

Council
11 February 2014

Imperial College Union
Council Report
By Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Yas Edwards

Redevelopment Projects

West Basement

Following meetings between media group users, members of union staff involved and college staff, changes were made by the architect to the overall layout. These have progressed into the final stages of the design for the space in the East basement which will be redeveloped. The project is currently on time, with the aim to decant the area from March 14th so that work can begin on the basement on March 21st. Meetings have been held with student groups who are all happy with the process at present. Alex McKee, the Central services Manager is taking the lead within the Union on this project and you can contact me or him with any queries a.mckee@imperial.ac.uk.

Union Concert Hall

In September, students from groups which regularly use the Union Concert Hall submitted a bid to the Harlington Trust for some redevelopment work. This bid was successful and the Harlington Trust agreed the funding of £215,000 for the project. This is being managed by the College's Capital Projects division who are currently evaluating each item in the bid to establish its feasibility and identify if there is any additional work required. Once the overall scope of the project has been finalised, information will start to become available about the timelines. Our hope is that this will be completed this summer but we do not currently have a precise start date. We are working with the principle authors of the original bid to develop the plans at present and our intention is that the space will be improved. We hope this will allow more drama and music groups to make regular use of the improved space, benefitting both performers and backstage members, in addition to student audiences. Phil Power, the Membership services Manager is taking the lead within the Union on this project and you can contact him or me with any queries Philip.power@imperial.ac.uk.

Budgeting Policy

A new budgeting policy for Clubs, Societies & Projects was passed at the Clubs, Societies & Projects Board on Thursday 12th December 2013. Budgeting was closed on February 4th and we are currently working through all the budgets and are due one workshop and number of meetings with CSPB to allocate the money to all the Clubs, Societies & Projects. We hope the new policy and process is more positive, building up rather than making cuts, less wasteful, and allows for development of clubs and activities. The policy can be found here: [https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/13-14/Clubs%2C Societies %26 Projects Board/file/2273](https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/13-14/Clubs%2C%20Societies%26%20Projects%20Board/file/2273).

CSPB

Twenty spring tour applications were bought to the spring tours CSPB, of which eighteen were accepted and will be eligible for funding towards transport once the budgeting for this has closed.

A contingency policy and pot of money exists for CSPs to apply to, to cover unforeseeable expenses. The policy was passed last year, in June 2013 and this included a change of where the money was held. Previously it had been held and Management Group or Constituent Union level and was voted on by CSPs within that group. As groups felt like they had a claim to the money and there was no policy advising groups on what could be claimed for, it was very difficult to get contingency claims

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accepted at MG or CU level. The change this year to a central pot for all CSPs being held at the level of CSPB reduced this possessiveness clubs have shown in the past and claims could be considered while using the Contingency policy.

Since the year started, we have had many contingency claims presented at CSPB which had already been passed at MG or CU level and in the January meeting the pot was exhausted during the meeting. I advised to send all passed claims to Exec to be considered and for the Executive Committee to advise on the next steps. It was recommended by exec that all passed claims were to be funded 100% and myself and Kieron made suggestions of how this could be done. This is currently still being looked into by us and the Senior Management Team at the Union.

I plan to re-write the contingency policy, taking into consideration its effectiveness in the past 8 months since it was passed. This will include tightening up many of the requirement which make a claim valid so that interpretation of the policy is consistent and easier to understand.

Any further contingency claims this year need to go to their relevant MG or CU and then up to Exec for consideration and a recommendation on funding options if any.

The exec paper can be found here: https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/13-14/Exec_Committee/323

NCC and NPC

Below is a brief update of the applications I have received for new Clubs, Societies and Projects so far this year. In addition to this, a number of the groups currently in the New Club Incubator are likely to be considered to become a full CSP soon or be rejected.

Outcome	No. of applications
Accepted	2
New Club Incubator	10
Rejected	10
Due to be considered	7
Not attended meeting	2
Total Applications	31

Global Awareness Week

I have been working with staff and OSC members to plan a Global Awareness Week. The Union would support a week of cultural activities which promote and celebrate the diversity of Imperial College students and will be held from Monday 3 March to, to tie in with the annual International Night (I Night) run by the Overseas Clubs Committee on Thursday 6 March.

