

Imperial College Union

DPFS Report

A Note by the Deputy President (Finance and Services)

A brief rundown on what I've been up to since the last Council.

NUS Referendum

The referendum is finally over and the Returning Officer's report written (and presented to this meeting of Council).

Clubs Funding Business

I have spoken to a few people about possible changes to the tours allocation system and will continue to take soundings and seek advice before drawing up proposals to present to the CSB next term. I would like to reassure Council and all those involved in tours that these will not be large-scale changes at all, merely some minor changes to make the system more accessible, fairer and easier for clubs and societies to use.

I am still waiting for a couple of budget submissions from the 15 new clubs formed by the new clubs committee this term. Once these have been received, the committee will reconvene to consider the allocation of start-up funds for these clubs and societies. I have received a couple more new-club applications this term and these may be considered by the committee at the same time depending on the timing of the meeting (it would not be fair to consider these applications after the end of term even if a quorate committee could be called as there is no guarantee that the proposers themselves will still be in London and able to attend the meeting).

I have also been working with a couple of clubs on some slightly more complex issues of funding, especially with regards to competition entry when the costs are not known until only a day or so before they must be paid but will amount to more than £200, the personal spending level. We have been able to find a solution to this and I would urge all clubs with concerns over financial matters to discuss them with their CSC treasurers or myself, we can normally find a relatively painless solution.

Club Investigation

The investigations into allegations of serious financial malpractice within a club notified to the last meeting of Council are ongoing and it would not be appropriate to comment further at this juncture¹.

Wye Blues

I met with the organizer of last year's Wye Blues who is interested in running the event again this year. This was a frank and open discussion with a free exchange of views and I am confident that we will not be placed in the situation we were last year (a £22,908.99 loss).

Commercial Services

As was announced in *Felix* last week, the Wednesday and Friday drinks offers have been extended and improved thus cutting prices. This is the result of numerous

¹ This one's for you, Andy...

meetings and I would like to thank the staff involved that have helped bring this about. We are still looking at the business plan and I hope to be able to announce more and sustainable price-cuts in the new year as part of our ongoing development and improvement to the commercial services provided within the Beit building.

Centenary Ball

An initial informal Centenary Ball meeting has been held and I would like to thank all those whom have volunteered already. We are very much still in the initial planning stages and on the search for sponsorship and there will be plenty of opportunities for student involvement in the new year when we get more into planning the event itself.

Meetings

I have attended a fair number of both Union and College meetings (including a thrilling three-hour Information Systems Security Group meeting). On the Union side, I chaired the first meeting of the Accommodation Committee in Ben's absence which, owing to the passing of the new constitution by College Council, became the last ever meeting of the Accommodation Committee and the inaugural meeting of the Halls Committee. A representative to the RWB was elected at this meeting.

The Executive meeting with the Rector and Deputy Rector was very useful and helped clear up some of the concerns over Centenary events amongst other things. The events of the meeting have already been discussed by the President in his report and so shall not be gone into further here.

I was also unfortunately required to sit on a College Disciplinary Panel. This was a very difficult case and was carefully considered by the whole panel before a verdict was reached.

JM – 12/12/06.