

**Paper to set the week of ArtsFest**  
*A paper by DPCS, Seconded by AEB Chair*

**Background**

ArtsFest is an annual week-long arts festival. It was set up to showcase and raise awareness of the arts at Imperial to students, staff and the wider public, and to provide unique performance opportunities for Union societies, and for both group and individual Union members. The profits from ArtsFest go to charity. ArtsFest is entirely organised by an elected sub-committee of the AEB Exec. Artsfest features performances and activities from around 30-40 societies during the week. The flagship event of ArtsFest has been the Grand Finale Concert in the Great Hall, held on the Friday of the week, and featuring 10 different acts.

This year there have been some logistical problems with booking the Great Hall. The consequence of this has been that it won't be possible to hold an ArtsFest Grand Finale on the Friday of ArtsFest week. This is not an uncommon problem in the Spring term as many clubs book the Great Hall for their big annual events. These conflicting events are mostly hosted by individual clubs, which has the effect of impacting an entire group of clubs. By doing this we hope to negotiate the booking of the Great Hall far enough in advance that this won't happen again.

It is also the case that the ArtsFest committee cannot be elected until the summer term when club officers for the following year are known, so that the ability to book spaces in the past has been something that the new committee has had to deal with. This year, it has been decided that this function should fall to the outgoing committee for the following year to ensure enough lead time to get their preferred slot. Because of this, it would be ideal to have the week set so that it is clear to the outgoing committee when the facilities should be booked for.

**This Union Believes:**

1. ArtsFest is an important opportunity for the artistic and entertaining clubs of the Union to showcase what it is they do, as well as those clubs who do additional activities of this nature.
2. Not having the option of a Finale is to the detriment of the week. Though should the incoming committee decide they will not do one, the responsibility would lie with them to cancel the booking.
3. Having the week set as a feature of the spring term will ease the process of planning for the ArtsFest committee and those planning other campaign/themed weeks in that term.
4. Having the week set as a feature of the spring term will ease the planning of practice and preparation schedules for the clubs involved.
5. The seventh week of the Spring term is an ideal balance of enough time for clubs to practice/prepare and yet not at the end of term when many do their individual concerts/performances.
6. This week should not conflict with other long established themed weeks such as Varsity (affecting many ACC clubs) or RAG week because this has been shown to be to the detriment of both events. It should also not conflict with any newer weeks such as One World Week (featuring International Nite) or any other ones that may be created where there is also a finale on the Friday of the week potentially requiring the use of the Great Hall.
7. Should the ArtsFest committee decide not to hold ArtsFest during the seventh week, the above points may be affected.

**This Union Resolves:**

1. To set the week of ArtsFest for the seventh week of the Spring academic term unless otherwise stated by the ArtsFest committee.