

# Deputy President (Welfare) – Council report

Shervin Sabeghi – 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## Introduction: “*Growing up is getting old*”

Hi everyone! Hope you're all well and not dying from exams. My time in this role comes closer and closer to ending and I'm feeling the sands of time slip rapidly through my fingers. It's been a period of highs and lows – since the last Council, Eurovision has come and gone and I've been tackling my Post Eurovision Depression (PED, look for it in the DSM you'll find it, I swear) by, well, listening to my 15 hour and 19 minute long Eurovision playlist on repeat. I hope you all watched it and agree that it was a great show. My favourite from the final was [Bulgaria](#) followed closely by [France](#) and I recommend, for your welfare, you watch/listen to these (although I couldn't not cry to Bulgaria's song until like the 10<sup>th</sup> listen of it so be prepared for that). Alas, the UK scored 0 points, but I will strongly push back on all suggestions of us withdrawing especially since it's some of the most cost-effective programming the BBC does. Anyway, I could talk a lot more about this – as the *Felix* from 21<sup>st</sup> May would prove – feel free to ask me more about Eurovision (and anything work related in this report, I guess).

## How I've spent my time since the last report (3<sup>rd</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June)

College Meetings and 121s	Union Meetings	Desk work (day-to-day)	Time with students + comms	Project work
17%	29%	31%	8%	15%

## Key latest updates

- Representation work: the main focus of our representation work has been looking to the next year and what the experience will look like. The survey we ran has been overwhelmingly telling us students want next year to be all in person. Well, this didn't come as a surprise and that's the stance we've been taking since the beginning is that the College should be planning all in person with social distancing as a contingency. It seems they *want* to do this, but apparently it's quite hard to plan for two things and they seem keen to take a bit more of a cautious approach. They still want to maximise in person teaching, but within tighter constraints than we think they should put. Alice might've said 'students won't ever accept in person lectures again' but, don't worry, I don't think there's actually any intention to blanketly make all lectures online.
- Rep training: along with Michaela, I've been planning training for reps that will happen before the end of the academic year. The current idea is to deliver online asynchronous interactive modules covering core topics that is supplemented by synchronous activity focused on networking and idea generation. We're also working to get a lot of things written into useful short guides that reps can refer to throughout their year too.
- Representation Networks: we have two new sets of Reps of the Month. Our April winners were Mabel Prendergast for wellbeing, Georgios Pampalis for PG, and Jerry Fu for academic. Then for May they were Yuliia Tereshchuk for PG, Maddie Jenkins for academic and Francesca Wittman for wellbeing. Congrats all! In lieu of a RotM June, we're running Rep of the Year with bigger prizes!

- Halls policies: I won't say loads here since it's a tabled item for this Council, but I've been working on reviewing the Halls policies that the Union holds with the College's Residential Life Committee. They've been approved there (at least, there was no resistance so I kinda just assumed they were all happy) and need signing off here.
- Student Choice Awards: our annual awards, the SCAs, are fully underway. We've had panels to decide the shortlist and winners and we are currently preparing for the ceremony. Make sure you tune in on our Facebook and YouTube for the **virtual ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup> June 14:00-15:00**.
- Discipline project work: this project work continues with no major updates right now. The basic framework as described in my last report was approved by the Board of Trustees and I'm currently doing the work to try and get as much in place before I leave. There will be some bits of student consultation needed so look out for stuff (particularly those of you on CWB and SSB).
- History Group: as part of their response to BLM, the College launched a [History Group](#) with the intention of digging into the College's history: establishing facts, learning about perceptions and making recommendations of any changes. I've been attending this monthly for about a year and it's finally come up with recommendations that are being taken to the College's President's Board. These include the possibility of renaming Beit itself, but all of that is subject to wider student consultation and senior approval.

## My 2020/21 objectives

Here are updates against my objectives.

- 1) **Liberation and Community (L&C) Development:** not much to update.
- 2) **Representation Network Review:** Cat has started! And we're having early conversations about this.
- 3) **COVID-19 Response:** Ongoing ESOG (Education Strategy and Operation Group) meetings dealing with all COVID student experience and teaching issues. One important topic coming through is about the use of space next year and I chaired a discussion about the creation of an app to provide live data about room usage to help students choose where they can go to study and chill.
- 4) **Student Discipline and Harassment:** Progress here has been outlined above.
- 5) **Campaigns and Student Voice:** no update.

**Congrats if you've read this far! Please feel free to drop me an email whenever at [dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk) if you've got any questions or feedback.**