

Imperial College Union Council Report

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Introduction

Highlights from the past few weeks include running the SACAs, recruiting staff, I-Explore developments and reflecting on the first half of our term.

Report on Progress

This is not an exhaustive list. Feel free to ask me about my other goals and initiatives. Previous progress can be found in my past reports.

Goal 1 - Produce NSS and PTES Responses in record time and use them to drive for change

You can find the responses on the Union website at <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/your-representatives/responses>

- The first College NSS/PTES Working Group met on the 12th of December to discuss College level actions to be taken to improve the student experience. The meeting was successful and a report outlining best practice to be adopted across College has been produced to be submitted to Provost's board. The WG will meet again in a few March to follow up on the recommendations in the report.

Goal 2 - Conduct a Review of the UG and PG Academic Representation Network

The purpose of this review is to map the entire network, and to improve training, support and communication.

- I'm currently producing a plan for the rest of the Academic Rep Network Review including overall timeline, resource allocation and consultation. This has been pushed back several times due to the SACAs and recruitment taking precedence but I'm planning on really driving it forward when SACAs finish.
- The communication and file sharing platform based on Microsoft Teams and SharePoint is being piloted by a few rep teams and will be reviewed at the ERB on the 28th of February.

Goal 3 - Spearhead student involvement in student-facing projects such as StudentShapers, Imperial Award and I-Explore

You can find out more about these projects online (links on my profile page on the Union website).

- At the second IMIG I presented a proposal for an additional stream to be added on *Societal Engagement* to get students involved in public outreach and community work. It was discussed in depth and the group decided that an entire stream isn't the best model as societal engagement projects may fit well into the existing streams. Instead, societal engagement modules/projects will be clearly tagged to aid students in choosing.
- The societal engagement stream conversation has since been reopened following conversations with senior staff at College who support a dedicated stream. I have also been heavily involved in discussions regarding the ECTS problem (modules of 7.5 ECTS not fitting within the 5 ECTS space in curriculums) which was brought and discussed at the ERB on the 31st of January.

- We closed the Imperial Award PGT survey with 245 responses and are conducting the focus groups next week. This will be followed by data analysis and a set of recommendations to be presented to the Imperial Award steering group in March.

Goal 4 - Fight for improved feedback for students across Imperial

- I sit on the quality assurance committees for all faculties where approve/reject all the curriculum review paperwork. Most departments have done a good job of decreasing assessment burden (quantity and frequency) to give students more “breathing space” in their curriculum to digest content and reflect and improve based on feedback.
- They have all explicitly committed to adhering to the College’s feedback policy (2-week turnaround).
- The pedagogy transformation projects which will be happening over the next couple of years, along with the input from the many recently hired teaching fellows across College, will lead to more flipped-classroom style teaching which will should embed continuous feedback into the learning experience.

Goal 5 - Achieve over 2000 nominations in this year’s Student Academic Choice Awards

- We added the 3 new categories after consultation with student reps and some staff and these were well received.
- It has proven very difficult to drive the SACAs while missing the representation coordinators in the Education & Welfare team. Furthermore, the SACAs overlapped with the first week of LE19 leading to mixed messaging.
- Will present final nomination/staff count at UC as SACAs are still running at the time of writing.

Operational Achievements

Shortlisting and interviewing candidates for 2 full-time staff roles

Running the SACAs

Reflections on the first half of our year in post

I’m writing a blog post with my actual reflections on the year so far but here are some of my commitments for the rest of the year:

- 1.) Do a better job of telling the student body what I’ve been up to (both what’s in this report and all the work I’ve been doing that doesn’t fall within the categories in this report)
- 2.) Be more ruthless when prioritising to make sure that I spend my time on high-impact projects

As always, I am available in person and via email for any questions you may have on my report or the Union’s work.

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