

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

Annual Leave

This is likely to be a shorter report than usual as I spent three weeks on annual leave in Thailand.

Budgets

Most of the hard work on the budget allocations is now complete and I would like to thank all CSC/FU chairs/presidents and treasurers for their hard work in preparing their submissions and making all the necessary cuts. However, there are still a number of final submissions outstanding at the time of writing. We are not likely to hear the outcome of the subvention bid itself until next month but I remain hopeful that we will receive the inflationary increase requested.

Tours

I have been working on getting the tour subsidy allocations out for clubs' summer tours but this has been delayed as I am still waiting for some electronic budgets and breakdowns of costs. I cannot make the allocations without this information so I urge those clubs that have not sent me the required details (four at the time of writing) to do so as soon as possible.

Union Redevelopment Funding

I will be attending the meeting with College on Monday along with the President to hear the outcome of our funding application with regards to the Union redevelopment programme and also the subvention bid so should have received the offer by the time of this meeting.

Commercial Services

I presented the basic figures from my analysis of our commercial services to the Executive Committee. Whilst some of the figures proved quite sobering reading, there was clear evidence that the hard work put in by all our staff has been paying off in a lot of the departments and we are seeing a recovery after the difficulties posed by the disruption during the first stage of the redevelopment. One area that has proved more problematic than others was the lunch-time catering option in dB's; the figures from this area left me with no option but to recommend the Executive Committee closed the venue during lunch until a suitable alternative could be found. One option was put to the Executive Committee over the Easter break whilst I was still in Thailand but it was not felt to be a strong enough case and contained too much risk and so the plan was rejected (albeit in a narrow vote). We are still looking at alternatives and I am confident that a suitable option will be put to the Executive Committee in the very near future.

Whilst we have made improvements in some areas and a lot of hard work has been invested to get to where we have, we can always improve further. To this end, we will be holding an open forum to hear your thoughts on where we can go next. This forum will be an informal affair and give you the opportunity to tell us where you think we can improve and also what you think is currently working (we don't want to throw the baby out with the bathwater). The forum will be held in dB's on Thursday 3rd May at 1900 hrs (not 1500 hrs as was accidentally printed in *Felix*), please do come along.

Finally, I have pleasure to announce that we have started taking delivery of stock for the new wine list and we will be launching the list as soon as we have full stocks so you will soon be able to enjoy a nice relaxing glass of wine in the warm and verdant Quad after a hard day's lectures, revision or procrastination.

Capital Expenditure Plans

I expect the paper on CEPs mentioned in my last report to go to the next meeting of CSB. Again, if any of the CSC chairs would like to speak to me about this paper before it goes before the committee please feel free to do so.

Finance System/Club Finances

We managed to fix the finance system and some improvements to the web report structure have also been made over the Easter. A large number of clubs currently have their budgets frozen as they have not provided us with details of their committee members for next year, I urge all clubs in this position to submit this paperwork as soon as possible in order to release your budget again.

Centenary Ball

Plans for the Centenary Ball are now very advanced and have accounted for a large proportion of my time. A large proportion of the line-up already announced and some big acts to announce on the official line-up launch on Friday, 4th May. Tickets are currently on sale at the early bird rate but this will expire on 14th May with all tickets being full price from the 15th onwards. The event promises to be absolutely superb and will undoubtedly be the biggest party either the College or the Union has ever thrown and has already attracted significant interest so book your tickets soon. Up-to-date information can be found at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/ball where you can also purchase tickets.

Meetings and Other Things

I attended the Imperial College Court Lunch and Meeting towards the end of last term which proved to be an enjoyable and informative experience. I also attended a couple of meetings with the Union's Counsel to hear his advice on the Union's legal status. This was extremely useful and has helped the discussions for the final phase of the Governance Review which I have also been involved in.

I have also attended all the usual Union meetings except for the one meeting of the Executive Committee that occurred whilst I was on leave.

I have also been looking at the Union finance training which shall be re-written for the start of the training sessions in order to provide more of a hands-on how-to style training than has previously been given. I hope that we can produce a training package that answers the questions a lot of new club officers have and teaches them the nuances of Union finance in order that they can hit the ground running and find things a lot easier for next year.

JM – 27/04/07