

# President Report to Union Council – November 2019

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## Highlights:

- Welcome talks & Graduation
- College Council – ethical investment push
- Sick leave 😞

College Meetings & Prep	Student + Union Meetings & Prep	Operational work (day-to-day)	Project work (major goals)	Misc
17%	30%	37%	9%	7%

## Updates:

- Officer 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 started in earnest

- FoNS Dean Interview panels
  - Arranged a team of student reps from across FoNS depts and UG/PG study
  - Met with 4 candidates for conversational interviews
  - Delivered feedback to Provost – candidate has since been selected – Richard Craster from the Department of Mathematics
- Welcome talks to all first year UGs & “not in halls” students and PGTs (w/ DPW)
- Off sick for around a week after welcome 😞
- Attended Commemoration Eve Dinner & Commemoration Day ceremonies
- Complaints
  - At the moment every complaint goes through me
  - We (DPCS & two senior members of staff in the Union) are reviewing this
- Access & Participation Plan – DPW & I involved in widening participation in the College – focus on black students, disabled students, and those from deprived areas
- Involved in Rep Training
- Completed preparatory work on the Union Strategy

## Upcoming:

- Negotiations
  - Price of rent in halls, alongside Shervin – Council will decide on options this term
  - Union’s Block Grant (see Union Goal 3)
- College Council:
  - Ethical investment
    - Existing Union Policy mandates us to campaign for the College to remove its investments in Fossil Fuels
    - The response so far from College has been firm opposition
    - I am putting together a paper for College Council to create a working group to examine ethical investment generally rather than particular divestments

- Will be bringing changes to the ICU constitution to College Council
- Refugee access to Education at Imperial
  - Council passed a paper on this in 2016-17, mandating us to lobby the College to make it easier for refugees to study here
  - Been working (primarily with DPW) to meet senior College staff to make this happen

### Key goals:

#### 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 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:
  - Direct input from students at pop-up stalls etc.
  - Union Council/its subcommittees
  - Heads of Department
  - Faculty Education Managers, Deans, Vice Deans
  - Key staff from central support departments (Registry, Campus Services, etc.)
  - Staff Trade Unions
  - Senior College Staff (President, Provost, CFO, Secretary, etc.)

Let me know if I've missed anyone obvious off this list!

- This process will be conducted alongside work on the Union Strategy
- This is a big project, but I believe it's likely the easiest way to bring significant change to Imperial.

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

- We've written a plan for OT communications, committing ourselves to:
  - More frequent posts on social media
  - An interview series in *Felix*
  - "OT Tours" across our campuses
  - 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 – **In progress**

- Primarily due to staffing and equipment challenges, we have not been able to offer a totally complete provision of services
- DPFS & I are meeting the Head of Catering Operations to discuss h-bar
- These issues will be matters for discussion at Services and Sustainability this year

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

- As we (DPFS & I) renegotiate the terms of the Union's block grant from College 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 negotiation commences

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