

## 1. What we do in College

- GSU President is member of the **Review Panel for the Excellence in Research Supervision** category of the [President's Awards](#). Rating was concluded and the committee met to select their winners which will be handed over by the IC President.
- As part of the Postgraduate Research Quality Committee, GSU President and VP-Representation have achieved that the **PRES 2019 also lists well-being questions**. These are not directly used in the University benchmarking but serve as an opportunity for sector comparison and future internal comparison. Together with the Union team, we created 2 additional questions aiming at the knowledge about and subjective feeling of institutional support for well-being. The PRES is now open until the 17<sup>th</sup> May and 10% of PG have participated so far.
- Success! As part of the Postgraduate Research Quality Committee, the GSU President applied for a change in practice of **PhD thesis printing costs** (£70/student). The committee has recommended for these to be paid by the College, as well as changing the general process of thesis submission and logistics of thesis delivery to the reviewers. The change was accepted and College changed the general logistics. Theses will only be printed as by request of the examiners, and the logistics and cost will be carried by the College.
- As part of the Postgraduate Research Quality Committee, the GSU President made the student registry aware of the problem of **expiry dates on PhD student IDs** in case of extension of their studies. This is being taken care of by the College administration.
- As part of the Postgraduate Research Quality Committee, the GSU President filed a **Freedom of Information Request to Academic Services of the College**. This entails data over the last 5 years of complaints from PG Students. This data will serve for the committee to review the fit-of-purpose of the complaints procedure for PG students who encounter problems with University staff (e.g. supervisors). The outcome of the request is published in an article by the GSU President in the Felix edition of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.
- We applied for **sponsorship for PG social events (2019)** to the Graduate School (£3000 total) and the Faculty Dean's (£8800 total). By now, we received (£3000) from the Graduate school and the faculties donated £6600 (FoNS, FoE, FoM) and £500 (BS).
- GSU President submitted pledge for the creation of an **annual events sponsorship from faculties to the GSU** of £2000/faculty. This is being mediated by the personal assistant of the Vice-Provost Education Simone Buijtendik. Leila Guerra (Vice-Dean Education, BS) has already expressed her support for next academic year 19/20.
- As suggestion from the PG-Rep networking event in December 2018, the Graduate School has received the feedback for the need of a **Graduate School Module** which enables PhD students to supervise student projects. Our AWO FoNS Emma Couves is currently taking a survey from students to bring into the discussions with the course creators at the Graduate School.
- The Academic and Welfare Officers participate in regular Student-Staff-Committee meetings within their respective faculties. Reporting of general issues and observations:
  - **AWO FoNS:** Main issues concern: Bus transport between SK & WC campus, support college to increase capacity for this. Lack of resources & support for student on alternative campuses – particularly Silwood park who lack access to

disability/mental health/academic English support; aim is to work out how best to proceed in improving this kind of access. Generally, people would like more opportunity to present their work and or take part in social activities to meet more people across college.

- **AWO FoE: tbd**
- **AWO FoM: tbd**
- **AWO BS: tbd**
- **PG Breakfast survey:** To support the return of the Senior Common Room breakfast and similar outlets at other campuses, we are running a survey to PG students. We collected 91 answers so far: [https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_etfxtYiZfLLuKb3](https://imperial.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etfxtYiZfLLuKb3)

## 2. What we do at the Union

- We have received considerable **increase in funding from the Union** (around £3000) which can be used for non-event-related expenditure such as a marketing campaign, communications materials, etc.
- We **changed the constitution of the GSU** to update the structure, which was passed by the Union Council in January. We now have created separate AWO positions for Research and Taught students, increased the number of events officers and created campus positions. At the moment, **GSU President and Silwood Chair are discussing the interlinkage** of the two constitutions to reflect this position in both committees.
- The constitution also foresees the work of the GSU committee in **sub-committees**, to be attended by the corresponding officers and staff in the Union. A **key contact list** has been created for all GSU positions, matching them with the right contacts in the Union. These sub-committees should ensure that the GSU and the Union work together more effectively to represent and offer services to PG students (Each of them has its own **ToR**).
  - The **Sub-committee Identity and Communications** has met for the first time and decided to work on a general GSU awareness campaign to promote the visibility and outreach of GSU (and PG) communications. Also, the website and social media appearance need to be reviewed. Outstanding is the analysis of the emails sent out by the GSU President and their engagement rate.
  - The **sub-committee Resources and Events** has not met yet → to be followed-up by assigned GSU officers and the Union staff.
- The GSU now has a **GSU page within the Union website**. This presents static material about the GSU, which should be further expanded with more up to date information once the committee has a website officer. We deleted the external GSU website which was not a success and hope to receive support from the Union communications team to maintain the page in the Union website.
- The GSU has supported their members with **elections briefing materials** (Candidate's views on PG issues) for the March elections. These elections had a significantly **higher participation** of PG students than last year (from 13% to 20%), this trend should be maintained. A new GSU President and VP Representation were elected, but many GSU positions resulted in RONS. The VP-Representation 18/19 Ashley has become the new sabbatical officer DP-Education, as one of the few PG in this position. 😊

## 3. General activities by the GSU 18/19

- The GSU has created a monthly contribution of **PG Content for the Imperial Newspaper Felix** (every first Friday of the month, since December). This receives growing interest from students. Many are still not aware of the existence of the newspaper and its relevance to PG students. The new constitution also foresees a Felix Officer role, which as not received any candidates in the recent elections. The Felix team now also has created a PG category, where all articles are displayed online: <http://felixonline.co.uk/categories/postgraduate/>.
- In Felix, we run the political column “**supervision stories**” where students anonymously share experiences with their supervisors. We have created an anonymous form for submission of stories in google forms:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem1BIs\\_DEvtLKu2IM2Qh75dgCm5Z3HLxhITWr2UDsjFQxFtQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem1BIs_DEvtLKu2IM2Qh75dgCm5Z3HLxhITWr2UDsjFQxFtQ/viewform)  
Despite many complaints about poor supervision, the submission number for stories is still low/zero. People might be too frightened to be identified. Usually we need to convince friends to submit their stories.
- Regular **communications to members**:
  - Revitalisation of GSU social media accounts, to be further improved.
  - Graduate School Newsletter contributions had a good viewing rate.
  - GSU President Emails have a 50% opening rate.
- GSU President has grown the political support for a College-wide **PG Mindfulness & Stress Research Project** between Graduate School, GSU, and students and staff from the FoM and FoE. As an application to the **Student Shapers** program, this project will receive administrative support and funding from the scheme. The funding will topped up by the vice-provost education Simone Buijtendik, and is currently estimated at around £20,000. Currently, the working group is building the research protocol and ethics application to be submitted by June 2019. The randomised-control-trial style project is planned to be run in Spring 2020, recruitment to be carried out in the autumn term 2019.
- **Events**:
  - PAST: PG-R Rep networking (December 2018)
  - PAST: GSU Connect (February 2019)
  - PAST: FINTech and Blockchain conference (February 2019)
  - FUTURE: PG Black Tie event (8<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Tickets sale opened now. Large interest from the PG community, especially PhDs who have registered interest in the Qualtrics Survey sent out by the GSU President).
  - FUTURE: IC Data Challenge (22<sup>nd</sup> June 2019, company sponsors are being contacted)