

# Imperial College Union Council Report

James Medler, DPCS

For this and future reports, my paper will be split into two sections, Extra and Manifesto, with Extra being the projects I've picked up along the way. Not all will be included each time, just those with significant update.

## Extra

### Ethos Membership Update

Since coming into term, I have been working with Sport Imperial and students around the new membership system. At the start of the year, it was around improving the offering, and ensuring it was the best that could be for students, and I was successful in bringing back free swimming. In the past few months I have been working with a student challenging the legal grounds for the change. Working with Sport Imperial and the Sport Board throughout this, I can now say that all students who had purchased membership prior to the new membership offering and had bought the new £30 membership will be able to have the £30 refunded and continue as a member of the gym. This applies as those students were told they would have to pay £40 and they would be a member of the gym for their time at Imperial. This is a moment where it is important to see the power of the student voice, but also even more important to see just how seriously College do take our requests. Working this out has been an incredibly collaborative process with Sport Imperial and the Sport Board wanting to ensure the changes are done correctly and in the best interests of students.

For more information, please get in touch, see the Felix article, or the Sport Imperial letter to students affected.

### Union Concert Hall Redevelopment

A beast of a project! As previously was announced, the Concert Hall received over £400,000 from the Harlington Grant for a monumental redevelopment. This includes the installation of tiered seating, complete foyer reconstruction, and lots more. This project is a large portion of my time, in terms setting out the project plan, working on the budget, setting out the governance structures and looking for contractors. I am working with various Union, College and external staff on this project, as well as key stakeholders from Concert Hall Users Group. It's an incredibly exciting one, but will take a significant amount of time to fully complete.

### Project Management within the Union

I have been working closely with Union staff around one of the key points for the Union business plan this year – project management. The implementation of new processes and efficiencies within the ways of working for the betterment of all of our projects and procedures. This includes looking from the very basics, how do people track project progress, how are people collaborating, to the more advanced items, what software are we using, what processes do we need to map and develop, how do we train our people. We've already implemented a number of new pieces to assist with project management, however it isn't an overnight change. To successfully deal with all that we do as a Union, and manage all of our projects as efficiently as possible, it's a change that will take place over a number of years in continually improving our working methods. So far I have been working a lot around the research into current processes, conceptual project ideas for improvements, and making initial procedural changes. It's a project where the benefits aren't immediately apparent, but students will be hugely impacted by the running of all our offerings over the coming time.

## Student Makerspace + Large Projects

At the start of this year, I managed to secure funding for Ethos Gym to be expanded from the Presidents Yearly Giving Fund. I am currently working with Design Engineering to submit a proposal for a Student Makerspace in South Kensington to the same fund, in the hope that we will have a makerspace that students will be able to use to design and develop basic prototypes. If you have major ideas that could affect the student experience of a majority of students at Imperial, we want to hear them so that we can go about researching the ideas, and trying to get funding to make them happen.

## CSP Resources Review

We have the most Clubs, Societies & Projects in the country. Does that mean we deal with them the best way? Over the coming months I'm going to be undertaking a review into the resources our clubs actually need, ie, how much time does it take for us to process an academic societies needs (room bookings, emails, eActivities) vs a sports clubs needs (facilities, insurance, travel, etc)? Once going through this, I want to attempt to work out the feasible number of clubs we can actually adequately support in order to better inform our NAC process, and better distribute our resources.

## Manifesto

### Goal 1 – Expand Ethos Gym – Complete – Should be done by July

### Goal 2 – Dedicated Sports Hub – Complete - Reworked

- Proposal for Sports Hub passed by Council
- Working through with Sport Imperial and ICU to start setting up the governance structures
- Plan to have first meeting of the Sports Committee by the end of this academic year
- Further work into modelling

### Goal 3 – Improve our Union processes and get more bookable space – Part complete

- Annual budgeting query round 1 complete. Clubs applied for a total of ~£690,000, with a pot this year of £420,000. This means on average clubs will be funded 61%, the highest percentage ever. Previous years on average clubs have been funded between 30-40%, so this is a fantastic increase, showing that the new budgeting system is promoting much better financial awareness within clubs. This is the first full revamp in around 10 years. – ANNUAL BUDGETING PROCESS - COMPLETE
- (as previous) Working carefully on room bookings, to try and make it part of college timetabling, meaning CSP activities would appear in your calendars, and it would make the annual booking process considerably quicker
- (as previous) Storage – looking at what is available at White City to act as a “long term” storage facility, so ICU storage is only used as day to day. Have organised waste amnesties and cleaned up the Union Gym. Equipment policy has been passed and will soon be implemented.

### Goal 4 – Create an online CSP Portal

- (as previous) Currently creating a ticketing system so that when requests come in, they are immediately prioritised and dealt with by the relevant person within the union, removing the unnecessary back and forth. This is not an externally viewed portal for clubs, but rather an internal portal that speeds things up for all students

## Goal 5 – Easier, better and more relevant consultation forms – Part complete

I want to ensure you are involved in the key decisions so that we truly understand your needs.

- Student Experience Survey has closed!! 3,256 people engaged with the survey, a phenomenal 27.5% of the eligible student population. For a survey with 200 questions, taking on average around 20 minutes to complete, this is a huge win for the student voice.
- College will now be doing data analysis on their sections, and coming back with responses and action plans by the end of April.
- I will be creating a response to the Union section with input from all relevant directorates, creating action plans out of it and forming a full response out of it.
- I will also be creating a full response to the College sections highlighting the particular areas students want change, and we will meet with relevant College teams to ensure these points are held to account.
- An evaluation plan will be written, with dates for when follow ups need to be made, budgets that need to be submitted and work that needs to be completed ready for the next academic year. The way the SES is now structured means plans are made one year ready for implementation the next.

## Operational Achievements

Significant operational tasks I have completed over the summer period are as follows:

- Work around the Varsity working group
- Further work on the minibus scheme and transport review
- ADF, tours and NAC next rounds round
- Starting to redevelop NAC and how we approve new clubs
- Meeting clubs to help with their activities

## Closing Comments

Please raise any support or concern you may have.

As always, I am available in person and via email for any questions you may have on my report or the Union's work.

[Dpcs@ic.ac.uk](mailto:Dpcs@ic.ac.uk) | | 020 7594 8060 |