

Council
30 May 2013

Council Report
A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

Postgraduate Graduation

Over 2,600 graduands and 5,000 guests attended the 3 services in the Royal Albert Hall, at which I gave the Student Orator speech and announced the role caller names.

College Court

College Court met to discuss the Education & Student strategy; I continued to feed in to the strategy the points raised and approved at the last Council.

Alumni Reunion (Maths & College)

I gave speeches to a gathering of Mathematics Alumni and attended and helped out at the College Alumni meeting – doing tours up the Queen's Tower, assisting on the registration desk and talking to alumni at lunch and a cream tea reception.

BIS & MPs on PGT

Further to Council's paper on PGT funding received and approved last session, I wrote to our two local MPs and David Willetts presenting Council's ideas.

Union Budgeting

The Union's budgeting process is currently underway with presentations from budget holders going to myself and Stefan. A range of options and decisions will go to Exec soon before the budget moves to the Trustee Board.

W3 Design Team

The Union's views on the College Accommodation strategy as passed at the last Council, specifically to work positively with College to ensure that students placed into W3 accommodation receive the best possible experience they can, despite the Union's opposition to the plans, have resulted in a working group meeting. The DPW and myself selected a wide range of students to feed in to a consultation meeting which looks to have positively affected the types and use of space at W3.

Bouncy Castle, STI Clinic & Petting Zoo

I assisted in running some of the Stress Less sessions (crowd control!)

PRES Consultation

The DPE and myself held a number of consultations with the GSA and PGR students on recommendations to make as part of a PRES response. The PRES broad results have now been released, but we are awaiting raw data before turning this into a full-blown response.

Ideas Day

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The Union held an Idea's Day at which we captured students' responses to feed into the last part of our strategic plan, that will go to the Trustee Board this Summer.

Wilson House Wardening

The provision levels and suitability of wardening accommodation at Wilson came into question earlier this month, and I have been working with senior College Management and the Wardens to ensure that there is adequate provision when Wilson opens in October 2013. This is ongoing.

#AgainstAuction

The Union ran a very short – but successful – campaign against Westminster School auctioning an internship at Imperial College on their website. It is my fundamental belief that access to education should be based on merit, not ability to pay; and that efforts to widen access to an Imperial education to students from disadvantaged backgrounds are a central part of the College's academic mission.

Director Recruitment & Outreach

I have met with the new Director of Recruitment & Outreach for the College to discuss – going forward – how the Union and students can volunteer for their community, doing Outreach, and be accredited for it. A Union Volunteer Accreditation Scheme is launching in October 2013 that this will plug into.

Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs)

The Union's inaugural SACAs were successfully awarded at a ceremony last week. My role was to make the closing remarks.

Disciplinaries

I have sat on two disciplinary panels for College since the last Council.

Accommodation Fee Setting

I have started discussions with senior College management about having College Accommodation Fees set by a committee with student representation on.