

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Finance & Services) Report
A Note by Ravi Pall

Clubs and Societies

Many clubs & societies have been coming in with budgets for Christmas dinners, event and trips. I even still get a few sponsorship contracts. This is great work! So keep sending them in. In addition to this, there have been fewer emails from clubs asking trivial questions. I assume by now they have learned all that is necessary, and the great work from the management group chairs and treasurers is kicking in. This has allowed me to chase up on some more obscure club issues. The Clubs & Societies board have been meeting, with strong attendance. I would like to thanks the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and CSB for all the progress made in these meetings.

We have also corrected an issue with the union credit cards. Previously the cards had a £1000 transaction limit and £10000 month limit. This proved to be a problem when many clubs came to book flights, pay for accommodation, dinners and the like. The problem was that many transactions were over £1000, and our month limit was maxed out early on in the month. Previously the Head of Finance's credit card would have no transaction limit and a £20000 month limit. However with the absence of such a person, we are one card down, but have now lifted the transaction limit on the membership services managers card as well as the month limit to £20000 to accommodate the need clubs have.

I have also begun working on the user requirements to transfer claim forms online. This will be detailed later in this paper.

Commercial Services & Entertainments

Our new bar and night club have been extremely successful since launch. FiveSixEight is regularly taking significant takings over this time last year, and the catering in this area has gone from strength to strength. We are now proving and exciting and diverse menu, that keeps the kitchen extremely busy over lunch times and in the evenings. It's clear that the great value for money and higher standards of quality and service are no going unnoticed by our students. The nightclub, Metric, is doing very well. With Wednesday and Friday nights proving to be successful. I look forward to what next term brings.

Club and society nights in metric have not been so successful. That is to say, due to the delays, and many late (very late) dropouts, the nights have been less than consistent. After a meeting with the ents committee we have decided that a more formal functions booking is need to be made by successful applicants. Applications for next term have now closed, and another ent committee meeting to vet these will have taken place just before this council meeting.

The Christmas ball line has been announced, and is definitely the best I have seen since being coming to Imperial. Tickets are £8 online, and £10 on the door, and are selling well. You will be seeing advertising in felix, walkway posters and our websites. You should also be able to catch our promotions team on campus handing out flyers, talking to students, and receiving feedback.

We have had a diverse number of nights in our entertainments schedule, with our first ACC bar night in Metric going very well. We also have had Karaoke from the RCSU & CGCU, a RAG bar night in Metric, and a wide range of bands, DJs and bar nights from societies.

Finance

Without the Head of Finance, we have taken the initiative to review our financial procedures and policies with an external company who specialise in student union, and charity finance. This is partially due to the audit response from deloitte, however this was already an area we wished to work on.

I have also been reviewing the current role of Honorary Senior Treasurers and how this will change as we "futurise" our finance system. This has also cause a review on a large portion of regulation eight of the

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Imperial College Union Constitution. The current focus is to transfer claim forms online (which is seen to be most beneficial to clubs and officers), and restructure the authorisation process. More details on this discussion can be found in the minutes of CSB on the 6th December.

The Purchase Order Processing system, which is part of the SAP project, is still going through coding problems. Upon reading my predecessors council report from this time last year I read this statement "The project is on schedule and changes to finance procedures will be seen next term" which with the project still going on was amusing. However, we have changed the union's side of the project team, and now have better dialogue with our supplier and I have been told this will be ready soon.

With respect to our management accounts, we are doing very well in some areas compared to budget, and in all areas compared to last year. However, the delays in the bar and night club have cause us to come in under budget, which is not surprising as the budget was approved in august when we expected them to be open in time for October. It's good to see that there are no apparent weak areas, and the Operation Manager and I are expecting to revise the original budget to reflect this terms actuals.

Summer Ball

We intended to have a summer ball meeting with college to discuss future plans with the summer ball. However due to the adverse weather conditions this had been postponed. In light of this, the Operation Manager has met with the Knightsbridge association and they seem to be very happy with our intentions for this year's ball. This includes using more of the campus, including the possible princess gardens, and starting a lot earlier so more imperial students can attend, without feeling they have to be there until the early hours of the morning. This seems to be a strong reason why those with exams the following week do not attend. They see it as not being of good value for money. Our intention is again not to have a marquee on the queen's lawn, and this year it seems unwise to host a dinner on the night. The dinner isn't very well attended by students, and causes many other problems logistically and financially.

Services Forum & Feedback

The services forum was not very well attended, as the sound checks in Metric overran significantly (this was the venue for the forum), however a few did show, and I did talk to a random selection of patron in FiveSixEight. The response on what we have achieved is extremely positive, and I get regular emails via the yoursay@imperial.ac.uk account, all with positive feedback, and bright ideas.

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