

Union President report to Council

Abhijay P. Sood

Highlights:

- Settling in
- Preparation for welcome
- FoNS Dean Interviews

College Meetings & Prep	Student + Union Meetings & Prep	Operational work (day-to-day)	Project work (major goals)	Misc
23%	26%	34%	2%	15%

Updates:

- Training/Handover

Week Beginning	Activities
15 Jul	Handover (predecessors present); induction sessions; intro meetings
22 Jul	Handover (predecessors present); induction sessions; intro meetings
29 Jul	Handover period complete; Induction sessions/intro meetings continued
5 Aug	Residential; Team building with OTs/SMG; Work start in earnest

- Leadership Manifesto – bringing together organisational priorities & OT manifestos
- Welcome preparation
 - o Preparing for talks
- College Council
 - o St Mary's sale – making sure any proceeds are spent appropriately
 - External members – expertise/common sense
- FoNS Dean Interview panels
 - o Arranged a team of student reps from across FoNS depts and UG/PG study
 - o Met with 4 candidates for conversational interviews
 - o Delivered feedback to Provost, will follow up
- Complaints
 - o At the moment every complaint goes through me – something to review

Upcoming:

- Voter registration
 - o Already held a stall at Freshers fair
 - o Will be lobbying College to register students automatically, in line with past motions to Council
- Negotiations
 - o Price of rent in halls, alongside Shervin
 - Will be bringing a paper to Council with options this term
 - o Union's Block Grant (see Union Goal 3)
- Ethical investment
 - o In line with Union policy, will be pursuing this at College Council and elsewhere
 - o Will work with Ethics and Environment Officer & DPFS.

- Union strategy 2020-23
 - o Clearer goals & cross-campus consultation

Key goals: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/abhijay-union-president>

College Goal: Change the way decisions are made – **Beginning**

- To make sure College is making decisions in the best interests of students and staff, I want to make sure **people affected by decisions are involved in the decision-making process.**
- I'm sitting down with the Managing Director of the Union to talk about places in College where our hand would be strengthened with seat(s) at the table.
- I intend to get input from the following in order to formulate a proposal:
 - o Direct input from students at pop-up stalls etc.
 - o Union Council/its subcommittees
 - o Heads of Department
 - o Faculty Education Managers, Deans, Vice Deans
 - o Key staff from central support departments (Registry, Campus Services, etc.)
 - o Staff Trade Unions
 - o Senior College Staff (President, Provost, CFO, Secretary)

Let me know if I've missed anyone obvious off this list!
- This is a big project, which I intend to do alongside work for the new Union Strategy, but I think it's likely the easiest way to make significant changes at Imperial.

Union Goal 1: Transparency – **In progress**

- We've written a plan for OT communications, committing ourselves to:
 - o More frequent posts on social media
 - o An interview series in *Felix*
 - o "OT Tours" across our campuses
 - o Our blogs/written articles for more detailed stuff
- If students can't easily find out what we're up to, we aren't doing our jobs properly – whenever something big happens, we're going to communicate about it directly

Union Goal 2: Protecting/Improving our Services – **Not yet started**

- Primarily to staffing challenges, we have not been able to offer a totally complete provision of services
- At this stage, I'm waiting for welcome to end and new staff are brought in before working on improvements, alongside the DPFS & staff/ reps (esp. students)
- Will be a matter for discussion at Services and Sustainability this year

Union Goal 3: London Living Wage – **Not yet started**

- Around 2/3rds of the Union's money comes from a block grant from College
- As we (primarily the DPFS and myself) renegotiate the terms of that grant this year, I'm committed to including a real (London) living wage for student staff as part of our costings
- I'll have updates on this later in the year once the actual negotiation commences, and will be bringing this back to Council to discuss updates and your fresh input