

President Report to Union Council

Dr Lloyd T. James

Updates:

- Supported general Welcome efforts, including Welcome Fair and Welcome events provision
- Interviewed a range of students previously engaged with the GSU as part of the GSU Review
- Shaped the 'ICU Actions' which have come out of the Working Together Task Group. These include raising awareness of the President's Community Fund to students, co-designing with the College a process for students to raise feedback on Departmental culture, and developing a 'values/behaviour' stream of the Student Choice Awards
- Engaged in the College's Partnerships Working Group, which has been set up to outline the ethical/values-based requirements which have to be met for the College to engage in any kind of partnership (e.g. research or teaching)
- Advised on the development of the College's Estates Strategy, a presentation on which should be coming to Council later this month
- Initiated discussions on development of HR Policy / Guidance around student engagement in staff recruitment
- Analysed data from the PRES survey and computed Departmental breakdowns
- Hosted a visit of the College Council Chair, John Allen CBE, to the Union
- Delivered addresses at each Graduation Ceremony

Upcoming:

- Identification of 4-5 minor capital projects for ICU building improvements to go into College funding round
- Interviews for the Governance and Democracy Coordinator role
- Working with Nathalie on the Review of College and Union Disciplinary processes
- Managing communications around the History Group Report, and advising the College on student engagement with consequent decisions
- Potentially managing the fallout of the UCU ballot, e.g. by seeking Council's position on the proposed strike action
- Taking some annual leave (finally) from Nov 8-14

Objectives:

Objective 1: Reviewing our Offer to Postgraduates - [In progress]

Current progress: Following the completion of the PG Engagement Survey and focus groups, the GSU Review working group determined that more research was required before forming a set of recommendations, so the conclusion of this review has been pushed back to January. As well as interviewing former engaged GSU volunteers, we will be analysing existing data from eActivities, Student Experience Survey, eVoting etc to gain more information about current levels of PG engagement. Please refer to the relevant item included as a paper for discussion at this meeting for more details.

Objective 2: Reviewing our Democratic Structures - [In progress]

Current progress: A project plan outlining the delivery of this objective has been prepared and included as a paper for decision at this meeting.

Objective 3: Understanding Community Development - [Not yet started]

Current progress: Preliminary shaping of this project will likely come later in the term, with data gathering proceeding through Term 2.

Objective 4: Supporting Constituent Unions - [In progress]

Current progress: Continued to have semi-regular catch ups with CU Presidents, and provided ICU representation at CU events. Will soon be working with CU Presidents to identify where ICU staff support can assist in delivering their objectives for the year.

Objective 5: Developing a coherent lobbying agenda for Campus Services and Estates - [In progress]

Current progress: Continuing to engage regularly with senior stakeholders in Estates, including Neil Alford (Associate Provost - Academic Planning), and through attendance at College Council's Property Committee. Arranged for a presentation on the Estates Strategy to come to Union Council for input. Initiated project to map out key decision-makers and decision-making committees around estates decisions in the College.

Bonus:

As a test of how keenly Council members are reading Council papers: the first 3 Council members to send me an email acknowledging that you've read this bit of my report will win a chocolate bar, to be bestowed at Council. Please don't alert other Council members to this opportunity!