

# Deputy President (Education) March report to Union Council

Daniel Lo

## Updates:

- Closely monitoring the potential effect on students regarding UCU strike action last week and the associated Action Short Of Strike.
- Had discussions with the Library to discuss reopening library spaces fully
- Attended Education Committee, I-Explore Module Innovation Group, Board of Trustees
- Published the ICU NSS College and departmental recommendations
- Sat on an Academic Misconduct Panel on 24/2
- Reviewed StudentShapers (SS) proposal for summer projects and presented to the SS steering group
- Met with DPW and the disabilities officer to review the College's educational policies and investigate ways to improve learning accessibility
- Followed up on previously mandated requests and updated the author recently.
- Assisted with helpdesk assistant interviews
- Had regular catch-ups with faculty reps

## Upcoming:

- To review the full time MBA curriculum review proposal
- To receive MEQ results and student feedback
- To attend a Fitness to Practice Panel
- To work on an online feedback board to improve effectiveness of reps collecting feedback from students

## Academic Rep Forum (Taught and Research updates:

- Taught: Informed reps with the recent decisions made in the Education Committee (PGT resits). Dep reps gave an update on exam arrangements and teaching. Reps were also briefed with UCU strike action updates and a proposal of the feedback board. Students expressed concerns on exams safety with the recent COVID rules. I will follow up on that and will let the reps know shortly.
- Research: The PG engagement review report was presented and they discussed the College and the Graduate School's PRES Action Plan. Similarly, the feedback board proposal was presented and well received by PGR reps. Some reps raised concerns about the College's guarantor scheme not currently applicable for PG students. Again, I will follow up on that.

## Objectives:

### **Objective 1: Work closely with faculty and departmental (dep) academic reps to ensure departments are actively addressing the issues/feedback raised in the NSS response - [Ad-hoc/Complete]**

None of the reps raised any matters with their SSC/SSLGs or NSS departmental recommendations. The College is setting up a working group to address the NSS recommendations and it's likely to be in place in mid-March. Dep reps are able to see their written recommendations on our website.

### **Objective 2: Providing support on development training for reps and foster the sharing of good practice across different departments - [In progress]**

I am working on to improve how academic feedback can be raised to strengthen the rep network and ensure students can raise feedback effectively. I have started working on this and consulted senior staff members of the College and reps during the rep forum. The next step will be for Union staff to work on the logistical issues, such as platform selection and functionality, which will be conducted in March. It is estimated the platform will launch in Term 3.

### **Objective 3: Work closely with PG AWOs and reps to ensure the departments are actively addressing the recommendations raised in the PRES response - [In progress]**

The Graduate School has recently published a set of Action Plans to address various areas highlighted in the PRES survey. From supervision to COVID related matters, the Grad School, ICT and student support services provided a timeline for changes to be made. Individual departments may have their own action plan and this will be shared with reps shortly. PGR reps received the action plans and I will reflect their concerns and comments to the Grad School.

### **Objective 4: Review the Mums and Dads scheme to investigate what the right cause of action is - [In progress]**

I have completed the buddy scheme report and it is currently under review by Union staff. This will be presented to Council next time if it's good to go.

### **Objective 5: Enhance the Imperial experience for international students to ensure there is parity with home students - [In progress]**

I have had a meeting with the international students support to discuss issues affecting international students. While we are analysing the Student Experience Survey (SES) results for 20/21, most key College services received a high rating, which makes it difficult for me to make a comment on their performance. We are waiting for SES 21/22 results so I can compare their performance. Hence, the town hall will be delayed.

Thanks for reading! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [dpe@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpe@ic.ac.uk) or drop me a message on Teams:)