

Imperial College Union Council Report

Fintan O'Connor, Deputy President (Welfare)

Goals

Wellbeing Strategy

The wellbeing strategy project is progressing quickly, with a proposal to be made to the College by the end of the term. The president and I are lobbying members of the College to gain support, and taking on strong arguments with the College. We are outlining the critical importance to Imperial of implementing a meaningful and resourced wellbeing strategy, which not only funds support services appropriately, but plans for the future, and has consequences for staff who do not take student wellbeing seriously.

Wellbeing Representation Network

Wellbeing Reps continue to exert a positive influence in their departments. We are working with reps to make sure that they are taken seriously by their departments, which has been raised as a concern in some departments. With a 15% increase in representatives across the two networks this year, there are no plans to expand the network for the 2018/19 academic year. The Union will instead be working on using the rich feedback we get from the very close support we give the volunteers offers to strengthen their position within departments and give them more tools to make change. All wellbeing reps have one-to-one meetings with the Wellbeing and Campaigns Coordinator or the Education and Welfare manager.

Liberation Review

The liberation review will be gaining pace, and build on the progress of the change made this year. Communication of the progress will improve over Easter and into the summer term, when we will attempt to work with the College to create a College-wide

Operations

Gender Neutral Toilets

Working with the LGBT+ Officer, we arranged a meeting with Estates that as many single-user (usually designated disabled) toilets as possible will be fitted with new, gender neutral signage. This has to be approved by the Disability Action Committee, and is not a perfect solution, but aims to begin to create more space and recognition of trans people's needs at Imperial.

Advice Centre

I have been working with the advice centre and departments to gather data on mitigating circumstances applications and academic appeals, to find out where they have been successful. We hope that this information will help the Advice Centre to better understand our members' needs, and so improve the service.

Leadership Elections Events

To engage students in the leadership elections, and provide better access for potential candidates to ask questions, we have organised four open sessions to ask some officer trustees questions about roles and the Union. I also encourage anyone interested in running for leadership positions to come to officer trustees to talk about the positions – I am prioritising time to speak to people about the role.

Social Mobility Officer Consultation Support

I have arranged for staff with relevant expertise in the Union to meet with the proposer of the social mobility officer role to discuss student consultation and how it might best be achieved.

New Communication Platform for Officer Trustees

New webpages delving into our work in detail have been uploaded to the website. I encourage you to check imperialcollegeunion.org/fintan to see updates.

Union Representation Resource

The Union has tried its best to support all student activism this year, but as we have more volunteers than ever before, and more activity from students, it has been a challenge to provide intense event management to all volunteers. I have been pressing Union staff to examine the resource offered to Education and Welfare, and ways to better use it or increase it.

Under Pressure 2

Under Pressure will take place for the spring term in two weeks' time, from February 26th – March 2nd. We welcome all volunteers, and look forward to seeing you there! Look forward to hilarious attempts at laughing yoga!