

Officer Trustee Report to the Board of Trustees

Tom Wheeler – President

Club Behaviour

The very significant chunk of my time since the last meeting of Board has been taken up with matters related to the events that occurred involving the Unions' Rugby Club's. This has been nearly resolved now. Can report/expand verbally during the meeting, if required.

Affordable Imperial College

The College COO is leaving his role soon, however I have been assured by the CFO and College Secretary that this will not negatively effect the processes surrounding the loss of Halls of Residence's and the Transparency/Costing Exercise that the COO began. I do remain concerned and am keeping these concerns very high on my agenda.

Yob Culture/Sexism at Imperial

I am hoping to further these with other Campaigns under the Strategic Umbrella of "Building a Student Community".

Petitions

I have been looking into improving student engagement with our Union structures, and would like to try and implement a Petition system, similar to that which currently exists at Sheffield SU.

College Strategy

Nida Mahmud (GSU President) and I are attending the Community Workstream of the College 2015-20 Strategy. I am working to include specific Imperial College Union points, especially when it comes to student consultation, engagement and collaboration.

One Victoria Road

I have visited College's new Halls of Residence in Acton to gain some insight into the development. I have also approached the SUARTS President (as the University of the Arts have students living in the neighboring Halls of Residence) to find out more about the effect that the halls have had on the student experience.

Union General Meeting

The Union held a General Meeting on Monday 1 December 2014. It had a peak attendance of ~45 members, meaning that it was not quorate. In the subsequent 2 hours, a high level of discussion occurred, and facilitated the development of the HEF Policy.

Women of Imperial Week

Abi, Chris and I have continued to engage with the Task Force group for the planning of the Women of Imperial Week. Part of our contribution to this is Abi's Womens' Sports day. ICTV are going to work with relevant societies and Liberation Officers to produce a video of students talking about inspirational female teachers and their roles in encouraging students get in to STEMB. IC TEDx are hosting an event with a theme of Inspirational Female Leaders.

Medic Finance

A campaign has commenced to support 5th and 6th year Medicine students as their funding significantly drops in their later years. This is in an early stage, but I have received data that proves that this is the case. We will be convening to discuss soon.

Abi de Bruin – DPCS

Training

I've done a large amount of work over the past few weeks to work on various aspects of club officer training. We have given budgeting sessions to Management Groups and Constituent Union and prepared club officers training. I have also worked with Sport Imperial to create Officer Re-Training for sports club officers. Furthermore, we have been looking at creating training for clubs as they form and go in to the New Club Incubator. There has also been a fair amount of discussion on the new club officer training for incoming officers for July and workshops for students considering running for Union roles in the Big Elections.

MG Restructure

I have had numerous meetings over the last few months regarding a potential MG restructure, one of my core aims while running for the position, and we are starting to reach a conclusion on this piece of work. Whilst it looks to not be finished in time for the Big Elections this year, having a goal to work towards for next year where we can have thorough consultation does not seem like a poor compromise.

Event Risk Management

We have been looking at and reviewing the processes through which the Union captures risk and are discussing ways to ensure Finance and Risk is not only passing judgement on financially risky decisions but also events which may be high risk in other ways, for example reputational or legal.

Pascal Loose – DPE

Feedback

This year we centred our NSS Response on feedback and all the recommendations that are linked to feedback are highlighted. The Response was presented to various College committee meetings and was well received. The DUGS and I are now working on how to implement the recommendations. This year's Rep Conference, taking place in mid-February, is themed "Feedback at Imperial", more details below. I'm still meeting with SACAs Nominees for "Best Feedback" award to identify best practice. I'm currently in contact with other Student Union sabbaticals to discuss how feedback is managed at their university.

Lecture Recordings

The College is very enthusiastic about this aim. HD cameras are being slowly rolled out across the College over the next coming years, however there are still some issues with staff members unwilling to make use of lecture recording.

I set up a focus group with reps to identify common problems with lecture recordings and potential solutions. The most common problem is the infringement of copyrights and the resulting prosecution. I'm in contact with University and College Union to discuss resolutions as they represent academic staff and have produced a document that argues against lecture recordings. Staff members of the library who have an interest in copyright laws are supporting me.

Notetaking

I'm working on this project together with Chris. By adding subtitles to lecture recordings the College has a potential to help many students with disabilities or difficulty with English. We are working together with the Student Support team of the College on this and we are currently researching possibilities and financial costs.

Postgraduate Experience

The PIP will be discussed at the Trustee Board meeting. My interest is in restructuring the Postgraduate representation and I'm working with Sky Yarlett and Academic and Welfare Officers on this. I'll be meeting with the PG reps to discuss their experience and their ideas on being a rep.

Horizons Rep Structure

I had a meeting with a Horizons rep who explained the difficulty Horizons rep face when they try to communicate with the students on their Horizons courses. Some reps manage it well and I am working with those reps to set up a communication framework for all Horizons reps.

Rep Forum

A common issue amongst UG rep is that they don't receive ideas or complaints when they ask the students, only to hear about difficulties later. Other departments however have together with their reps introduced improvements and we are considering to hold a Rep Forum, where the reps are invited to talk about their projects. The idea is that after the Rep Forum the reps have collected ideas that they would like to apply to their departments.

Operational Excellence

Operational Excellence is still in progress and they constantly require input from the Officer Trustee team and from students. I am currently working with the OE staff to define a system or framework to provide quick student input.

