

President Report to Union Council

Dr Lloyd T. James

Updates:

- Attended a College Council Away Day, which focused on Estates issues, including new developments at White City, the move towards Net Zero by 2040, and new ways of using space under hybrid working.
- Provided an 'ICU induction' session for Grainne Brankin, the new College Secretary and General Counsel.
- Enforced the Union Bar Policy in removing a number of tankards/other items associated with Tie Clubs from the Union Bar.
- Arranged a visit of John Allen, Chair of College Council to the Union to discuss the ongoing situation around the release of the bullying report, as well as the route to improving the College's culture.
- Visited Silwood Park campus with other Officers and members of staff (see India's report).
- Advised the Library around an appropriate re-opening plan for stepping up the building occupancy and returning to pre-Covid operations.
- Successfully lobbied for Union President and Managing Director to be added as members of the College's weekly Heads of Department meetings.
- Finalising list of top-priority Capital Expenditure projects for the Union, including urgent refurbishments to flooring, 'back of house' spaces, and addressing access/security issues.
- Continued engagement with the Partnerships Working Group - working to ensure that the consultation process will be meaningful and will provide opportunities for feedback on the negative aspects of the College's existing research and teaching partnerships.
- Elections! Supported the Representation Team in the promotion of the Leadership Elections, and discussions with potential candidates.
- Coordinated a student panel to interview two candidates for the role of Associate Provost (Estates Planning), and provide feedback to the Provost.

Upcoming:

- Continuing to support the College's Student Disciplinary Review, including as a lead and co-lead of evidence groups in relation to this.
- Further planning with Campus Services and the Education Officer around coordination of refurbishment works for h-Bar.
- 1-2-1 meetings with Constituent Unions (CUs), along with Tom Flynn (Managing Director) and Tom Newman (Director of Membership Services) to better understand each CU's needs.
- Attending and speaking at two 'catch up' Graduation days on the 10th and 30th of March.
- Taking annual leave March 24th-29th.

Objectives:

Objective 1: Reviewing our Offer to Postgraduates - [Complete]

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

Current progress: The Democratic Structures Review Working Group (DSRWG) has now met thrice, to scope out the remit of the review, decide a set of survey questions to be sent to Council, and for preliminary analysis of the survey results. These complex discussions have proved tricky over Teams - I am doing my best to arrange an in-person meeting of the DSRWG where things can be properly thrashed out.

Objective 3: Understanding Community Development - [Integrated into Business as Usual]

Objective 4: Supporting Constituent Unions - [In progress]

Current progress: As verbally reported at the last meeting, myself and the ICU senior managers Tom Flynn and Tom Newman met with the CU Presidents at Governance and Identity Board to discuss what the Union should be doing to support them better. We have also arranged follow-up 1-2-1s with individual CUs to better understand each CU's specific needs and mode of operation. These details will be captured and used to inform a plan for improved training, resourcing, and support of CUs. Visited Silwood campus to better understand the Silwood SU.

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. Current discussions revolve around re-allocation of office space on the South Kensington campus into teaching and learning spaces, as well as new developments at White City. On the Estates side, we successfully lobbied for a 'student panel' to take place as part of the recruitment for a new Associate Provost (Estates Planning). These panels were extremely useful and we have provided feedback to the Provost on the candidates.