

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A note by Jenny Morgan

Union Building Redevelopment, a note by Peter Haldane

We have been informed by the building contractor that the end of the current phase of the masterplan's construction which was anticipated in May 09 is likely to be delayed by up to four weeks.

This is because the work to open up the service risers that will carry the new electrical infrastructure as well as air and water services through the building has disclosed:

- that the current electrical infrastructure is only partially documented and work is having to proceed on an investigatory basis in order to allow the Union to remain operational.
- that work carried out by the previous contractor has resulted in undocumented circuit terminations which must be identified and, if live, isolated before further investigatory work can proceed.

It should not be necessary to disrupt Union operations further than they have been to date.

PJH

Elections

Voting is open for the Union positions of Student Trustees and Ordinary Council Members as well as GSA and remaining faculty union positions. Voting closes at 23.59 on Tues 4th November 2008. With the results to be announced on Thurs 6th November at 12.30 in davincis.

RCA and RCM

I have been working with Marcus Lanyon, the President of the RCA over possible collaborations, these might include some joint events and he will sit on my working group for the multi faith/culture event. I will be meeting Mary Kelly, the President of the RCM on the 6th Nov also. And I expect to be letting you know about future collaborative plans between the three colleges in due course.

SCR opening times

Since negotiating the extended opening hours in the SCR (until 3) we have heard back that it has been very successful and I hope it continues so that we will be in a position to renegotiate allowing Masters students in there in due course.

MDH

After receiving complaints regarding the Oriental Buffet I have been in touch with the Head of Commercial Services and subsequently had a meeting with the Head of Catering Operations and the Venue Manager of the Catering Dept. On Monday 20th Oct they started putting more traditional food back on the menu in the MDH and more recently it has been decided that the Oriental Buffet will no longer be in place in the MDH. However, as from Monday 3rd November the MDH will continue to offer a traditional hot lunch option in the servery area. So basically, it was good intentioned but clearly didn't work and they appreciate that and are very keen for student involvement in any new plans.

Aldwych Group and Widening Participation

Once a month, Sabbaticals from the Unions of the Russel Group Institutions meet up and talk about best practise and it also gives press releases representing the united views of those Unions

Council
3rd November

on relevant Topics, e.g. Funding. I went to Oxford on Thurs 23rd October and had a really insightful day focusing on widening participation. Some Unions do it very well, we don't. I will be working with Robin Pitt (who received a national award for a project he started at Goldsmiths which was working with Young Offenders) on making ties with the College Outreach department and also to come up with our own WP project which might involve a one day event for schools in the surrounding deprived areas.

College Open Days

I am also keen on getting our clubs and societies out on College Open Days in the Summer Term (where possible). I think the Union can play such a key part in the lives of students whilst they are at Imperial and I want to make sure prospective students are made aware of the excellent extra curricular opportunities the Union can provide.

Silwood

Hannah, Lily and I visited Silwood Park Campus on Friday 17th October. This was such a useful exercise and I think it was really appreciated by their committee, students and staff down there who often feel very left out. Following the trip the main priorities that I am currently working on for them are: getting them a cash machine, getting them some vending machines (as their refectory closes at 2pm and there is no shop), and also getting some funding secured for them to do up their thoroughly dilapidated social space. I have recently chased up funding for them to have a new minibus as well. Hannah is also working on the accommodation troubles they have down there.

Commemoration Day

I changed the wording, with permission, the student oratory which is read by the ICU President, so that it would be more representative of all students. This was well received and it will now be read at the postgraduate awards ceremony also. I have been involved in the debriefing of the day and it is hoped that changes will be brought in next year to make the ceremonies shorter.

Student Media

After initial consultation with the Media Chair, Head of IC Radio, Stoic, Publicity and Comms Manager and Union Deputy General Manager I am very pleased to say that we expect to get Stoic and IC radio played in davincis in the not so distant future (when the techies have been in). I think this is really good because as union clubs they should be able to be played in the Union that they belong to!

Unite

ICU has entered into a "Recognition Agreement" with Unite. This means that the casual staff of the Union can now be represented by an independent organisation should any problems arise.

Sabbatical Roles

I am beginning to review the roles of the sabbatical officers; in particular whether DPEW could be divided into two sabbatical positions, but also to make sure the current sabbatical guidelines are still appropriate.

Security

Hannah and I met with Terry Branch from security. At the forefront of the agenda is bike thefts, abandoned bikes and bikes being chained to stupid places (suspended and swinging from a fire escape under the faculty building). Hannah will be communicating the importance of bike safety in Felix. I am increasingly worried about students' safety in halls and will be fighting for more funding for people resources and maintenance of supposed security doors which I have seen can quite easily be forced.