

IMPACT

REPORT 2011/12



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union



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's an honour to welcome you to the first Impact Report of Imperial College Union.

When I was elected to my role in 2011, I knew that our Union did amazing things and that it had the potential to do so much more. What I also knew is that we don't often shout about the amazing things we achieve during a Sabbatical Term. For this reason we jazzed up the Sabbatical Blogs, tweaked the representation structure and pencilled in a date to create this very document – our guide to the highlights and interesting facts of the year.

I hope you enjoy flicking through the pages,



your SABBATICALS

The Union is led by a team of elected students who take a year out of their studies.

This year's team have been writing blogs throughout the year to keep you up-to-date with what they have been doing to make your time at Imperial even better.

Catch-up with the latest from Monya, Jason, Scott, Michael and Nicolas online at:

imperialcollegeunion.org/sabbs



2,564

Volunteer positions filled within the Union this year, by 2,196 individuals.

They are academic Reps, run Clubs, Societies & Projects, take on roles as welfare officers, arrange collecting money for charity, and one of them is even the President.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers form the backbone of what the Union does – much of what you see, and much of what we talk about wouldn't happen without them.

We supported these volunteers with over 50 training publications this year, many hours of face to face training validated by quizzes, 5,198 quizzes were completed!

If you are one of the 2,196 students who volunteered, then thanks. Thanks for giving up your time to make life more enjoyable for your fellow students. And if you're not one of these but want to get involved then there are plenty of positions to fill going into next year.



STUDENT HUBS

For a long time the Union has been interested in expanding the reach of its community volunteering beyond the opportunities which are currently available.

In December we agreed a partnership with Student Hubs, a charity based in Oxford.

Student Hubs support hubs at seven Universities in the UK and at a national level run the UK's leading student conferences on international development, social entrepreneurship, climate change and community volunteering.

In January the Union welcomed their first staff member to the staff team at Imperial College Union, developing initiatives including a Schools Plus scheme, weekly opportunity emails and printed newsletters.



Student Hubs works across the UK to transform student involvement in social action. They seek to act as a catalyst, empowering students to become active members of their community by promoting social action, social entrepreneurship and citizenship.

1,200

Students attended the PG Mingle - Imperial College Union is one of the few Students' Unions in the UK to do a specialized PG welcome event.

1:26

Ratio of academic student reps to Postgraduate students. Compared to 1:49 for Undergraduates.



19%

Of Postgraduate students voted in the Big Elections. Amongst the highest turnout in the UK.

1,109

16 % of Postgraduate students completed the Student Experience Survey helping us understand more about their time at Imperial.

POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

We know life as a Postgraduate can be very different to that of the average undergraduate here at Imperial; we are continuously looking to improve our services and representation of Postgraduates.

We also introduced a one-stop shop for highlighting the events and services on offer to Postgraduates over the Summer. Take a look in the What's On Calendar for details of events going on throughout the summer for those still around campus.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

In December the Union pioneered a revitalised Student Experience Survey, seeking students' views on the services provided by both the College and Union.

The survey was attached to the Autumn term SOLE survey and attracted a response of over 5,250 students, including over 1,100 Postgraduates.

The number of responses from the Student Experience Survey total 539,110 – a massive dataset.

A presentation of the findings of the survey was shown to Personal Tutors, academics and key College staff members in June alongside Union recommendations for improvements.



INFLUENCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN COLLEGE

Student representatives were welcomed to the Engineering Teaching Committee this year, bringing this decision making committee on teaching in line with the other faculties and following the Union's recommendation in its QAA Institutional Audit response in 2010.

After almost of decade of being absent from the College's Strategic Education Committee, one of the most important College committees, the Union President is now invited to attend their meetings after forthright campaigning from the Union.

CLUBS, SOCIETIES & PROJECTS

Participation in Clubs, Societies & Projects has risen above 50% of all students this year for the first time ever.

Postgraduate participation in Clubs, Societies & Projects has risen to 25%, the seventh consecutive year of percentage participation increase.

In the Autumn of 2011 we launched the finance elements of our eActivities system, finally bringing the administration of finances for Clubs, Societies & Projects online and improving the speed at which students get repayments for expenses relating to their activities.

In response to a question about what is the best aspect of life at Imperial in the December 2011 Student Experience Survey, extra-curricular activities featured quite heavily. Respondents replied:

“ Going on many extra curricular trips on weekends with the outdoor clubs ”

“ Extra Curricular activities made available to students :) ”

“ Playing American Football with new friends. ”

“ The welcoming nature of all the extra curricular societies I've got involved with. ”

“ Participating in extra curricular activities under Imperial College Union ”

“ Great student life, good amount of extracurricular activities. ”

“ Extracurricular activities. (repeated nearly 50 times) ”

17,705

Memberships of our 320 Clubs, Societies & Projects.

