

Imperial College Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A note by Stephen Brown

Governance update

This committee is now fully populated. Welcome to Andrew and Graham who now join us for their first meeting.

Use of surveys

The DPEW and I are looking to utilise online surveys more to be able to get as broad a range of student opinion as possible. This will in turn strengthen the democratic legitimacy of Union policy and give officers confidence that the views they are expressing are indeed representative of student opinion which is crucial in all our dealings with College and external bodies.

Space audit

At the end of last term several sabbatical officers embarked on a tour of the Union building and were all agreed that there are several examples of the limited space we have not being used effectively. The DPCS will be conducting a full audit of the space we have available and work with the users to match storage space to their requirements. In most cases this will involve little more than a clear out but it is a task which is years overdue.

Beit redevelopment

Our bid for funding for stage 2 has been approved by College's Portfolio Review Board (PRB) to the tune of £1.93m. Full details will be presented in a later agenda item.

Environmental policy implementation

A report was presented to Union Council on the progress that has been made on the implementation of the Environmental Policy. Problems arose when our supplier of disposable glasses and plates was having problems meeting our new requirements but this is currently being addressed by operational managers.

Wye

The Executive Committee has transferred management responsibility for Wye Bar to Imperial College Commercial Services. 2008/09 will be the last year when Imperial undergraduates are based at Wye and it was not feasible for the Union

to keep Wye bar open as over the past few years it has consistently lost around £20k per annum. The benefit to the student body at Wye is that they are guaranteed use of this vital social space for another year and the Union as a whole benefits as it removes a significant financial risk from our balance sheet.

Postgraduate representation

A successful social event for postgraduates was run last term and a member of staff dedicated to supporting postgraduate representatives is now in post. Elections for the GSA Committee are currently underway and once a functioning committee is in place we will hopefully begin to see the benefits of the new model following the abolition of the Deputy President (Graduate Students) position.

Health and Safety

The General Manager and I met with Ian Gillett who was very positive about some of our Clubs attitudes to H&S. Underwater club to be nominated for Rectors H&S award.

Presentation to Strategic Education Committee

In February the DPEW and I have been given the opportunity to present to the SEC which is a very influential sub-committee of Senate which unfortunately the Union does not have any representation on.

Summer Ball

Verbal

Elections timetable

The next meeting of Union Council will agree a timetable for this terms sabbatical officer, trustee and NUS delegate elections.

Union branding

A paper is going to the next meeting of the Executive Committee outlining plans to get the branding of our retail outlets updated. Currently the old "ICU" brand is still in use and we would like to see it consistent with the branding on the website and South Kensington bars.