

President Report to Union Council – March 2020

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Highlights:

- Elections
- Graham's (Interim MD's) Plans
- Recruitment of a new MD

Updates:

- **Elections**
 - Due to campaigning for Union Elections, I've booked time off from work in the week running up to this meeting. I'll have a more complete update for the next meeting, but I'm happy to take any questions.
- **Graham's Plans**
 - Graham has hosted two open meetings with all Union staff to discuss some proposed changes to improve our structure and make us a more effective organisation for students.
- **Recruitment of a new Managing Director:**
 - We have finalised the composition of the panels for the recruitment of a new Managing Director.
 - By our current timeline, we would expect to have a new MD by the end of July.
- **Halls rent:**
 - Shervin and I held a kick-off meeting for the rent campaign and decided on some immediate steps for the short-term, including creating a campaign page on the Union website. We agreed that going forward, we wouldn't necessarily be the standard bearers for a campaign, but we'd be there to offer support and guidance. Thanks to everyone who came along!

Upcoming:

- **Block grant renegotiation**
 - Beyond the notes in my previous two reports, I may have more to update on this by the date of the meeting.

Key goals:

College Goal: Change the way decisions are made – **In progress**

- 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.**
- This is a big project, but I believe it's likely the easiest way to bring significant change to Imperial.
- This is a piece of work I'm picking back up in the wake of the debate over halls rent.

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

- Kitchens in 568 are set to reopen soon pending the completion of actions which depend on third parties
- The DPFS has had meetings with the Head of Catering Operations to discuss specific issues regarding h-bar

Union Goal 3: London Living Wage – In progress

- 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
- The Union Leadership team has agreed to including this as we go forward.

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