

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Finance and Services) Report
A Note by the Deputy President (Finance and Services)

A brief rundown of what I've been up to since last Council.

Centenary Launch and other Centenary Events

I took part in the Centenary Launch which was a great success (and better than most of the College events), getting all the balloons blown up in time (just) was pretty hard work and a fantastic achievement we wouldn't have made it in time without the help of all those that volunteered (including those taller than myself who helped to get the balloons off the ceiling after laughing at me jumping off chairs trying to catch them...!)

A slightly reduced version of the Centenary Ball committee met recently and decided a number of things for the ball but there is still work to be done. Anyone wanting to play a part in planning the biggest party of the centenary and make this ball the best party Imperial has ever seen, please drop me a line.

Commercial Services

I have recently undertaken a massive analysis of our commercial services performance so far this year. The way in which we look at the data has been changed as a result of this analysis and it gives us a great deal more information and the ability to better interpret the figures. Whilst it took a lot of my time to build the new workbook for the analysis, I believe that this will prove exceedingly useful to both myself for the remainder of my term and also to my successors. The results of this analysis shall be reported to the Executive Committee at the earliest opportunity.

I, along with John and Ben, worked behind the bar for the Hyde Park Relays after-party and I shall continue to work occasional shifts behind the bar in order to gain first-hand feedback of how things are running and look for any possible areas of improvement. The night itself was extremely busy and very successful (although one or two people did seem to be getting more than a little warm towards the end of the night).

Unfortunately, the new wine list has not been introduced yet but I am confident that it shall be introduced shortly. We have, however, introduced the Centenary Ale prior to its official launch later this term, this ale has been specially brewed for us and this is the first batch so we can still refine it slightly, any comments on it would be greatly appreciated. I have been working hard at sampling this new ale and a couple of the other new ones we have recently got in, they are very nice.

There has been some discussion about the new vending machines in both the gents' and ladies' toilets in the central core. To date, I have not received any formal complaints about the content of these machines although the cannabis flavoured condom has now been replaced. The content of these machines can be changed and, as always, I am more than happy to listen to any comments.

Budgets

As most of you will be aware, it is budget time again and, not only for the clubs but also for the Union as a whole. I have now submitted the three year plan to College, the one-year budget will be prepared and submitted between April and June.

The clubs budget submission has now been and gone and the Executive Committee will shortly be allocating provisional funding to CSB and RWB. This allocation will remain provisional until the Union's annual budget has been approved by College and we know how much money we are going to get in subvention for next year.

Club Events

A lot of clubs are continuing apace with their events and a fair amount of my time has been taken up with looking at their budgets and advising them where applicable. There have been a couple of problems that have come up with large events caused by external companies not honouring their contractual obligations. I am chasing these companies up to try and come to an agreement with them and I hope that both situations can be resolved amicably.

Southside Benchmark Room

I have been looking at the Southside benchmark rooms with Ben over the last few weeks. We have both seen the furniture options and agreed with each other on what would best serve the students. I believe it was useful that we both went as it gave a potentially different point of view especially as I have been living in halls for six years now.

Meetings and Other Things

I have attended the usual meetings, including the CSB Tours meeting (with all tours funding having been already allocated), and also took part in the successful RCSU office protest.

JM – 16/02/07