

DPFS report to Union Council

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Updates:

- Hiring, Hiring, Hiring - We are in a crucial hiring period for the organisation and we are getting sector leading individuals applying for our roles
- Casual Staff Review Paper - Part of the People Culture Review, I was tasked with writing a paper identifying how the Union can improve our support, training, engagement (and many other things) which will be going to September Trustee Board for approval of actions from the paper.
- Scheduled Union and Estates/ Campus Services 1-2-1s to enable us to more effectively raise issues and lobby for change at a higher level, and enabling us to build a stronger relationship with these departments.
- Welcome Events planning - We had a real push to ensure the events planned for Welcome 2021 were inclusive and added more value to the events.
- Reynolds Refurbishment Stage 1 2 Plan - We now have a quite detailed plan for Reynolds refurbishment.
- Started initial conversations with Too Good To Go surrounding wastage within the Union and College

Upcoming:

- Lobbying the College to implement clearer allergen labelling
- Lobbying the College to look at the wastage within the College's catering outlets
- New Activity Registration app to make it easier to use, and to minimise wait times and number of authorisation levels
- Create a major events plan to provide wider-ranging and better support to groups running major events
- To create an events committee to provide creative direction on all major Union events, to ensure we provide the best events for students

Objectives:

Objective 1: Union Sustainability [Started]

We have spent the last few years lobbying the College on a sustainability agenda to improve their sustainability and their environmental impact. We have lobbied on these issues from a very weak area, as we really are not sustainable. We need to improve our own sustainability and environmental impact, and this covers all things across all departments.

Also, a big part of this objective is to write an ethics based policy for the Union, that spans all departments (including student groups), as we cannot expect our student groups to be treated any differently then how we are expected to act ourselves.

As stated in my updates, I have already worked with our Venues team to look at the sustainability of some of the key issues students had with our venues. This includes moving to re-usable plastic cups, and serving with wooden cutlery over plastic cutlery.

Objective 2: Developing a coherent lobbying agenda for Campus Services & Estates [Started] - Joint Objective with President

Campus Services and Estates are crucial parts of the student experience at Imperial. We should be lobbying to be involved in key strategic decisions around these areas, to ensure students get the best experience during their time at Imperial.

The President will lead on lobbying the Estates department, and the DPFS will lead on lobbying the Campus Services team. Due to the nature of the relationships we both hold, it does not make sense to split the work more than how it is being lead as we each hold different relationships with key stakeholders.

I now have scheduled catch ups with both the Director of Estates and the Director of Campus Services, which will enable us to lobby effectively on key issues raised by students.

Objective 3: CSP Systems and Processes [Not Yet Started] - Joint Objective with DPCS

Review the systems we use for CSP processes such as Budgeting, Risk Assessments, Event Budgets and Sponsorship approval. We need to ensure that they are fit for purpose and as accessible to students as possible. The two biggest tasks are budgeting and processes surrounding events. This is a joint objective held between DPCS and DPFS, and it makes the most sense for DPFS to take charge of the Budgeting process, and DPCS to take charge of the event processes. Any other systems included in the review will be jointly allocated as appropriate. This objective will also include reviewing the processes involved, if necessary.

Objective 4: Commercial Review [Ongoing]

In the last academic year, the Board of Trustees instigated 5 reviews within the Union. One of the reviews was a Commercial Review, which was supposed to look at the offering we provided to students and ensure that offering is student-focused. This project is still in an early stage and I want to focus on bringing our services back to basics and providing the events and services students want.

It is crucial we get this right, as our venues and shop are a major touch point for a large section of our student body.

Objective 5: Services & Sustainability Board [Started]

The Services & Sustainability Board (SSB) is a sub-committee of Union Council who are responsible for policy relating to internal sustainability, and for advising the DPFS on challenging the College on matters of sustainability. It is also where students input on our venues, shop, and facilities and can pass policy relating to these areas.

It is currently not utilised effectively, and I want to ground SSB with an annual calendar of business and a full suite of policies for them to take ownership of. I also want to expand the remit slightly and introduce a sub-committee of SSB who will be responsible for the creative direction of events in the Union, and ensuring the events we run are student focused.