

Deputy President (Education) Report

A report by Natalie Kempston

1. National Student Survey (NSS) Response

Since the last Council the majority of my time has been spent writing this year's NSS Response. This document is designed to help the Union and College decide how they should respond to issues raised by students in the NSS. The NSS Response is presented in a separate paper at this council, and is available here: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/news/nss-response-2013>

2. The Soc Off

I organised an event called the "Soc Off", which was held on Thursday 17 October in Metric. This followed the same format as previous years, with entry costing £1 and the winning DepSocs taking home all the door money. The event was the most successful Soc Off yet with over 560 people through the door. The winning Departments were ESE, Biology and Biochemistry, with the money being split 50:25:25. There was a sumo suit wrestling competition between departments, with Maths being crowned the winner, as well as twister and the chance to have a "family photo". Lewis Ryan (ESE Dep Rep) agreed to DJ the event, so a big thank you to him. I also want to thank Marissa, Kieron and Yas for all their help on the night- couldn't have done it without them!

3. Rep Elections

This year's rep elections ended on Tuesday 22 October. 27.48% of students voted, which is the highest-ever turnout for these elections. This was mainly due to increased publicity around the elections, and increased Dep Rep involvement in trying to attract candidates. All undergraduate year reps (with the exception of ESE) were elected online through these elections. Masters course organisers were contacted before the elections and given the option of having their Course Rep elections online or to elect the reps themselves in class. A number of Masters Courses opted to carry out their elections online, which we were pleased about. All the results can be accessed here: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-reps-council-elections-2013-results>

4. Education and Representation Board (ERB)

This year's first ERB was held on Thursday 10 October, as was attended by 26 academic representatives. Items discussed included:

- Whether there should be teaching on the first week of term, do we need a protected Welcome Week like other universities, should there be maths/other diagnostic tests on week 1 or should these be done over the summer etc.
- Rep Week
- The Soc Off
- Raising the pass mark of the 4th year of MSci degrees from 40% to 50%

I will be taking forward both the plans for Welcome Week and the raising the pass mark for MSci degrees.

5. Rep Training

I wrote and delivered a training session for all Academic Affairs Officers (AAOs), which explained which meetings they were expected to attend, what each of these involved and filled in the gaps that weren't covered in the Dep Rep training session. Work has started on planning the Year Rep training (5th November) and Course Rep training (19th November), with publicity about these training sessions being sent to all reps who were successful in the recent elections.

6. Surveys

Marissa and I are members of a working group looking at the number and type of surveys that are sent out to students. As a result of this, this year there will only be 4 centrally-run surveys, with students taking part in no more than 2 of these. The surveys run will be: NSS, PTES, SES and SOLE. (National Student Survey, Postgraduate-Taught Experience Survey, Student Experience Survey, and Student Online Learning Evaluation).

7. Committees attended:

- Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC)
- Vice-Provost's Advisory Group for Education
- Postgraduate Research Quality Committee

I also sat on an interview panel for the Director of Learning and Teaching, and took part in 2 of the 3 Undergraduate Graduation ceremonies.