

Imperial College Union

ANNUAL REPORT

A note by the President

Text for the Annual Report

Financial Statements

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

Risk Management

Contained in Annual Accounts

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

Our new governance arrangements that were approved by Council in July 2007 have now been implemented. Imperial College Union is governed by a board of trustees, the majority of whom are current students of Imperial College London. The board is currently comprised of

- The ICU President
- Union Council Chair

- Union Court Chair
- 4 student trustees elected by cross-campus ballot
- 4 lay trustees who have been recruited on the basis of their skill set.

Student trustees and senior officers are elected by the students of the College. These positions are advertised across the College and individual students choose to put themselves forward for the positions available. Positions for non-student trustees were advertised based on the additional skills required on the board and following a recruitment process 3 additional trustees joined Ram Gidoomal on the board.

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 student media at Imperial College went from strength to strength with Live!, the student news website of Imperial College being named "Best Student Website" in The Guardian Student Media Awards 2007.

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.

This essay writing competition was run by a group of students in the RCSU Faculty Union and attracted entries from students at Imperial and schools across the country. The Science Challenge aims to encourage informed debate over current scientific issues facing society, emphasize the importance of scientific communication to students irrespective of their career path and show that science can be fun.

- 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.

Website

The Union's website imperialcollegeunion.org continues to go from strength to strength. Already the UK's most visited Students' Union website, we have continued our growth and usage across the student body and alumni alike.

Over the summer we added a suite of new tools designed to save Club and Societies officers time and energy in the running of their activities. Included in these tools were functionality for all Officers to add new products to their

online shops and then track the live sales online. We are extremely pleased with the take up of this and hope to see its use increase even further next year.

One of the most requested piece of information that the Student Activities Centre faced daily has also been put online – a live list of a Club or Societies' members. This simple set of data is extremely useful for Club Officers. We also added the ability for Officers to quickly email their members.

Finally we have introduced an Activity Registration system. Designed to ensure we have an accurate and up-to-date list of attendees on Club and Society trips, events and fixtures, the Activity Registration offers an invaluable tool for both College and the Union in case of problems when Clubs and Societies are away from campus.

Other non Club and Society additions included a new Committees and Meetings system, bringing up-to-date the old system and adding newer functionality.

Sales across the site have also seen an increase of 130% on last year with the year's total sales on course to reach over £400,000. This has been helped by healthy uptake of online tickets to our end-of-term balls and of course the Centenary Ball which sold over 2000 tickets online alone.

Academic Representation

The Union's elected representatives work with College committees to fulfil our common goal of ensuring that students have an excellent experience. A presentation was made by the Union to the Strategic Education Committee on the topics of assessment feedback and the status of writing up PhD students which was well received by the committee.

HE Funding Survey

This year the Union looked to diversify the ways in which we collect student opinion. In addition to our elected officers from departmental level upwards we also utilised lunchtime forums and online survey software to help us cast as wide as possible. We ran a campus wide survey on the topic of higher education funding which attracted over 500 responses and we will look to increase this use of technology in the future.

Advice Centre Stats

The Information and Advice Centre (IAC) has continued developing over the past year.

The service now does not just act as an information service, we have started to help students with issues such as taking landlords to court, accompanying students to meetings with such people as TFL with regard to potential prosecutions and representing students in academic hearings.

Links with College have been improved, with the service now having a presence at Senior Tutors meetings and attending regular attending training sessions for new personal tutors.

The IAC has been involved in College projects this year including a large involvement in review of the student death procedure and with the International Office's orientation of new international students, providing training sessions on such issues as TV Licensing, Council Tax and Insurance.

Internally, electronic case management software from advice UK is being implemented which will provide a great level of statistics to be provided in future. The Student Adviser has undertaken training over the past year, mainly on the updated tenancy deposit scheme. Enhancements have been made to the IAC pages on the union website, including the introduction of a mechanism for students to provide feedback on the service.

Elections

Elections of the 5 Sabbatical Officers who will take office during the 2008/09 academic year were successfully held in the Spring Term. 2 Student Trustees were also elected by the student body concurrently with the Sabbatical elections. Elections for Faculty Union Presidents were held in May 2008. Turnout for the Sabbatical Officer elections was registered at 17%, which represents a 40% year on year increase.