12% ↑

8,199

Students have joined a Club, Society or Project this year – to continue a hobby, meet new friends, try something new or develop their skills.

9.2% ↑



TOURS

During the Summer vacation of 2011 24 Clubs, Societies & Projects went away on tour, involving almost 500 students from far afield as playing Golf in North Wales to Hockey in Barbados.

Our minibuses provided the mainstay our of transport to ensure groups of student could go to sports matches, on weekend trips away and in one case kayak rivers in Norway.

The IC Trust kindly provided £19,500 for funding Club, Society & Project tours last year, which this year they have increased to £27,000 – and we are very grateful to them for doing that!

200,000

Miles traveled by our minibuses in the last year driven by students, including 150 newly trained ones.



ELECTIONS

Our Big Elections during March caused quite a stir; we pushed our overall turnout to 41%. This was the highest turnout for a Students' Union in England and Wales. A massive achievement.

Our live statistics page showed by-the-second information on voting patterns by faculty, department, course, halls-of-residence, gender, year-of-study and much more. The site helped create an atmosphere across all campuses helping us to our highest ever Election turnout!

2012/13's Sabbatical team will start their year with a huge mandate ensuring that the student voice is listened to within the College at all levels.

106,094

Votes cast in the Big Elections 2012. Over 880 an hour for the whole elections period.

58%

Of Undergraduates voted in the Big Elections 2012 and 19% of Postgraduates!



CATERING, BARS & NIGHTCLUBS

This year has been the first full year of operation of the Metric and FiveSixEight venues after their £2.4M refurbishment during 2010.

We Are Metric, where student groups can takeover our nightclub for the evening has continued to be a great success with over 40 events so far this year from A'Cappella to Open Mic nights and everything in between.

The Union also introduced a responsible retailing of alcohol policy during summer 2011, to ensure we and our customers are respecting the best practice available for operating a licensed premises.

The commercial operations run by the Union are on course to record a strong surplus, money which will be directly invested in the development of the Union and our members.



24,000

Main courses have been served in FiveSixEight, our great value bar.

Plus nearly 12,000 side dishes and 3,846 pizzas.

330,000

Pints of beer and cider in our bars and nightclubs in the last year – about one each for every person living in and around Cardiff.

88%

Of students are satisfied by the social opportunities provided by the Union.

NSS RESPONSE

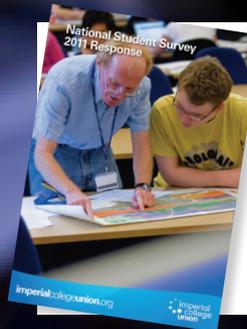
At the end of October the Union published its official "National Student Survey (NSS) 2011 Response". We believe that we are the only Students' Union in the UK to have published such a document.

The NSS Response documented our analysis of the NSS data from 2011, addressed concerning (as well as positive) issues in the College and provided 35 "Union Recommendations" to help improve the Student Experience at Imperial College.

The response document has had an impact within departments, Jon Tucker, Faculty Operating Officer for the Business School said:



The Imperial College Union NSS response was informative, directly useful and influential in developing and implementing plans to enhance our student experience. The comprehensive and action-focused summary document provided an excellent checklist to test our plans against, making sure we are covering the areas that are important to our students. It was very helpful to have a lively and practical presentation of the highlights of the report as an integral element of the Rector's Planning Day with the College senior team. The NSS response is an excellent example of where the Imperial College Union represents its members and supports Imperial College in delivering a top quality experience for all its students.



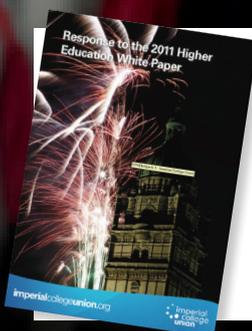
READ OUR RESPONSE ONLINE HERE



OTHER CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Union published a response to the Government's White Paper on Higher Education in March 2012.

Imperial College Union were the only Students' Union of a Higher Education Institution in the UK to publish a response to this White Paper.



READ OUR RESPONSE ONLINE HERE



In April the Union responded to the Higher Education Commission's consultation on Postgraduate Education.

We asked Postgraduate students, as part of a focus group, for their thoughts on support for doctoral study.

