

Imperial College Union

ANNUAL REPORT

A note by the President

Introduction

Below is a first draft of the Union's annual report which is to be delivered to College Council in July. The financial statements for 2006/07 have already been approved and the other main feature of this report is a brief summary of the Union's activities over the past year which is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the many successes we have had. There are 3 items that are of specific relevance to this committee and I would appreciate your input on the following sections

- Risk management. This is a relatively new management tool to the Union and we are looking for ways to develop this further.
- Structure, Governance and Management. What is the key information we need to present and how is this best done?
- Finance – are there any innovative ways to present illustrative information in addition to the financial statements?

This report will be signed off later this term by Union Council and will also be subject to the approval of this body. Please be assured that this is a very early draft and the final document will take the form of a professionally printed booklet. I am presenting this document to you now as it has previously been stated that this committee should have the opportunity to shape the report rather than merely approve it.

Text for the Annual Report

Financial Statements

These have been provided by our Auditors and signed off by the Board.

Risk Management

Key Achievements

Beit Redevelopment Project

Funding was secured for Phase 2 of the Master Plan Project for the Union building. The Plan increases the capacity and flexibility of the facilities offered for student activities. The centrepiece of this refurbishment will be a new Student Activities Centre where club officers will have a modern facility to

- Creates a new mezzanine second floor in the West wing of the building to allow space for an enlarged Student Activity Centre.
- Creates a new gymnasium / activity / dance space on the 3rd floor.
- Completes the central core of the building including new risers for mechanical and electrical engineering in support of future roof plant installation as well fitting out new changing rooms & showers for the new gym / activity / dance space.
- Replaces the building's ageing and obsolete electrical infrastructure.
- Incorporates (where practicable) energy efficiency measures to reduce running costs of the building.
- Includes book-able space in support of student devotional obligations

Structure, Governance and Management

We have implemented our new governance arrangements. Now how do we plan to move forward to make this an effective governing body.

Student Activity

Another outstanding year for clubs and societies has seen memberships hit 12,000, nearly a 10% increase on last year. Around 6,350 students are members of a club or society, representing a participation rate of over 52%.

The number of clubs and societies has now risen to 302. While official statistics are not available in this area, we believe we are offering a student activities programme with the largest participation rate and number of clubs of any university in the UK.

Imperial played host to the first Inter-University Wu-Shu championships in March as well as hosting the Student Windsurf Association's Core Event in February. The recently established Political Philosophy Society continued to deliver a series of challenging and sometimes controversial debates; while the surgical society championed the first undergraduate plastic, reconstructive and aesthetic surgery conference.

The spring term saw the usual plethora of shows and cultural events, with Indian Society's East Meets West being hosted at the London Palladium for the first time. The summer vacation is shaping up to deliver a number of firsts with trips to Montenegro, Norway, Finland, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Swaziland, Romania and Argentina planned.

Around sixty teams competed in the ULU League and Cup competitions. The silverware haul of ULU cups was maintained with Hockey winning both the Mens Challenge and Reserve Cups, Lacrosse winning the Mixed Challenge Cup and Rugby progressing to victory in both the Reserves Cup and Gutteridge Cup.

258 – Number of BUSA Championship points won by the Boat Club to date ~ this is more points than would be accumulated by winning the national championships in five different team sports.

110,000 – The number miles driven by our 10 minibuses this year ~ equivalent of driving around the planet four and a half times

350 individual coach journeys arranged, representing 17,500 seats, enough to fill Royal Opera House nearly eight times over.

1635 officer positions exist between 302 clubs & societies. These positions are held by 1407 different students.

6768 individuals are members a club or society, stood one on top of the other they would be nearly 9 times the height of Ben Nevis.

1003 ~ number of competitive sports fixtures held this season ~ equivalent of 84 days of continuous playing time.

2008 Science Challenge.

- Participation increased sharply from 2007. The number of entries doubled to 360 with several schools running internal competitions first before submitting the winning entries to the organisers.
- Judging Panel of World Leaders
 - Dr Phillip Campbell, Editor-in-Chief of Nature and Nature Publications.
 - Sir Brian Hoskins, Director of the Grantham Inst. for Climate Change at Imperial.
 - Paul Snaith, VP Shell Global Solutions
 - Sir Richard Sykes, Rector of Imperial College

- Prof. Lord Robert Winston, President of Science and Society at Imperial College
- Science Challenge 2008 website was viewed over 50,000 times and an article about the event was published in Nature.
- This event attracted £30,000 in corporate sponsorship.

Presentation to SEC (perhaps representation on this body)

HE Funding Survey

NUS

Staffing

New management structure. What are the benefits?

Service level agreements

GSA

Elections

Finance

Where our money comes from and where it is spent. Changes within the Finance Office.

Affiliations

Awaiting info from Finance

Donations

Awaiting info from Finance

Future Plans

- Renew strategy document.
- Financing plan for phase 3.