I am inviting anyone to submit ideas for events they would like to see via an online form before Friday 7th February at Midday, which can be found here:

<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/global-awareness-week-ideas>.

Student Volunteering Week

I have been working with Union staff, Imperial hub and students on plans for Student Volunteering Week. It is a national week starting on Monday 24 February and the week Imperial College Union is launching its Community Volunteering Scheme. This will provide a series of one off volunteering

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opportunities or on-going opportunities for students to partake in. During the national week there will be a presence on campus and a number of events students can partake in such as 'good gym' and volunteering with the wildlife trust. There will be a lot of publicity in the run up to this week and during but you can find more information on the website here on the What's On calendar and here: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/volunteering/community-volunteering-scheme-0>

Hyde Park Consultation

On December 19th 2013 the following email was sent to some of those who submitted a consultation questionnaire about the Hyde Park Old Football Pitches:

The Royal Parks Executive Committee has provided direction on the continuing process of consultation about the future management of the Old Football Pitches at Hyde Park. After consideration of feedback from the process initiated in September 2013, the next steps are that TRP will set out its proposal for the future management of the pitches and consult with user groups and the wider public in the New Year on that proposal. Once consultation is completed an executive decision will be made by Spring 2014.

We will contact you again when we publish the next stage of our consultation process.

The Imperial College Union members' questionnaires were hand delivered by myself with a covering letter encompassing the Union's opinion on this after a paper was approved at Union Council earlier this academic year. My covering letter was not acknowledged, nor was I contacted in a personal capacity, having filled in a questionnaire myself.

With still no response, I emailed Marcus Coatsworth who sent the email and works in stakeholder and marketing relations for the Royal Parks. I also copied in the CEO of the Royal Parks and the Chair of the Royal Parks Board. The Deputy Chief Executive responded by post and email but did not provide an acceptable level of detail about what is happening and time scales of the decision making. I am currently still working on gaining more information from them on this and hope to increase the Union's involvement in the process to ensure our students' voices are heard on this matter. As part of this I attended a safer parks committee meeting where I raised the issue and will also be discussing this with a local Councillor on her visit to the Union later this month.

Give It A Go

This ran for the first time in October and gained some positive feedback from clubs involved. It ran again throughout January 2014 with booklets produced, student groups having stalls in the JCR and an up to date calendar of all events and activities was on the What's On page. I will soon be collecting feedback from student groups and individuals involved, to ensure this type of scheme is as effective as it can be. The aim is to advertise Clubs, Societies & Projects and encourage people to try new things so engagement and involvement stays high throughout the year. This was also advertised to the Royal College of Music, the Royal College of Art and visiting American colleges who can all become members of a Club, Society or Project if they become an Associate member of the union.

Associate Members

The other sabbatical officers and I attended three associate member events from American Colleges. Two of these took the forms of information fairs and one a talk. They can all become associate members for a monthly or annual fee, allowing them access to our bars and they are able join our

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Clubs, Societies & Projects. Some are already associate members through their college which bulk buys membership and others were informed of the benefits they could gain by becoming an associate member. Associate members are a great pool of new people for Clubs, Societies & Projects to attract to their events, activities and potentially become members.

New Year Fair

The Union hosted its first ever New Year Fair on Tuesday 28th January and I offered the opportunity of attending to all CSPs. We had a good response of applications and 18 groups of mixed age and activity type attended. The fair was busy throughout the day, with many additional student groups also performing on the stage to the visitors and advertising their club to potential new members. The feedback from CSPs was positive and we hope to build on this in the following years to extend the re-freshers' opportunities such as this and Give It A Go to CSPs. I'd like to thank all those who were involved with a stall or performance and made the day a success.

Silwood Visit

I visited Silwood with members of staff as part of the Stress Less campaign on tour. In addition to this, I spoke to many students about how we can improve communications from ICU to them, for example by making newsletters more specific and relevant to them. I also met with one of the Presidents to discuss a range of current issues they are facing and how we can further the support we provide to them as an outlying campus.