



**Imperial College Union**  
**Board of Trustees Report**  
 Wednesday 12 December 2018

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| <b>AGENDA ITEM NO.</b>          | Item 11  |
| <b>TITLE</b>                    | The Vision for Union Spaces  |
| <b>AUTHOR</b>                   | Malcolm Martin   |
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>        | <p>With student numbers set to increase over the next 5 years, the Student Union needs to establish a clear vision for the space needs of our members as both the University and Union are out growing the current provision.</p> <p>The Union is being invited to join and help coordinate discussions about where scarce resources should be deployed.</p> <p>The following are three key questions the Board should consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do we support the growth strategy of the College in light of its potential impact on the student experience?</li> <li>2. What is our vision for Union spaces over the next 10 years?</li> <li>3. What should our spaces look like in 10 years?</li> </ol> |
| <b>PURPOSE</b>                  | <p>This is an initial paper to kick start the vision casting process for Imperial College Student Union over the short (1-2 years), medium (3-5 years) and long term (5 years +). The paper is an introduction to the discussion about spaces. It highlights a number of issues that need to be considered. However a clear directional steer is needed from Board to ensure that the various individual discussions held by variety of officers and managers are collectively heading in the same direction.</p> <p>Board are asked to approve the suggested vision statement or recommend a more appropriate alternative.</p>  |
| <b>DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED</b> | For discussion   |

## The Vision for Union Spaces

### Introduction

The total taught student population of Imperial was previously forecasted to grow from 13,402 (9,603 UG & 3,798 PGT) in 2017/18 to 16,796 (12,278 UG & 4,518 PGT) by 2024/25.

Looking more closely beneath the above headline projection, at a more detailed level and within a shorter timescale, undergrad (UG) student numbers are expected to grow by more than 1,000 within the next 5 years. The majority of this growth will be focused in the Faculties of Engineering and Medicine. In addition to this, the Business School is planning to offer UG courses with an estimated 100 students starting in 2020/21.

Coordinated discussions are being held to consider the potential impact this growth will have on all support services. Many questions are being considered about the adequacy of the current infrastructure and attention is being drawn to where urgent investment is needed to improve the student experience.

It is expected that the accommodation provision for UG's will be able to be met once the new hall is opened in 2020/21.

The adequacy of teaching space is also a concern as The Learning and Teaching Strategy (LTS) plans for additional facilities as well as adaptations of current space. It aims to provide new learning spaces for each Faculty. Specific solutions need to be identified and factored into the longer term capital plan.

The Student Union (SU) has been invited to join in these discussions as the services we provide are crucial to the lives of Imperial students.

### The Union's Challenge

While we clearly need to work collaboratively with College to help shape their thinking, direction of travel and focus, we need a clear vision of our own.

What does a relevant and effective SU look like on an inner city multi-site University? What is the SU's vision for space over the next 10 years? What are the changing trends that might influence the provision of future SU space?

When the issue of space is muted, the storage needs and the provision of adequate activity space for Clubs and Societies readily springs to mind. However, this challenge goes far beyond the immediate consideration and looks to embrace a wider spectrum of issues, which incorporate the developmental, support and social needs of our members. (Appendix 1)

### Vision Statement

What is the Board's vision for space? Please note the following suggestion:

To have a physical and virtual presence at each campus consisting of:

- A Union / community space
- Union presence at all time – in person at set times,
- Event / activities at agreed times

## The Way Forward

A steering group consisting of SMG and DPCS has been formed to

- Deliver the vision for spaces as set by the Board,
- To develop a rolling programme of work stream activity
- To review, evaluate and coordinate the various project works streams (appendix 2)

