

Imperial College Union  
President's Report  
*A note by Ashley Brown*

**Beit Masterplan**

We have put together a business case and proposed funding model for Phase 3, which includes spending £600,000 of our reserves (an amount which we can afford), taking a loan of £800,000 from the College and asking for a further £1m. We need to get approval for the project from the College before finalising the funding details on the Union side, as it is all dependent on them agreeing to give us money.

This plan will go to the Portfolio Review Board on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, so we should know by the next Council whether the project can proceed. If so, we will be asking for approval/endorsement of the plan and funding commitment from various Union bodies, as well as launching a consultation with students to finalise the bar plans.

**As councillors, we need your views on what you want from the ground floor!**

**Tuition Fees Review**

The government has recently announced its tuition fees review, which will report back after the election. The NUS has criticised the make-up of the panel, which consists mainly of university vice-chancellors and people from business, with one person intended as the student view. We were invited to sign the NUS letter which appeared in the newspapers on 11<sup>th</sup> November – this letter was circulated to all members of Council and is in line with our current policy on fees. If you disagree with the current policy, you'll need to bring a paper to Council to change it!

**Availability**

I am receiving, on average, 40 emails a day – most of them asking me to do something like fill in a form, give my opinion or go to a meeting. My diary also looks like a bad game of Tetris. Sorry if I am slow in replying to you!

**Beit Quad**

We have been having considerable problems managing the foliage in the quad. Although the grass was kept under control by plonking a marquee on it, the bushes continue to grow. In order to reduce our maintenance costs, we will be purchasing a goat which will be allowed to roam the quad and ensure the grass and bushes remain a sensible size. Should we encounter funding problems in the future, this may form the basis of a petting zoo to raise additional cash.

**Manifesto Points**

I booked out time last week to look back at my manifesto points and work out how much progress (if any) I had made towards them. This led to a series of meetings where I hope to push any items I'd dropped forward.

You will hopefully have noticed that we are not charging for entry on a Wednesday evening this year, so please help us keep it that way by coming over and propping up the bar & eating food. We are currently discussing the Christmas Ball, and how to make a good party without breaking the bank.