

Council Report by Heather Jones, DPCS

Handover

Handover started well with a trip to Henley. It was a good way to see our sports teams in action and I was very appreciative of all the efforts gone to by our rowers to compete at the highest standard. The new team also went away overnight for an intensive handover session which I enjoyed very much and found very useful. Over the whole of handover most of my time was spent learning how to complete the different tasks assigned to the DPCS and meeting key people in College who have proved to be important for me to know in the following months. It was also good to spend time getting to know the permanent staff members at the Union.

During Handover I also attended the BUCS Conference with ACC Chair Monya Zard. This was 4 days, located at Keele University 13-16 July. I went to some very interesting, and some not so interesting talks whilst I was there including one about increasing participation amongst minority groups which may be useful for SportImperial to think about and also another on Tours. There was a discussion on whether Universities should ban tours which for Monya and me seemed totally bizarre. We then learnt what they meant by "Tours" and soon understood why. My conclusion is that Imperial should be incredibly proud of its system for funding tours. SportImperial did not attend the entire event on this occasion and based on the content of most of the talks it may not always be a cost effective way of learning about BUCS.

August & September

During August I mostly prepared for Freshers' Fair but also continued to build bridges with College with a view to both increasing support for Student-led projects and developing an Arts Partnership. I have also tried to support DPW Charlotte Ivison in her new role after her late election and subsequent holidays.

I have met a number of times with Patrick Orson to go through the results of the Clubs & Societies survey but I'm still unsure as to what the conclusions are. There has been an issue on whether or not we count inactive students in the overall total, which may require a rework if they ought not to have been counted. We held New Clubs Committee and New Projects Committee in September and approved a new one of each, Magazine Soc and Kenyan Orphan Project. These were both comprised of interim committees until they can be properly elected.

I have also taken a number of training sessions for Principal Officers which tend to go well, as well as one for Dep Socs. Having those sessions in the new academic year can be frustrating when it is clear there has been inadequate handover, however the Officers concerned are very appreciative of having a face to face meeting with someone able to answer their questions. Management Group training also took place on 2 October and was very successful for all who turned up. Everyone was particularly grateful by the booklet produced by Council Chair Jenny Wilson over the summer break which they all received for reference in case anything didn't stick the first time.

Development of the ArtsPartnership in the past few months has been a particular strength. There is now a document which both the Union and the College are broadly happy with and which is planned to pass at the next meeting of the Music & Visual Arts Committee. This should ensure that there is an agreed and coherent strategy for developing the Arts all over

campus. Julia Buckingham is still investigating the reporting mechanism within the College so that the Committee has the power to enact change.

Over the summer, in the absence of the Management Group Committees, the DPCS often has to deal with low-level club enquiries which occupy large amounts of time. This aspect of the role should become much less significant as the Management Group Chairs and Treasurers begin to take ownership of their roles and start to answer those queries themselves. Apart from the ArtsPartnership another new initiative I have developed is an event between heavy Conference facility users and Conferences where each can learn about the others' priorities and needs. Hopefully this will lead to a more productive relationship in the coming year where a groups needs are considered before they are relocated and groups are more understanding of the occasional need to relocate them.

Welcome Week and Freshers' Fair

Considering the issues posed by running the first week of term without either new facility open I have observed it going broadly very smoothly so far. It is still to be determined whether or not the name change has affected the involvement levels of Postgraduates but I hope that this will be the case. To try and increase involvement amongst Postgraduates this year pioneered the Clubs & Societies Fair from 10-11. As of yet I am unsure whether this is a good idea for future years, it was quiet but for a new venture not unacceptably so, and also allowed clubs a little more leeway in terms of setup time.

The organization of Freshers' Fair was often challenging but though it is still soon after the event it appears to have been well received. I have got positive reviews from students and College staff alike who felt that it seemed well run. Some challenging circumstances during the day were dealt with superbly by the Student volunteers and did not affect the ethos of the day. Arriving at 06:30 was perhaps unnecessary as setup was complete by 8, but having time for breakfast was probably beneficial to all concerned. During the day I felt that all clubs conducted themselves in a way both they and the College should be incredibly proud of. However, club promoters and other special interest groups wanting to illicitly approach students were a significant problem which should be addressed if at all possible for future years.

The performances during the day and the evening went fairly smoothly. The Coldstream Guards appeared around lunchtime and were very popular. In the evening President Alex Kendall and I appeared on stage between acts which was stressful when acts pulled out at the last minute. However, I don't feel this affected the success of the evening overall. In future years it may be useful to allow groups to run soundchecks/rehearsals beforehand on the stage as this would cut down on a lot of changeover time. Perhaps a more extensive briefing concerning what to expect would be useful for some groups – particularly regarding noise limits.

Other business

Some outstanding business from the previous years has been dealt with at Executive Committee, particularly with regards to expenses incurred by clubs as a consequence of the building works. Underwater club have also suffered a ceiling collapse in their stores as a consequence of the construction of Metric must be dealt with as soon as the extent of the damage has been calculated. Musical Theatre and Snooker club have both been reimbursed for similar expenses from Phase 2, though they were of a much less severe nature than the current situation.