

Felix Council Report
A note by Dan Wan Felix Editor

Since taking up the role of Felix Editor on the 1st of July 2009, I feel I've achieved the majority of my targets for this early stage in the academic year. Despite this, I am my harshest critic and there are also many things I am not so content with.

1. Freshers' Handbook

My first project was the official Union handbook that was sent out to the Freshers' homes before they arrived at Imperial. After looking at past years' iterations of the handbook, it was clear each handbook was only a slight progression on the previous year. Both the Sabb team and Alex McKee decided that a lot of the regurgitated information was irrelevant in respect to the time they received the handbook. The main changes included:

- Removal of the Welfare sections, and to be placed into a separate Welfare Handbook. Welfare section in the Freshers' Handbook represented by an introduction to Deputy Pres. (Welfare) and Deputy Pres. (Education).
- Reduction of the 'London' section. I made it less of a travel guide, and focused more on transport, safety and some starter attractions for them to be having with.
- Clubs & Socs A-Z was placed as the largest section in the handbook, rather than a separate 'flipped' booklet.
- A major redesign of the entire handbook's layout. I tried to take a fresh approach to previous years, but it actually caused Alex and I a few more problems than possibly it was worth.

2. Felix; Freshers' Issue

After the handbook had been sent to print, I started redesigning the templates for Felix. After two years with the same design, I tried to modernise the classic newspaper look that Felix has retained without losing its professionalism. I purchased a new house font, Jigsaw; we are using the font as our headline font (including on our masthead).

It was delivered to Residences to distribute into the halls before the Freshers arrived.

3. Freshers' Fair Events

Our stall set up under the marquee in Beit Quad attracted plenty of people, with around an impressive 180 people registering their interest in writing for the paper.

The number has left us with a problem, in which we believe we've come up with a good plan to solve. We held our Meet n Greet event in the Union Dining Hall on the 14th of October. Turnout was good, around approx. 60 people turned up. We did a short presentation, and had most of our editors present. After the presentation, we let the people interested in writing talk to the relevant section editor. I think initial face to face contact and an actual conversation beyond emails will sustain contributions to us throughout the year.

4. Felix issues of term

We've had three issues of term so far, each I feel improving beyond the last. In this time, we have begun to shape a new editorial team. New layout, Clubs & Socs, music, and film editors have joined. Contributions at present are coming in consistently; some sections to the point where we have a backlog of articles that we've had to hold on to for a couple of issues until there is space. The writers get anxious when they don't see the articles in the very next issue, but this can only be a good situation for us.

As a whole, an alright start, with plenty to learn from. Just like my school reports: COULD DO BETTER.