

## **Imperial College Union**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*A note by Stephen Brown*

#### **Beit redevelopment**

Our revised PID has been submitted to the next meeting of the PRB which takes place tomorrow. I will communicate the outcomes of this meeting to the student media at the earliest possible opportunity.

#### **NUS Extraordinary Conference**

I had the somewhat dubious pleasure of an overnight stop in Leicester attending the NUS Extraordinary Conference and the compositing meeting the day before. I am pleased to say that we got our own way. Our amendment requiring the election of Student Trustees was overwhelmingly accepted by the conference and the amended new constitution was voted through with the required two thirds majority in the face of fierce opposition from the hard left. I would like to thank the DPCS for driving the minibus there and back and I would also like to thank the delegates who donated their time to represent Imperial College Union at this key turning point in the somewhat dubious history of the National Union of Students.

#### **Harlington Trust**

The Harlington Grants Committee which has mostly been an electronic entity met in person for the first time this century at the request of the Pro-Rector for Education. We agreed to formalise the procedure for applying to the committee and the main changes are as follows:-

- Applications will now be considered in batches on a monthly basis
- More information will be circulated to the committee about the current financial position of the club applying.
- There will be better communication between the Harlington Grants Committee and the IC Trust to ensure the fair allocation of resources

#### **Discipline**

Several disciplinary issues have arisen regarding the conduct of several clubs (and non-clubs). Whilst these issues have been time consuming on my part they have largely been resolved or are in the final stages of investigation. We have had problems with clubs setting up outside Union or College structures and approaching potential sponsors posing as bona fide representatives of Imperial College which presents a rather large problem as they are raising money using the Imperial College brand yet the College nor the Union has any oversight of their activities. It is also unfair on clubs who play by the rules as has been undermining their attempts to seek external sources of revenue. I have enjoyed the full support of the Secretariat in clamping down on this and they have issued some very stern warnings to the individuals responsible.

#### **Environmental Policy**

I have spent a lot of time addressing management issues that have arisen during the implementation of Council's Environmental Policy which has taken a lot longer than

Council  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2007

expected. I've submitted information on progress to date in a separate paper as it is far too lengthy to include in this report.

### **Wye**

I am currently working with the WCUS President to resolve any issues that Wye students have now to avoid a repeat of the debacle we had this summer with several Wye students becoming vocally upset once they had received their examination results. Issues raised so far include the provision of careers advice, library opening hours and unresponsive lecturers.

### **Aldwych meeting**

I attended a meeting of the Aldwych Group in Bristol where we had the pleasure of the company of John Denham MP who is the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Some representatives expressed concern about the low level of contact hours that students are now receiving despite paying higher fees but others, myself included were echoing the views expressed in a recent mailout from the QAA that it is fairly ridiculous to link teaching quality to contact hours as different subjects have different needs. For example, I felt well supported in the final year of my maths degree despite only having 6 hours of contact time per week but I would be extremely concerned if students from lab based courses did not have significantly more. Some members of the group also expressed support for a National Bursary Scheme which I opposed on the basis that I believe it would hamper Imperial College's ability to offer the competitive bursary packages required to attract excellent students of modest means to come and study in one of the most expensive parts of London. The Secretary of State stated that the large degree of institutional autonomy afforded to British Universities was one of the reasons behind their success so I doubt that plans for centralising the bursary system, however well intentioned, would ever get off the ground.

### **IDEA League**

I spent one of my weekends attending the Idealistic Conference which was hosted by EHT Zurich. Over the two days a lot of the discussion centred around the Bologna process and what our respective students would like to see from exchange programmes. The recent restructuring of the IDEA league has resulted in Idealistic having a seat of the groups Strategic Education Committee so with a formal representation structure in place Idealistic might be more productive than previous sabbaticals have found them to be.

### **Open Day Talks**

Last Wednesday I spoke at the GSEPS and GSLSM Open Day talks.

### **NUS Residential**

I spent 2 days attending a NUS lead officer residential in Bournemouth.

### **Annual Leave**

I took one days annual leave on Friday.