

Council
17th January 2011

Royal College of Science Union report for the Members of Council

By RCSU President Scott Heath

I feel this term has been a very successful one for the RCSU and this can wholly be attributed to the great team dynamic of my committee - thank you.

This is a summary of the activities of the autumn term post-Freshers Week (for the see the last report):

- **RAG Ball (Joint with CGCU)**
The turnout for the event was lower than expected, however those who attended had a good night. A total of £1,049 was donated to RAG excluding any contribution via change buckets. The ball was held at Carbon Night Club in Marble Arch.
- **Buddy Activities**
As part of my manifesto commitments all Dep Socs engaged in a Buddy Quiz and the RCSU held a Buddy Bar Night. The latter was well attended, and after an earlier than expected closing of the bar we offered refunds to those with unused tokens which appeared to save face with the students. The Buddy Quiz night for Bio/BioChem/Chem was very well organized and all participants had a good night; the Phys/Maths was let down by poor attendance from Maths students but still was a moderate success.
- **Festive Fortnight (Joint with CGCU)**
To fulfill a commitment to hold a “joint ball” with CGCU, we decided to go the extra mile and offer students a range of activities over the final 2 weeks of term. The purpose was to guarantee that someone could go to something and thus no one missed out.
The activity started with a meal, which had lower than expected attendance, but the remainder of the activities (bar nights, ice skating, coffee morning, jazz room at Winter Ball) showed good attendance and we feel it was a successful set of events.
- **DeutscheBank Supported Event**
We held an event with the support of DeutscheBank titled “Scientists into Banking” which discussed the motivation and purpose behind perusing careers in banking. This was arranged by the Vice-President (Operations) and all 100 spaces were taken.
- **University Challenge**
We held two highly competitive try-outs for the Faculty University Challenge Team, which saw over 140 people attend one of two slots.
Of the team that we submitted three were chosen for the University Team after they successfully took the title in the Faculty Union tryouts.
- **Coffee Mornings**
Again fulfilling my manifesto pledge to bring more people to the RCSU Office and raise more money for charity we have held 2 charity coffee mornings this term; and hope to liaise with RAG to hold more this term (Everyone loves cheap Hummingbird Muffins!).
So far we have raised over £100 from these small events and introduced at least 50 people to what the RCSU is and does.

Council
17th January 2011

- **Life Sciences Restructuring**

The RCSU has been active in voicing its disapproval with the planned restructuring. Committee members have been lobbying senior staff, engaging in protests, communicating with the central union and with alumni about the issue. We will continue to work hard and voice our concerns at all levels.
- **Departmental Societies**

An extra-ordinary meeting of the RCSU Executive Committee was called on Tuesday 14th December to discuss a petition of no-confidence against the MathSoc President. The executive voted unanimously in favour of this petition and subsequently an election must go ahead this term to replace him.
All other Dep Socs appear to have had an active and politically quiet term; holding an array of events which has impressed the Vice-President (Operations).
- **Broadsheet**

Broadsheet successfully published an issue this term and is ready to release a second at the start of this term. Readership is still below the expectations of the executive committee, and we hope a greater involvement of the committee and the student population will begin to turn this around.
- **Harlington Grant**

The RCSU successfully applied for a grant from the Harlington Trust Fund; which will allow the committee to purchase an iMac (for Broadsheet and Publicity Committee work), storage for Departmental Societies and other equipment as requested by Dep Socs.
- **Meetings**

All Faculty of Natural Science Teaching Committee have had RCSU attendees. I have attended all bar one ICU Executive Committee, all ICU Council and Welfare and Representation Board Meetings and have chaired 2 New Clubs Committee Meetings.
We have held 3 RCSU Executive Meetings (as per the constitution) and the Welfare Committee and Club Activities Committee have convened twice.
- **Issues**

The most pressing issue we found this term was insufficient advertisement prior to events. We hope that the iMac (see above) will assist in allowing more rapid production of posters/flyers, along with the new office printer. We also hope to build more links with Year Reps and use them as a platform for union information.
- **This coming term**

We will be holding a second RAG Ball, independent of the CGCU; are planning an array of events to celebrate our 130th Birthday and will be holding the Science Challenge.
Furthermore there will be an integrated Faculty Union Welfare Week and many more events to help provide welfare advice to students.