

Felix Working Group

1. Background

- 1.1. The 2016/17 Felix Editor presented papers to Communications Committee raising questions around the existing funding model and policies underpinning Felix.
- 1.2. At the same time, members of the Board of Trustees, recognising the importance of a high-quality student-led newspaper, requested that staff and student leaders determine whether Imperial College Union was an example of sector best practice in its support of and relationship with Felix.
- 1.3. A review brief was generated and put to market, requesting media experts to research and make recommendations around possible funding, management and governance models for Felix, drawing upon student and officer consultation as well as research into other students' unions practices. However, no researchers put themselves forward
- 1.4. As requested by the Chair, an internal Felix Review Working Group has been set up as follows.

2. Working Group

2.1. Core membership:

- 2.1.1. Andrew Keenan, Head of Student Voice & Communications
- 2.1.2. Fred Fyles, Felix Editor and additional Felix or Media volunteer if desired
- 2.1.3. One Officer Trustee
- 2.1.4. Member of College communications team (to be kept up to date with progress)
- 2.1.5. Yani King, Democracy Administrator (taking notes)

2.2. Meetings arranged for

- 2.2.1. 28 November, 12 – 1, MR3 (AK, FF, YK) - Discussion of funding model
- 2.2.2. 7 December, 12 – 1, MR6 - Discussion of consultation and research priorities
- 2.2.3. 13 December, 12 – 1, TBC - Discussion of desired outputs
- 2.2.4. 9 January, 12-1, TBC - Monitoring consultation and research
- 2.2.5. Further meetings to be scheduled

2.3. The working group will:

- 2.3.1. Extract the relevant research areas from the original Felix Review Brief
- 2.3.2. Prioritise the most important areas for research and determine research method (desk research or consultation)
- 2.3.3. Plan student consultation and allocate desk research tasks
- 2.3.4. Collate findings into recommendations for internal discussion and approval
- 2.3.5. Propose fresh policies and partnerships to underpin future Felix performance

- 2.4. The collated implementation plan shows the specific actions and will enable this committee to monitor progress against these goals.

3. Objective

- 3.1. The overall objective is to combine desk research and student/volunteer consultation into a set of recommendations that provides Felix and the Board with mutual assurance that we are supporting our student newspaper and its volunteers to achieve excellence through best practice and in line with regulatory and financial requirements.
- 3.2. Recommendations will be determined and implementation begun during spring term of the 2017/18 academic year.