

Imperial College Union
President's Report
A Note by the President – Alex Kendall

Introduction

We have had more than two months since the last Council, and there are many changes which have happened to the Union in this time. The team is in place, after a By-Election for the Deputy President (Welfare) concluded in July with the election of Charlotte Ivison. Most Sabbs managed to get at least a few days of holiday and I went to an Aldwych Group meeting on Internationalisation with Andrew Keenan, the Representation Coordinator. We have been engaging more with social networking than we have in the past, with a lot of interest on Facebook for events over the summer and this term, including the extremely successful 'Pre-Imperial Get Together's' which in total saw about 130 freshers socialising with us before the start of term. The Freshers' Facebook Group has been used to answer questions and send out information and the ICU Facebook Group is now being updated more often. There have been many meetings over the last few months with members of College and in various College Committees, that are too numerous to mention here.

New Trustees

Another paper to this Council talks about the appointment of two new Trustees, which we have been working on this summer. Both Paddy and George are keen and have contacted Julia Higgins (Trustee Board Chair) to find out more about the Trustee Board and what its role is. There is every expectation that it will have to be more formal once charity registration of the Union takes place, but we simply don't know yet what changes will have to be made. Both Paddy and George will be brilliant Trustees to have under these circumstances with their legal and financial knowledge.

We have also started to arrange Trustee training where the student trustees will be inducted alongside the Lay Trustees into what the board is about. This will hopefully allow them to get to know each other so that student trustees can engage more with the board and feel confident they can interpret the management accounts correctly.

Life Sciences Restructure

Before the summer began, the Department of Life Sciences announced that it was restructuring, deleting two sections and replacing them with another. The Union was severely concerned about these plans and liaised with postgraduates and academics in the Department, who were also against the proposals. After meeting with the head of the Department as well as the head of the Faculty, we decided to submit our concerns to the consultation process alongside a separate submission from the GSA and the academics.

When the final outcome was released by the Department, it was clear that they hadn't taken on board any serious changes suggested by the Union, the GSA or the academics. From that point on we began a publicity campaign to spread the word to students, via an article on the Union website, a section of the all-student email and a petition. By the time Council meets there should also be a report in *felix*. Our main concerns have been outlined in the Union's 'statement' on the website so I won't repeat them here.

Environmental Policy Working Group

In an effort to get students involved, we started an Environmental Policy Working Group. The previous Environmental Policy lapsed at the end of the last academic year and to fully represent

student views, we invited any student to contribute. So far there are 11 students on the working group, most of whom have sent in ideas and recommendations. The aim is to have the Policy passed through Council after Green Week, where we will be asking students for their opinions on the additions and changes.

'What's On' Calendar

An online calendar has been created for the Union which aims to centralise the events going on at Imperial. All club officers and those at the head of Faculties have the ability to create events on the Union website in one of eight different categories, which now automatically appear in the 'What's On' Calendar. Each category is assigned a different colour and the user can select which categories to view and which to hide. Users can also subscribe to the calendar by importing it into a number of email calendars such as Outlook.

Our goal now is to make the 'What's On' calendar something which students know they can go to when they want to find any event going on run by the Union or College. 'What's On' has now replaced the 'News and Events' tab on the main Union front-page.

Outreach

Following on from last year's decision to allow members of the Royal College of Music and Royal College of Art to become associate members for £5/year, we held meeting with their President's over the summer to work out how to collaborate more. We have already begin by attending the RCM Freshers' Fair for the first time, and by hosting the last two hours of the RCM Welcome Night on 17 September as their bar has lost its late licence.

Further events include a Science/Art symposium, advertising their concerts and exhibitions to our students and advertising our events, clubs & societies to their students.

Farmers' Market

Following a discussion with the Operations Manager and the DPFS, we decided to get a Farmers' Market in the Union. The next day I was approached by someone who sets up Farmers' Markets. So we did. The first one was on Wednesday 6 October and was a great success. They will now be every Monday. The ethos is to have cold foods or groceries for eating now or cooking with. Hot foods, aside from crepes and other light snacks will not be sold as they would compete with our own café.

Welcome Week

So far, Welcome Week has been a success. The two Mingles were well attended, no one seemed to mind that the main bars weren't open, and it was great to see the Union Bar full again. I have so far done 16 Welcome speeches (one to go) and the RCSU, CGCU and GSA Presidents have joined me for their respective groups, which have gone down well.

The Postgrad Mingle closes off the week on Saturday night and we have been pushing it hard with postgraduates all over Imperial. So far over 250 tickets have been sold which has already beaten the projection of 200. Considering each of these 250 people can bring someone else for free means we may get to capacity in the marquee. I will be able to update Council on the day as the Postgrad Mingle will have happened.