

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

This is likely to be a relatively short report owing to it being only three weeks since the last Council and almost all of my time currently being devoted to the ball.

Centenary Ball

The vast majority of my time has been spent on the ball. Tickets have been selling at an unprecedented rate and the dinner has all but sold out with only 24 VIP tickets left at the time of writing. I am trying to secure extra capacity for the dinner (it depends if we can get more tables into the marquee) but already have a waiting list of about 100 people trying to get dinner tickets. Plans for the ball are now highly advanced and I am confident that it will be a spectacular event.

The success of the event already means that it requires a lot of advance planning and is posing more than a few logistical headaches and taking up a considerable portion of my time, I hope that this time next month all those who attend the event will agree that it has been worth it.

New Clubs Committee

I have received a handful of new club applications and am in the process of trying to call a New Clubs Committee Meeting, I hope that this will happen soon as I am aware of the number of people who want to have a new club established in time for Freshers' Week next year.

Budgets

We have not heard back from College as to the subvention amount for next year which is making drawing up the Union budget for next year a little harder than I would like. I hope to hear shortly and so be able to produce a final rather than draft budget to the last meeting of Council. Once I get the full amount from College, I will also be able to fully confirm funding to all CSCs/FUs.

Tours

All the tour allocations have now been made and reported to the CSB. As always, there was not enough money in the pot to go round and so not all clubs received their full entitlement. The tours meeting of CSB once again raised a couple of queries as to what could be classified as travel (and so eligible subsidy under the Tours Policy). I did a fair amount of research into these queries and presented the findings to the CSB who have now clarified the situation and so I hope that tours allocations will be a little easier and more transparent in the future.

Club Finance Changes

I also put up a paper to the CSB changing some aspects of club finances and I feel that these changes are a big step forward. The first change will affect every club and is that monies allocated to the Equipment Purchase category at the start of the year can be rolled over for a maximum of one year. I believe that this will allow clubs to spend their equipment money in a more effective manner and will remove the panic-buying phase just before the end of the financial year. The change will also allow clubs to budget for larger expenditure over two years and so even out budget requests for clubs that do not need to purchase large amounts or expensive equipment every year. The second change is a change to the way Capital Expenditure Plans (CEPs) are run although this will affect far fewer clubs.

Meetings and Other Things

I was a marshal for the post-graduate graduation ceremony which was reasonably good fun. It was a little bit frightening to see some people I have taught as undergraduates graduating with higher degrees, and I thought that seeing those I have taught collecting the degree they were doing when I was teaching them was bad...

I also attended ULU council this month. I think the less I say about this the better.

JM – 18/05/07