

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

*Note: this is a revised version of my April 26<sup>th</sup> report with additions. As half of Council didn't bother replying to their emails, I presume half of Council didn't bother to read the report either.*

### **Matters Arising**

At the Senate meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May, we again raised objections to zero-weighted first years, as mandated by Council previously. Engineering Studies Committee had approved zero-weighting in Bioengineering, and I highlighted that Senate had previously agreed that Biology was to be a pilot, with a review taking place once that was decided.

At the same meeting, the Student Agreement in Medicine was extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years.

### **Phase 3**

On the last day of term we were given the go-ahead by College to take out the steel column which would have obstructed the view of the stage at Metric. There seems to be agreement that not removing it would come back to haunt us later – if you're going to do a job, do it properly.

As a consequence the builders moved in to start stripping out dB's the following week, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> April began to dig new foundations. We were trying to get as much of the noisy work out of the way as soon as possible, while many students are away from campus. There will be some further noisy works taking place during the term as we drive new piles to support the building with the column removed.

The column-removal stage has had to proceed well in advance of the rest of the programme. It has the added bonus that we'll get to see a lot of the internal structure of the room before committing to final designs, making it less likely that we will uncover something unhelpful during the construction process.

We have distributed 3D renders on the Phase 3 blog ([imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3)) and in Felix, with a very positive reception. A number of people have commented on the furniture – we'd raised the same issues they have when we saw the renders, but the furniture in the diagrams is only illustrative. A meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May discussed furniture in detail, both for the bar and the club. Note that we intend to go for furniture in the club which can be removed later in the evening as the dancing gets going, but that also caters to the sports teams. We think we have a solution!

### **Elections**

Nominations are open for officer elections, except Welfare Campaigns Officer (which we want to abolish) and International Officer (which we would like to move to RWB). I am returning officer and Court is still drawing up an elections committee..

We have re-opened nominations for the Deputy President (Education), as Meera Ganeshadevan stood down after taking a summer placement with Credit Suisse.

### **Volcano!**

I've been sitting on the "Volcanic Ash Task Force" in College, which will be monitoring how many students have missed or are likely to miss exams due to the volcanic ash cloud of doom.

Departments that are able to have moved exams, others will arrange additional exams at the end of term. Keep an eye on the College website, as the situation is currently fluid.

It seems that the problem is not as great as originally thought, and departments seem to be handling it very well.

Council  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2010

### **External Relations**

Just after Easter I attended a meeting of the Aldwych Group with the Deputy President (Welfare), where we discussed medical students and widening participation.

The conclusion seems to have been that all medical students hate their universities and university unions, but ours hate us more than most. This is despite many other unions trying to abolish medic sports teams and identities and forcing them to integrate.

We also seem to have one of the best systems for representation of medical students, precisely because we haven't done all of those things. Medics are weird (in terms of course structure, length), and we let them represent their weirdness themselves. ICSMSU is also very strong due to the dedication of their volunteers, and I'm very grateful for their positive attitude this year.

### **Service Level Agreements/Constitutional Changes**

Please see a paper later on the agenda. At the time of this meeting there will only be three weeks left. Eek! Please get any comments in.

### **Planning Round**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> March we presented our case to the senior staff running the planning round this year, and were asked to produce additional information which we have done.

We still cannot be certain how much money we will get next year, as it depends what damage the Conservative/Lib Dem emergency budget does to Higher Education funding. Fingers crossed.

### **Minibuses**

No fines for bumping them into things, but lots for returning minibuses/keys/forms late. *Note: taking a bus that is not booked, even if in possession of the keys from a previous booking, is "taking without consent" under the Theft Act 1968.*

There is a transport policy being presented to this meeting which will give the Executive Committee oversight of the minibus fleet. It has already passed a list of standard fines, as allowed by the policy, as CSB has failed to do so over the past 3 years.

### **Postgraduate Awards Ceremony**

The first week of May was fairly hectic, including the Postgraduate Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to all those who have been awarded postgraduate degrees. I wasn't graduating as I missed the February deadline, however my PhD was awarded on the 1<sup>st</sup> May so I have one more ceremony to look forward to.

I wrote a bit about my hectic week on my blog, so I'll leave you to go and read it if you're interested: [imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs)

### **College Council**

The same hectic week saw College Council, which started on the Thursday evening and ended Friday afternoon. We were discussing the College's strategy document, which includes some excellent aspirations about our targets in educational quality. I can't say too much more about it at this point, but will discuss more when I can. More on Council on my blog: [imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs)