

ICU Council
Monday 29th October

DPEW Report

A note by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Meetings

I am probably always going to start with this as it takes up the majority of my waking hours.

Working Group on Feedback

The Working Group on Examination Feedback has asked me to gather student opinion about areas of feedback (no longer limited to examinations) to make recommendations to QARC in the new year. This is a vital opportunity to change the way feedback is given at Imperial and to improve the educational experience for all students.

Medical Teaching Committee & Student Portal Project Board

I had the chance to do my first presentation of the Student Portal to the Medical Teaching Committee last week and I was able to take the questions and suggestions which came out of this to the Portal Project Board the next day. Overall there has been a very positive reception of the project. I have also volunteered to be involved in the Pilot roll out in January.

Science Studies Committee & Engineering Studies Committee

Several new courses and modules have been approved with the most notable being a restructuring of the Civ Eng Degree Programme. I took the liberty to endorse the prerogative set by Civ Eng in instructing their lecturers to only set coursework that is of educational value and cannot be taught in any other way. This is an excellent way that Civ Eng has developed to reduce unnecessary time spent on menial tasks and is to be commended.

Several suggestions have been made to help students at the Wye Campus cope with the phasing out of Imperial College Degrees in the least disruptive way. It has been suggested that Industrial Placements, usually taken between academic years, should be delayed until the completion of all academic years of study to avoid a situation where we will only have one or two students still registered at Wye.

Undergraduate Admissions Committee & Recruitment and Admissions Policy

These are essentially fact and figures meetings on applications received and offers being made. Data seems to be delayed or missing so no conclusions could be drawn on whether the number of applications is still increasing on previous years. Entry requirements for most courses have risen with almost all undergraduate courses now requiring 3 Grade As. This is due to the supposed 'dumbing down' of A levels.

I have had regular meetings with key members of College staff including Shrine Brown, Vernon McClure, Julia Buckingham & Rodney Eastwood.

I will also have attended QAAC & College Welfare Committee before Monday evening.

RISE Week

RISE Week saw a plethora of International Students coming forward to tell us about their experiences at Imperial College. From all the people that came forward some very enthusiastic volunteers have emerged and I will be working with them to put on future events to showcase the various cultural activities that are happening at Imperial. We also gave out 300 Fairtrade Fortune Cookies with our international Dishes of the Day at Union Catering; showed Foreign Films at ICU Cinema and filmed interviews for the new college website and Imperial College Reporter.

SHAG Week

SHAG Week preparations are going well with promotional material and publicity winging its way from various different sexual health institutions as we speak. Imperial College Union is joining forces with MedSin, Positively Red and Sexpression to bring an array of fun, educational and charitable events to the student populace. Events will include Speed Dating

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at Reynolds, a Flash Mob, a Debate on HIV, Pole Dancing and an Ann Summers Party. All monies raised will go to MedSins chosen charities 'Children with Aids Charity' and 'Positively Healthy UK'. Campaign aims for the week will be looking for people to support better Sexual health Facilities at the South Ken Campus and availability of condoms in Halls of Residence.

Personal Tutor Workshop

I attended a training session for personal Tutors on behalf of a panel answering questions and giving advice. I found this incredibly useful to find out how Personal Tutors view their role and to explain why personal Tutoring is essential. In the future I have suggested that a student representative from the Union attends as well as the Union Advisor to give this unique point of view.

Library Meeting

Steve and I met with the new Director of Library Services, Deborah Shorley, who is a very enthusiastic new addition to the team. From this meeting we will be working on ways in which the library and the union can work together to provide reading lists for students to order books which they wish to buy in addition to borrowing them from the library.

In other library news the Building work, along with the main entrance, now has a completion date in March rather than January as previously reported. Also, reciprocal library access to other UoL Libraries will not necessarily be allowed. Some libraries have chosen to charge non-UoL students and this will apply to all Imperial College Students regardless of which degree they chose to continue with.

Representation and Welfare Board

RWB met on Thursday to discuss some very important issues:

Disabilities Awareness

The College Disabilities Officer has retired and as yet there will be no replacement expected until January. Disabilities Awareness amongst staff and students is extremely lacking and we are going to try to target this with awareness courses available to staff and students. We will be looking to College to help fund this for their staff.

In the meantime I will be chasing College to provide adequate provision for students with disabilities and to find an appropriate member of staff to uphold the Disabilities Officer position in the transition period.

Higher Education Funding

RWB have been given some sample questions to take away and consider for the Higher Education Funding Debate. Re-formatting has been considered and any suggested changes to questions/addition of questions are welcomed. If you would like to be involved in this process please speak to myself or Steve.

Feedback Forum

There will be a feedback Forum on Thursday 22nd November. This is essentially a drop in session between 12 and 2pm in SAF LT G38. Please come along and tell us how you would like to see Feedback given on your assessed work.

Fairtrade University Status

Has been signed (by Myself, Jane Neary and Paddy Jackman), sealed and delivered. Now the waiting game begins.

New College Website

Thanks to Andy and Lily (who turned into Henry unexpectedly) who helped out with testing the new college website. There will be more opportunities in the future so speak to me if you would like to get involved.

KMP 26/10/2007