

# Union Concert Hall

**Author:** Peter Bridgman, DramSoc Technical Director

**Seconded:** Jack Steadman, A&E Chair

## The Union Notes:

1. that the Union Concert Hall (UCH) is a highly valuable asset of the Union, supporting a wide range of Student Activities in addition to being in high demand from commercial clients.
2. that the UCH, since its construction in the 1950s, has functioned as the centre of theatrical performance for students at Imperial, being the only performance venue dedicated to student use.
  - 2.1. A recent Harlington grant to a number of A&E Societies allowed a redevelopment of the UCH, improving its functionality and appearance.
  - 2.2. The core activities of a number of CSPs depend on the availability and functionality of the UCH.
3. that a group of CSPs dependent on the space known as the Concert Hall Users' Group (CHUG) has existed informally for at least 7 years, with a remit of coordinating their bookings in the space.
4. that much of the installed equipment in the UCH is specialist and requires ongoing maintenance in order to remain safe.
  - 4.1. Some of the installed equipment has been purchased by individual CSPs, whilst being used by (and providing benefit for) all users of the space.
  - 4.2. Whilst CSPs have often done maintenance on an *ad hoc* basis in the past, without any funding or oversight the more complex and expensive maintenance is often not completed, causing loss of value, loss of function, and creating the potential for lapses of safety.

## The Union Believes:

5. that as a unique performance space with significant use-specific investment, the space is best used in the presentation of drama, dance, music and film.
6. that it is essential that maintenance and development are performed to maintain and improve the safety and functionality of the installed equipment.
7. That the regular users of the UCH are best placed to determine ongoing functional and maintenance requirements.

## The Union Resolves:

8. to recognise the Concert Hall Users' Group, which represents those CSPs whose core activity revolves around regular performances, shows or screenings in the Union Concert Hall.
  - 8.1. The CHUG will initially adopt the terms of reference found in Appendix A, and will have power to resolve upon modifications to these subject to approval from the Arts & Entertainments Management Group.
9. to continue to permit prioritised bookings for the UCH for student-led activities that utilise and depend upon its unique properties, whilst improving oversight and accountability of this process via the CHUG.
10. to recommend that the Trustee Board commit to funding and supporting an annual ongoing maintenance and development plan for the Union Concert Hall, developed and managed in partnership with the CHUG.

# Appendix A: Terms of Reference of CHUG

## **Name**

Concert Hall Users' Group (CHUG)

## **Purpose**

- To make bookings for the Union Concert Hall for use as a cinema and performance space and to coordinate the allocation of this space to specific societies.
- To receive updates and advise on the ongoing maintenance and development of the UCH.
- To facilitate communication and collaboration between its constituent members.
- To promote the use of the Union Concert Hall as a performance space.

## **Membership**

One representative from the following societies:

- A&E Cinema
- A&E Dramatic Society
- A&E Musical Theatre
- ICSMSU Drama
- ICSMSU Light Opera
- Dance Imperial

Observers:

- The Student Activities Manager
- The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Changes to this membership may be considered where a student group is not represented by the existing members.

The group shall elect a chair annually from its membership, who shall act as the primary representative of the Group.

Each member shall possess one vote within the group, with the chair possessing a casting vote in the event of a tie.

The group shall appoint a maintenance coordinator annually, who shall be responsible for liaising with Imperial College Union to develop, execute and oversee maintenance and development plans for the UCH.

## **Meetings**

The chair shall call meetings termly, or at the request of any of the members or observers. Members from any of the constituent societies may observe meetings of the group.

## **Term**

These Terms of Reference apply from 1 May 2016 until the group is dissolved by agreement of the parties or by order of Imperial College Union.

## **Grievances**

In the event of a dispute that cannot be resolved within the group, any member may escalate grievances to the Arts & Entertainments Management Group, with a right of appeal to CSPB.