READ OUR RESPONSE ONLINE HERE



Our response resulted in an invitation to the Houses of Parliament as part of the ongoing consultation.



The Union also provided written evidence to the Science & Technology Sub-Committee of the House of Lords as well as supporting and briefing Undergraduate student Will Evans for his appearance before the committee. The written evidence can be found online here.



ACADEMIC REPS

There are around 450 Academic Reps registered with the Union this year; in November we delivered three training evenings for these volunteers, all of which were filled to the rafters.

The Union undertook a systematic review of all the Staff Student Committees throughout the College for the Autumn term, and delivered these to the College's Quality Assurance Advisory Committee in May. We made a variety of recommendations which were all accepted.



We launched Rep Drive, providing materials and information on shared spaces for Academic Representatives – this is the start of an ambitious road map to improve the technical support we provide to Reps over the next year.

RECENT REP SUCCESSSES

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING PGR
Department to explore how to make access to GTA positions fairer, after student complaints that personal connections seemed to determine who was hired.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING UG & PGT
Employer feedback gathered at a dedicated forum indicated that students did not present well; this will be acted upon by Department.

Discussion held about supporting female students, with the position of 'Adviser to Women Students' to be communicated more clearly to new students.

PHYSICS UG
Dedicated item on SSC agenda for 'Student Experience', a College-wide priority; topic to be explored by student representatives.

REPRESENTATION WEEK

We also took the opportunity to collect suggestions from individual students throughout the campus.

347

Suggestions were collected and fed into the system of Staff Student Committees.

Between 13 & 17 February Imperial was taken over by the slogan Love Your Rep – Rep Week had arrived at Imperial for the first time.

The week was spent engaging students about academic issues which impacted on their lives as students and explaining the Rep System.

February also saw the start of NoteBox – time to think inside the box.

NoteBox is a new, free online store of the best notes that your fellow students have taken in class.

180+

Meetings of Staff Student Committees have already been held this Academic Year.

Union Rep Week



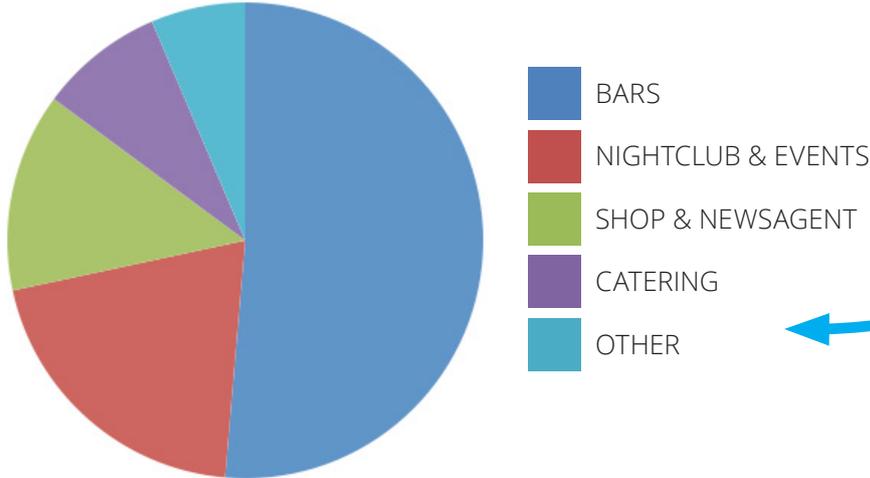
#LOVEYOURREP

Students got involved throughout the week using Twitter and Facebook. Take a look at our blog from the week.



STUDENT STAFF

The Union's bars, shops and nightclubs don't run themselves, our army of student staff are the ones which make it all happen. And we also employ students to help run the Union's Office, operate our minibus fleet and make some of our campaigns happen too.



SHOP & NEWSAGENT

Our Shop and Newsagent on the walkway at South Kensington provide a vital day-to-day service to students and staff supplying everything from pens to pick 'n' mix, as well as supplying a vast range of clothing and other apparel.

The shop and newsagent continued to respond to student feedback with the introduction of affordable Fairtrade clothing and reusable water bottles for use at drinking fountains across campus.

Surpluses generated by the Shop and Newsagent go directly to funding the development of Union services.

£296,000

Paid in wages to student staff.

We employ Imperial students where we can, putting money into the pockets of our members.

2,167_{KG}

Of pick 'n' mix has been sold in the Newsagent in the last year.
Plenty of sugar to keep our students going whilst revising!

46,075

Pens sold by the Union Shop.
Enough, if laid end-to-end, to stretch over four miles.

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