

Imperial College Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A note by Stephen Brown

Trustee Board

I attended the last meeting of the Trustee Board. The Trustees gave me some good ideas for constructing the Annual Report. A final decision on the merits of the amendment that Council proposed to the Staff Student Protocol has been deferred until a later date following concerns raised about how public criticism of departments relates to the Union's obligations towards its staff.

NUS Disaffiliation Referendum

It is now official Union policy that we think continued NUS affiliation is a waste of our money and officers time. Just to clarify, all work I have been doing on this has taken place outside of core office hours so as not to distract from tasks associated with my role as President.

Meeting with Internal Auditors

The General Manager, Head of Finance and I attended a preliminary meeting with College's Internal Auditors who are scheduled to visit the Union to examine key financial controls and processes within the Union. A brief outline of the work was discussed and the Internal Audit is due to commence next month.

Aldwych meeting in Nottingham

I attended the last meeting of the Aldwych Group in Nottingham where I had the opportunity to voice our displeasure with the fallout from the NUS Governance review.

Postgraduate awards

Last Wednesday I spent the whole day in the Royal Albert Hall attending the Postgraduate Awards Ceremonies.

Senate

I attended a meeting of Senate. At this meeting I raised concerns about the proposed idea to include students on institutional audit groups. It sounds a really good idea but in practice it could see students or sabbatical officers having to take 2 weeks off to spend at another institution which would present significant problems to students on academically demanding courses and Students' Unions.

Design team meeting

I attended a meeting of the Redevelopment Project Design Team during which a variety of technical issues were discussed. These ranged from steel work requirements, the potential for re-using some of the current floors and a lengthy discussion took place about the merits of under-floor heating. A meeting of the Beit Working Group and the Union's architects has been arranged for 4.30pm on 27 May where student members can be brought up to speed with the design work done so far.

Court Recruitment

Lots of volunteers have come forward to sit on the Union Court which in my view is the sign of a healthy democracy.

Annual Report

I have devoted considerable time to preparing preliminary drafts of our Annual Report and the latest one is an agenda item at this meeting.

Elections

Administering 3 sets of elections has taken up a lot of my time. A problem was highlighted with students away on field trips being unable to vote. The constitutionality of my proposed solution is currently being resolved by the Union Court. If they agree, results of the CGCU and ICU elections will be delayed and voting will be re-opened for 1 day to allow **only** those students who were off campus for academic reasons the chance to cast their vote.