

## **A note on the proposed changes to Clubs and Societies Policy**

Lily Topham (SCC Chair)

### **Background**

- It has been accepted practice among the CSCs and FUs at ICU for many years that Union grant may not be spent on food or drink.
- The reasoning behind this is so the Union is not funding purely social activities and prevents the use of scarce resources on subsidising students to get drunk and have a cheap meal.
- This is already outlined in the Finance Manual (under 'Subvention, Subsidies and Accounts', pg. 5).
- However, it is not outlined in any actual binding policy, even though it has been, for the most part an unwritten policy for many years.
- Some clubs have been using grant on food and drink as part of an apparent loophole in this unwritten policy if the spending is for a 'cultural' reason. As far as I am aware, this applies to one SCC club and a few OSC clubs.
- Updates have also been made to the Documentation list (pg. 7) so that it follows current practice. This has been done in consultation with the Membership Services Manager.

### **It is believed that:**

- This is unfair – as this loophole does not seem to be widely known (the author only came across it through extensive inquiries after spying on her clubs' transaction pages). Therefore, the few clubs who do seem to know about it have been using it, while other clubs which could take advantage of it have been 'loosing out.' This includes clubs whose main aims and objectives are based around appreciating different food and drink.
- This loophole should be closed. A 'cultural' use of food and drink is an incredibly loose and subjective definition. It sets a dangerous precedent for potentially all clubs to use grant for food and drink under this loophole; e.g. Rugby club could easily claim that spending grant on drinks for members in the Union bar is a valid use of grant as the activity is an integral part of 'British culture.'

### **It is proposed:**

- To add a point in Clubs and Societies Policy clearly stating the Union's position on the use of grant for food and drink in all situations.
- The point added (Section E) follows what is already in the Finance Manual and serves to clarify what has already been practised by Clubs and Societies for years.

### **Decisions required:**

- 1) To approve the amended C&S Policy.
- 2) Renumber the Policy appropriately