Position	Holder
Departmenten	t
ICU President Biology	Jennifer Morgan
ICU Deputy President (Education and Welfare) Medicine	Hannah Theodorou
ICU Deputy President (Finance and Services) Mech Eng	Christian Carter
ICU Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) Medicin	Lily Topham
CGCU (Engineering Faculty Union) President Mech Eng	Mark Mearing-Smith
ICSMSU (Medicine Faculty Union) President Med.	Mark Chamberlain
RCSU (Natural Sciences Faculty Union) President Biology	David Charles

Commercial Services

Following a turbulent trading year in 2006-07 and a management Re-structure, the Commercial Areas of the Union have stabilized and seen some considerable growth during this academic year. With a range of new initiatives and continued partnership working with the College, the achievements of 2007-08 are setting a strong basis for development over the coming years.

With Phase 1 of the Building completed, the bar and catering areas in Beit have been able to enjoy an uninterrupted trading environment. In addition to the works completed as part of Phase 1, this year investment has been made in the Catering Areas, as part of a partnership arrangement with College Commercial Services. This partnership will see new furniture and a partial refurbishment of the kitchen areas in Beit, to be completed in the summer, in return for College catering providing breakfast service to vacation residents in Beit Hall for the summer period. These developments are part of a wider strategy to provide high quality catering provision across campus, making the most efficient use of shared resources.

As well as improvements to the catering facilities in Beit, investment has been made improving facilities in DBs nightclub. A new state of the art lighting rig has been installed with the aim of improving the customer experience and maximizing the contribution that our entertainments programme can make to bar and catering trade.

The Union's has built on its evening entertainment successes from 2006-07, with our most successful end of term Carnival to date being held at the end of the Autumn Term, in addition we managed to attract a number of top name acts, including Radio 1's Colin Murray who held a monthly residency in the Spring Term. Use of the Union website to facilitate online ticket sales have helped to contribute to this success.

As a result of the staffing changes in 2006-07, we now have a full-time Retail Manager, which has had a major impact on sales and profit for the year and has enabled us to firmly re-establish the Union's Retail offer. Turnover across the Union Shop and Newsagent have seen an increase year on year of over 7%, with an extremely successful Freshers' Week, with Retail taking over £43000. As with the Trading areas in Beit, this year's Post-Graduate Commemoration Ceremony proved extremely successful and has grown to be a major event for the Union, in line with the Undergraduate equivalent. This year a number of new lines have been introduced into the Union shops, including 'Hand Made Bakery' products, an increased range of 'Pukka' stationery and a limited range of ethical sourced jewellery and gifts, all of which have proved to be very successful. In addition to these new lines, Retail staff have been working with the Tanaka Business School, to design and source a range of branded merchandise.

Through promotions, a focus on promoting major sporting events and a continuous improvement in service standards, the bars in Beit have seen a year on year increase in sales of 14%. Freshers' week was extremely successful in the bars with a turnover of over £42000. The Union has continued to capitalize on its location and facilities, selling 783 Refectory Club Memberships, allowing non-students to use our bars and catering. This reflects our commitment to identifying new revenue streams, particularly in times of low student usage.

The Reynolds Bar at the Charing Cross site, through a huge improvement in management has seen a staggering growth in turnover of 108% year on year.

Unfortunately due to the changes in teaching provision at the Wye Campus, the former Union bar at Wye has now been handed over to College Commercial Services, who will maintain this facility for the final year of Undergraduate teaching at the Campus.

Catering in the Union continues to be an extremely important service offered to our members. This year we have adapted our offer to introduce a breakfast service and a cook-to-order evening menu, while maintaining our excellent value lunchtime service. These changes and a continuous improvement in service standards and quality have seen a year on year growth in sales of 31%.

Affiliations

Appendix B

Donations

Appendix C

Union awards

See Colours document.

Future Plans

Over the course of the next year ICU will endeavour to:

1. Engage fully with the Students' Union Evaluation Scheme (SUEI) that ICU is now committed to participate in. This will give ICU an independent overview of our activities and will highlight areas for future development.
2. Set the terms of reference for our next strategic review.
3. Produce a structured plan to raise the necessary capital which will allow us to proceed with Phase 3 of the Beit Redevelopment.