

President Report to Union Council

Dr Lloyd T. James

Updates:

Since last Council (March 8th):

- Delivered speeches at three Graduations, including my own last week.
- Continued to co-lead with the Graduate School development of a “Project Rescue Framework” for intervening in cases where PG Research projects go awry (generally due to issues with the supervisory partnership).
- Leadership Elections - supported with the delivery of these, including by co-presenting the Hustings and Results Night events (congratulations Hayley and all others elected!).
- Worked with India to draft a revised set of Principles for allocation from the Harlington fund.
- Joined a College working group reviewing the College’s staff appraisal (PRDP) process.
- College Disciplinary Procedures Review - led or co-led on “evidence groups” gathering input from Officer Trustees and College Consuls.
- Engaged in tender process for a recruitment consultant to support external trustee recruitment.
- Advised on organisation and governance of Union Awards 2022.
- Provided introduction and building tour for Martyn Boutelle, the new Associate Provost for Estates.
- Joined steering group for review of College Council.
- Sat on review panel as part of the Periodic Review of the Chemistry Department’s PGR provision.
- Shortlisted and interviewed candidates for Postgraduate Experience Researcher roles.
- Met with the College’s incoming President, Hugh Brady.
- Officer Trustee “Away Day”.
- Continued to manage a range of disciplinary cases within the Union.

Upcoming:

- Revision of the Union’s own Disciplinary Bye Law which is in need of update.
- Joining panel for Departmental Review of Chemistry.
- Initiation of process to look at how we engage with the Business School in representation of, and service provision to, Business students (including those on the new Undergraduate Business course).
- Ongoing piece of work (joint with India) looking at our relationship with Move Imperial on sports in the short and long term.

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 continued to meet, and has arrived at tentative agreements on changes to Council membership, Officer accountability mechanisms, and the structure of Council subcommittees. Further meetings will discuss Constituent Unions and campus representation, and will begin to develop a more complete proposal for Council to consider.

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

Objective 4: Supporting Constituent Unions - [In progress]

Current progress: We have undertaken a series of 1-2-1s with individual CUs to better understand each CU's specific needs and mode of operation, as well as those elements of required support that are common to all CUs. Next week we have a meeting to evaluate the key themes that emerged from these conversations, and to get the ball rolling on reviewing what CU support looks like in future.

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. The College has a new Associate Provost (Estates Planning) whom we have met and shown around the Beit building. We have strongly impressed the need for further investment in spaces managed by the Union, which have been historically under-invested in and allowed to languish. We are also beginning conversations around the two new buildings planned for the south side of the White City campus, and how student space / Union space should be a part of the vision for these buildings.