal in China town, the Boat Party for students not in halls is also coming up. Marko the warden of Pembroke, Parsons and Albarn has been a tremendous help with organising events.

Very Helpful Poster

This was a project started by Nic, to get a poster with all of the key welfare contact details in toilets. The posters are currently in every toilet in the Union building and in some toilets in the library. I am working on a strategy to prove that these posters have a tangible positive effect on the uptake of welfare provisions. If I can prove this, the posters may have a larger role out across college.

'Green Week'

Plans have been made to hold a green forum on Friday 12th October. The idea behind this is to try and take a fresh approach to green initiatives which will be best done by gaining as much student involvement as possible. The idea currently is to use the Union as a link between students wanting to affect change and members of college staff who can make that possible. Instead of deciding as a Union what students should be campaigning about, this will mobilise students to campaign about what is important to them. I am working closely with the Environmental Welfare Officer on this.

Unseen Imperial

This is a project started by Nic and Charlotte last year. I have big plans to get all of the Welfare Officers involved in this as a big campaign. Work on this is in the preliminary stages but hopefully Unseen Imperial can be a very emotive campaign structure.

Interviews

I have conducted twelve subwarden interviews for a variety of halls. I have also sat on the interview panel for the appointment of new wardens and assistant wardens.

Leave

I took 10 days of leave between 3rd and 17th September.