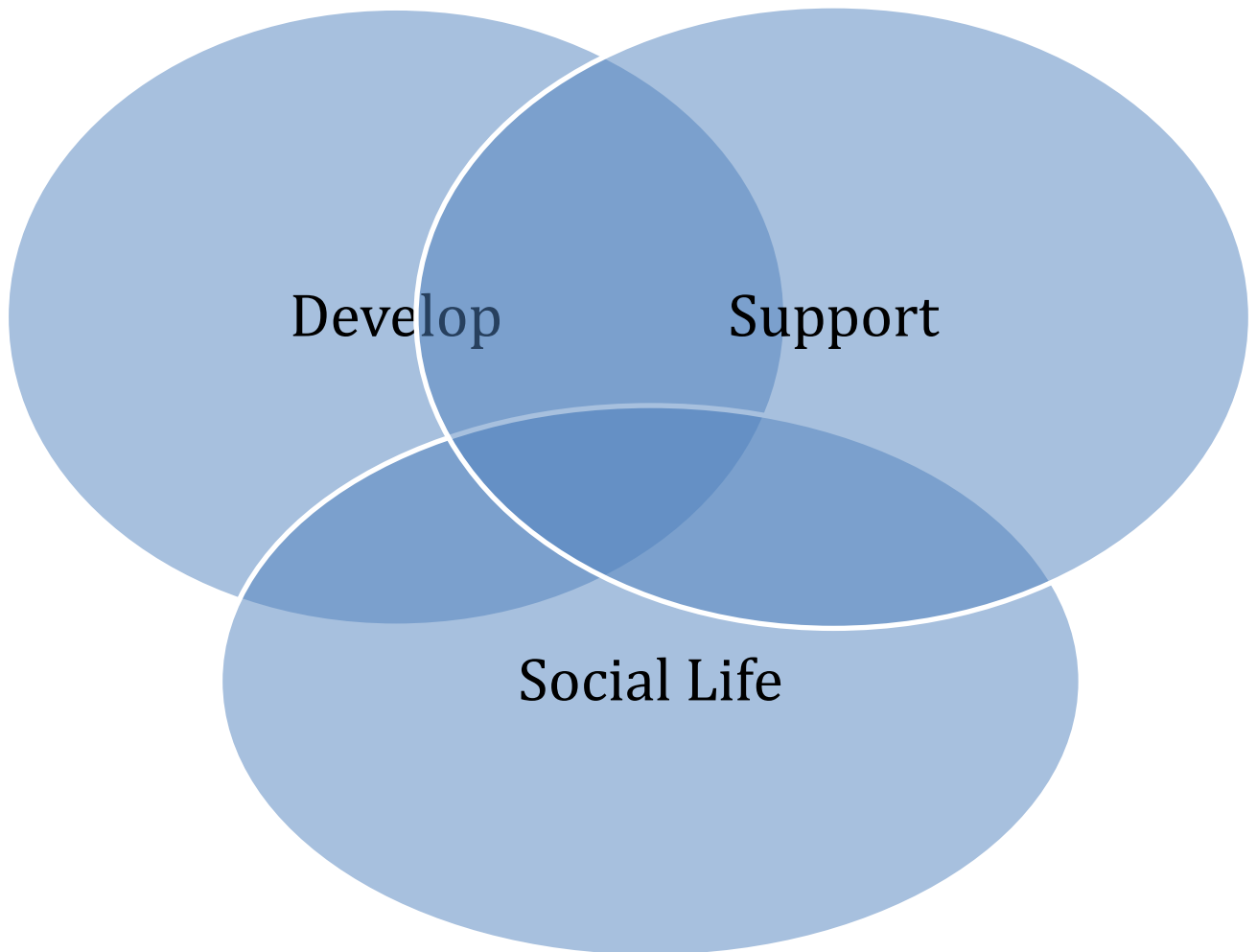
This group will have oversight responsibility and meet bi-monthly.

The next key milestone is to attend an Estates Strategy meeting in January to share initial ideas for SU space and to contribute and challenge the developing plans.

I have been considering focusing on the following ideas in the coming months:

- Identify short comings of existing spaces
- Tap into College's vision for space (work has started)
  - Sherfield Walkway
  - Chemistry building deployment
  - White City plans
- Research spaces that we admire Autumn 2019
- Consider stakeholder engagement plan

Appendix 1 – Needs Analysis



| Develop     | Social Life | Support          |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Plan        | Date        | Hygiene & Health |
| Learn       | Dance       | Wellbeing        |
| Study       | Play        |                  |
| Work        | Interact    |                  |
| Collaborate | Relax       |                  |
| Train       | Socialise   |                  |
|             | Eat         |                  |

## Appendix 2 – Sample Work Streams

1. Preventative and Reactive Maintenance schedules for Beit Quad - HoCS to lead?
2. Non South Kensington spaces (including current white city) including SVC outreach focus - HoSE to Lead (or HoSVC)
3. Balancing the competing priorities of CSP's and Commercial income - HoSE
4. Facilities at White City (10 - 15 years away) - MD to Lead
5. Office Space and digital working – we are growing - HoFR to Lead