

Imperial College Union
President's Report - *A note by Ashley Brown*

Governance

I'd like to welcome Julia Higgins as the new Chair of the Trustee Board and thank her for volunteering for the role. We are still one lay trustee short and any suggestions would be welcome. I'd also like to welcome Deep Shah, who was elected as student trustee. He replaces Mark Mearing-Smith who stood down over the summer.

We have engaged the services of Horwath Clark Whitehill to advise us on the Charity Registration process. The main areas of work will be moving our financial reporting to Charity SORP and ensuring that the charity commission accepts our constitution.

This year I do not intend to make any major constitutional changes, but will be resolving some inconsistencies which have been introduced over the past few years, and clarifying the situation with a number of our Service Level Agreements. This will include formalising the Finance SLA and ensuring that College Council formally approve our Space Agreement.

Finance

A budget for 2009-2010 was passed by the Executive Committee over the summer and requires the Trustee Board's formal approval. This was the same as that presented to the July meeting for information, except for an increase of £3,000 in the budget for handbooks. We are also presenting a capital expenditure budget.

Building

The major construction work as part of Phase 2 is complete, with the sabbatical officers and staff now on Level 2. As part of this, the Student Activities Centre and main Unioesn reception desks have been merged. The new gym on Level 3 is now being used, and the changing rooms, toilets etc are up and running. We also have new meeting rooms in the East Basement - there are three rooms, one of which can be divided with a partition. All have AV equipment and multi-level lighting, which provide an excellent facility for both clubs and external hirers. We hope to increase our revenue from external hires when the rooms are not being used by clubs to make up for expected reductions in higher education funding. We also took the opportunity to repaint the corridors and put a new floor down while the area was out of action.

The old office space on Level 1 will be turned into an open space for club use, which will be available at the start of 2010.

With new facilities on Levels 3, 2M, 2 and the east basement we also carried out some light refurbishment to tidy other areas:

- **Da Vinci's** – The floor area by the bar was wrecked fairly soon after it was laid, several years ago. While we had flooring people in for the other areas of the building, we replaced the damaged section in time for freshers' week.
- **Meeting Room 7** – The room has been painted, the floor sanded and varnished.
- **Union Dining Hall** – Part of the ceiling and lighting was replaced to add riser cupboards, so we extended the work to cover the whole room. It is a subtle change, but the room looks much smarter without the ugly tiles that were there before.
- **Union Concert Hall** – This has been repainted and the floor sanded and varnished.
- **Meeting Room 1** – This room has been painted, had the carpet lifted and the wooden floor underneath restored.

We plan to have the east staircase painted over the Christmas break, as it is looking very shabby at the moment.

We are preparing a business case and funding model for the third phase of the redevelopment. In light of the financial climate, we have stripped out a number of areas to bring the project cost down from around £3.5m to £2.5m.

We will bring a formal proposal forward at a later stage, hopefully the next meeting, but it is right that you are forewarned: the current funding model looks to spend £600k of cash reserves (the maximum we can afford while keeping sensible reserve levels), with the remaining funding split between a College grant and loan from the College. The third phase is mainly commercial, so funding avenues such as the IC Trust and Harlington Trust are not open to us.