Rep Week

The Rep Week in November focused on introducing the Reps to the students and the Rep Week in February will focus on SACAs. Andrew, Sky and I are working with the reps on this campaign.

Rep Conference

As mentioned, this year's theme is "Feedback at Imperial". The Rep Conference invites the academic reps and staff members to give presentations, participate in breakout sessions and follow discussions on how to improve feedback at Imperial. Academic staff members have been invited and a list of speakers will be drafted by 09 January.

SACAs

The Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) nominations opened with the first Rep Week in November. Uptake has been slow and we have only received a few nominations, partly because it hasn't been heavily promoted yet. A SACA Strategy PIP was drafted by Andrew.

NSS Strategy

The National Student Survey (NSS) opens 12 January and we are working together with the College, the department and Ipsos MORI, the company that runs NSS, in promoting the NSS to the students. In the past, the major struggle was a lack in coordination when promoting the survey. We have no influence in Ipsos MORI's promotion, however I am working with the DUGS and the College on individual promotion strategies. I intend to discuss with Ipsos MORI the possibilities of a combined communication strategy for next year.

PRES Strategy

The Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) is next to NSS the second important survey this year. I am working with the College on a strategy on how to effectively promote PRES.

Library Development

After a brief consultation with the students at the ICT Student Forum the library and I are setting up a focus group to ask a wider group of students on their use and the future use of the library.

Research Opportunity Programme

The College has proposed recommendations on how to improve the current Undergraduate Research Opportunity Programme (UROP), however they didn't engage enough with students. The reps and I are

therefore working together within a focus group in order to identify current difficulties and challenges with UROPs.

SSC Forum

Previously the DPE wrote a report about the effectiveness of Student Staff Committee (SSC), however this has been proven to be tedious without much gain. Instead of a report, the reps and I are invited to a Quality

Assurance and Enhancement Committee to highlight common themes and assess the effectiveness of the SSCs.

Access to Grades

In the last Education and Representation Board we discussed discrepancies regarding the access to grades students. The dep reps and I are currently drafting issues, solutions and common practice across departments.

Alex Savell – DPFS

Since the last report to the Trustee Board on October 30th I have found several of my previous goals have become a secondary or delayed priority due to other concerns. Below are some of the highlights of what I have been actively working on since this time.

Higher Education Funding

Last year Union Council mandated the Officer Trustees to run a referendum to determine the student body's opinion with regard to Higher Education Funding before setting our policy as we move into the new year. During the first term I have led a working group of staff and officer trustees in order to amend this decision to run a survey, draft and implement the survey, analyse the results and create a new policy based on this. The main result of this has been a comprehensive report on the survey and its conclusions along with a number of specific campaign targets. The Union's new Higher Education Funding Policy was approved at the December 9th meeting of Union Council. We are now moving forwards to plan a full campaign strategy and have begun setting targets and assigning leaders for the various objectives we've laid out for ourselves.

Operational Excellence

This has been quite a mixed bag. I sit on the Student Finance stream for colleges Operational Excellence scheme which has the objective of overhauling all the colleges support functions. It is useful to have a strong voice in this scheme as it is an area that genuinely influences some students lives significantly, however it takes up a large amount of time and arguably might not be the best use of an officer trustee's time. I have felt as part of this that my voice has genuinely been listened too and the discussions have already highlighted a few issues that could potentially be improved on in the short term. This has led to a paper being presented to Union Council on hidden charges with specific reference to Overseas bank charges and we have a firm commitment to campaign against these. I will be working with the student finance team and meeting with college staff (including Debra Humphries) this term to try to cause a change in college policy about what bank, credit card or other unexpected or unadvertised charges that college passes on to students

Finance

There have been a number of smaller finance projects that I have been involved with. In particular; we have a new method for identifying VAT Exempt events that should be more compliant with legislation and will hopefully allow us to do more VAT exempt events, we are looking at the way we identify risk in events and tying financial and other risks into a more joined up system, this includes what oversight we apply to events and as such we have made some changes to how we monitor events with large financial outlay, I have also been involved with interviewing for new members of the finance team as part of the restructure – our two new team members are now in post which should help to ease the pressure that has been on the team in the first term.

Summer Ball

This has only recently begun but I am engaged and helping with the planning of this event in combination with a large number of other staff.

Chris Kaye – DPW

Crime

Attended Knightsbridge & Belgravia Ward Panel where I represented student concerns regarding bicycle crime.

Met Terry Branch and the Felix Editor to plan an awareness regarding crime and personal safety both off and on campus

Health Centre

Made representations to the Health Centre regarding opening hours and appointment availability.

Student Finance & International Students

Mr Savell and I have been working with the College SF team to try and tackle issues such as International bank transfer charges. This ties in with my 'boulder' relating to international student engagement. I also attended a workshop, as part of College's Operational Excellence programme, relating to the student finance stream.

Sporting Equipment in Halls

Following an issue a student had at the start of the academic year, Miss de Bruin and I met to draft a paper surrounding what are appropriate and inappropriate pieces of sporting equipment to store in halls. We will be presenting this to relevant College stakeholders and very much hope it will provide much needed clarity on the issue.

Officer Trustee HLM

I will potentially be taking a paper to Council to discuss Officer Trustee Honorary Life Membership. I believe that there should be greater Officer accountability.