

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

External Relations

At last month's meeting of USU (the non-NUS affiliates + Durham), we discussed a shared training programme. We will be holding a combined handover and training event during July using courses devised by Aston, Imperial and Southampton. We hope this will be the beginning of a combined training regime which will improve skills, and provide important networking opportunities from sabbatical officers at all the institutions involved.

We hosted a very successful Aldwych Group meeting on the 29th and 30th January, where around thirty sabbatical officers (and some NUS people) came to talk about higher education funding. They particularly liked the sci-fi library when we went on a tour.

Sabbatical Elections

Nominations for the Sabbatical and Student Trustee elections open on the 16th (that's midnight tonight if you're reading this for the first time in the meeting). Positions available are: President, Deputy Presidents, Felix Editor and Student Trustees. This is your opportunity to make a difference next year.

We've put together a new candidates' pack which is considerably more ... bright ... than the previous one, so go to www.imperialcollegeunion.org/elections and have a look.



Prince's Gardens

I was delighted to be asked to give a speech at the official opening of Prince's Gardens, which was nowhere near as funny as the one Boris Johnson gave. Thankfully I got to introduce him, rather than follow him.

In my speech I highlighted that the College should keep a range of room prices in halls, as not everyone can afford the accommodation provided in Eastside and Southside.

I'm also available for dinner parties.

Commercial Services

Phase 3 is proceeding; Danny will have more in his report. You can also follow the progress at www.imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3. We have invited students to submit names for the bar and nightclub, so please send them in. Otherwise, it will be called "Ashley's bar" with a large bronze statue of me in the middle. You don't want that.

We have got a new deal on in the evenings: fish and chips, chicken wings or a fish finger sandwich **and** a pint for £4.50.

Naughty Clubs

The managers of two College buildings, Huxley and EEE, are currently furious with our clubs for leaving rooms in a state, with a high likelihood that they would ban us altogether. This has been happening repeatedly and clubs were also guilty of a variety of other misdemeanours. As a consequence, I sent out an email to all club chairs asking them to be more considerate, with strict instructions that they should reply to the email with the name of their club, to prove they actually pay attention to what we are telling them.

I got lots of responses straight away, so thank you to all of those clubs. A number of clubs still had not replied at the time of writing. They will not be looked upon favourably during the budgeting round.

I'd strongly suggest that club chairs make sure they a) read their emails; b) reply when they are asked to; c) not otherwise get themselves on the naughty list.

Service Level Agreements, Constitutional Tidy-ups etc.

Service level agreements may take a bit longer than I hoped, because some of them are a complete mess. Indeed, at least one of them contained information which was out of date 4 years before it was signed. I am still aiming for March, but it may be April. We have also uncovered some other inconsistencies in the constitution so I will have the fun of fixing those as well.

Rector

The new Rector, Sir Keith O'Nions, has visited the building to take a look around. I have since had another meeting with him and he said he enjoyed the visit.

Bits & Bobs

I have also been doing a lot of little things here and there, including looking at pay arrangements for Graduate Teaching Assistants (PhDs who help with teaching) and expanded prayer space for the Islamic Society. These have been going on for a while.