

DPFS report to Union Council

Sam Lee

Updates:

- **Annual Budgeting:** Have worked with India to complete resolutions alongside CSPB for preliminary allocations to go out for CSPs in the coming weeks. There is still more coming with Sports' Sector budgeting which will come after India's work surrounding Imperial Athletes.
- **Summer Ball:** Summer Ball has been most of my focus for the past few weeks. We are progressing incredibly well with significant support from the College to support, and some of our best performing ticket sales on the website ever.
- **Summer Ball - Free Tickets:** I have been keen to provide a route for the Summer Ball to provide tickets for students to attend the Summer Ball who would otherwise be unable to due to the cost. Whilst it is not as thorough or as perfect a system as I would like, I was keen we introduced a trial this year to use as a foundation for future years (not only for the Summer Ball, but also potentially Welcome Week etc.). Having worked with Jordan, Grace, Nathalie and the College's Student Financial Support team, I allocated 150 tickets which are free for students on the Imperial Bursary. I spoke to the College's Student Financial Support team as to feasibility of expanding it to students who have accessed the Student Hardship Fund, but they were uncomfortable with this approach, and due to time scales was unable to make further headway.
- **Summer Ball - Sustainability:** I am working very hard to ensure this year's Summer Ball is our most sustainable yet. Whilst I cannot promise that we will be plastic free (there are some situations where single-use plastic is the only viable option), we will be heavily reducing the amount of single-use plastic within the Summer Ball.
- **Ethical Framework:** I have met with SSB to discuss and propose questions on the content that should be looked at as part of the Ethical Framework review. CSPB also did a focus group discussion on a similar set of questions tailored to CSPs that will also inform the report and framework for this work going forwards.
- **Safety & Security Review:** Nathalie and I have continued to work closely on delivering this review. There is currently a survey live which I would encourage all members of Council to complete to ensure we get a wide-ranging and in-depth insight into the safety of our Venues. We are currently also initiating a tender process for our security provider, and we will be looking for interested students in supporting us with this work.
- **Recruitment:** Whilst it is a regular part of my reports, I have still been involved in multiple recruitment panels over the last couple of months.
- **Price Increases:** As you may have all been aware during the course of the pandemic, costs of products has risen significantly in the last couple of years (as has the price of delivery) and we have worked hard to minimise the impact this has had for students in our Venues. We have mostly been able to hold off on this increase due to our new financial model, but even with our new financial model we still need to ensure our Venues operate at break-even and for this to be the case we needed to increase our prices. I have worked to ensure our value-for-money items have increased less (or not at all) to ensure we provide a space for all students to enjoy our Venues.
- **Reynolds' Refurbishment:** We have successfully applied and been awarded funding to start the Reynolds' bar refurbishment we were looking at earlier this year, we are now starting to have initial stakeholder meetings to kickstart the project.

Upcoming:

- Ethical Framework Report
- Handover Planning
- Reynolds' Refurbishment
- Summer Ball 2022

Objectives:

Objective 1: Union Sustainability - [In progress]

I have now completed consultations with both SSB and CSPB surrounding the Union's approach to the Ethical Framework policy. We are currently writing up a report combining these consultations, our research, and insight we have gained elsewhere throughout the Union and the College.

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

This project is still ongoing, but we have already seen significant improvements in our support provided from both Campus Services and Estates. Summer Ball is proving to be an incredibly worthwhile part of this project to both show the support that these teams can provide the Union, but also the skills and expertise the Union has and can support these teams with.

Objective 3: CSP Systems and Processes [Finished] - Joint Objective with DPCS

This objective has mostly been about supporting the delivery of the CSP Annual Budgeting process. Whilst I had more grandiose plans for this project, there are others on this list that have taken priority and will be focusing on towards the end of my tenure.

Objective 4: Commercial Review - [Ongoing]

I have released a blog post about our Commercial Review (<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs/deputy-president-finance-services/deputy-president-finance-services-commercial-review>). As stated in my updates, I have worked closely with Nathalie to release the Safety & Security survey and we are currently going through a tender process for our new security provider.

We will also be utilising the Summer Ball to trial some new processes/ resources that have been suggested that might be useful to roll out wider into our regular nights in the Venues.

Objective 5: Services & Sustainability Board [Started]

The SSB review I had started with the Rep team has now been subsumed into the Democratic Structures Review Working Group. SSB has met to discuss multiple currently working projects and had a very successful consultation with them surrounding our Ethical Framework review.