

## **Trustee Board report – Deputy President (Education)**

There are a few updates to deliver in the world of education which I invite Trustee members to share their thoughts on. I am currently at a stage of the year where I am starting to think increasingly about ensuring continuity of some of our longer term educational projects, both this year and in coming years.

There has also been much activity, since the last Trustee board, regarding educational happenings of a more political nature. It is important that we are aligned as an organisation on our stance toward these issues and that we remain sensitive to the views of all our students.

### **Feedback Traffic Light system**

Having had this recommendation approved at Provost's Board via the full endorsement of our NSS Response recommendations, it has become a little unclear as to who has ownership over this in College; this is something I am beginning to investigate.

It has taken my own initiative thus far, along with a cohort of engaged Reps, to push this at the faculty and departmental level. IT have also been supportive in exploring a technological solution to facilitating the system yet have hit a wall in finding something which is user-friendly at a College-wide scale. I feel it is certainly realistic to have this system in place by the end of the academic year.

#### *Things for the board to consider*

- How can we keep the pressure on College to ensure they deliver on their promise of implementing this system?
- What timescale should we work to?
- Are there other actions and measures we can be taking to resurface this as a priority in College?

### **PG Wednesday afternoon campaign**

The intention here is to free up Wednesday afternoons for all PGT and MRes students, as per the existing College policy. Having taken a paper to VPAGE, which was fully approved, the paper was elevated to Provost's Board where it was passed in my absence.

However, College made us aware that the restrictions and challenges facing departments around space and resource have been the main obstacle to accommodating this change. I feel the Union should keep pressure on College, especially knowing that the College Space Sharing policy will (hopefully) solve many of the space issues on the South Kensington campus.

The Union should find ways to ensure continuity with this campaign because it deeply impacts the ability of many of our PG students to join clubs and societies which meet on Wednesday afternoons, as well as use our services, such as the bar, during peak times.

#### *Things for the board to consider*

- College have agreed to tackle this problem. How can we seek proof that actions are being taken to address it?
- Once again, what timescale is realistic here? Do we need to consider this being a part of the handover for next year's cohort?

Luke McCrone – Deputy President (Education)

### **ICU's involvement with TEF**

The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) is a governmentally introduced initiative which aims to measure the teaching excellence of English universities; the contentious aspect is that institutions which perform well in the TEF are granted the ability to raise fees in line with inflation.

Imperial College Union were invited by College to contribute to the provider submission document which partially determines the grade an institution can attain. However, Union Council members had reservations around this activity and consequently insisted on Nas and I bringing a paper to Council to request two things: 1) For the Union to be able to contribute to the TEF submission 2) For the Union to update its existing Higher Education funding policy.

The Union acknowledge that TEF is almost certainly going to happen and despite it fusing teaching quality with the fees a university can charge, the Union hold the improvement of educational quality as absolute paramount. The paper taken to Council was passed. I will now chair a working group which looks to review our current higher education funding policy which is arguably outdated. We have recently finished contributing to the submission document which will be sent around 26<sup>th</sup> January.