

Imperial College Union
The Union Bar
A paper by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Background

ICU operates a number of outlets within its main South Kensington location. It currently has Metric, a 'nightclub' space and 568 a more modern style bar. The Union Bar is one of ICU's main bars situated at the main South Kensington campus. The Union bar has effectively remained in its current state since 1957 with only minor changes over the years. The Union bar is also the home to ICU's large tankard collection, overseen by the Tankard Baron, Phil Power and Tankard Viceroy, Joseph Cooper.

The Union bar is regularly used by a significant number of student groups as an event venue and meeting point, holding particularly important place for constituent unions such as the Royal School of Mines. With the loss of Southside during 2004/2005 and more recently the Holland Bar during 2012/2013, ICU has a responsibility to maintain the last traditional style pub outlet on the main South Kensington campus.

Issues

The Union bar is a link with ICU's history and as such holds a special place not only to current students but Imperial's vast number of alumni. It is important to maintain this piece of ICU's history in its current state and put in place measures to protect it. If measures are not put in place, there remains the potential risk of the Union Bar's 'atmosphere' being degraded through inappropriate changes. Protecting the Union Bar may also help address some of the perception issues ICU can sometimes face from varying student groups in regards to protecting traditions.

Proposals

- To not allow significant modification to the layout and design of the Union bar that will have a negative impact on its traditional feel.
- To keep AV to an absolute minimum within the Union bar (e.g. no televisions).
- To allow only restoration and repair work to maintain the Union bar's current state and appearance.
- Any additional furniture added to the Union bar must be in keeping with the traditional 'feel' of the Union bar.
- Any other additions/modifications proposed for the Union bar that do not fall into the previously listed scope must be taken to Exec for approval.

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