

Trustee Board
17th May 2012

Imperial College Union
Presidents Report
A Report by ICU President – Scott Heath

Since the last meeting of the Trustee Board the Union has been a hive of activity as we went through the busiest term.

Highlights have been:

- Elections achieving a record turnout.
- The Union feeding into the OFFA agreement with another successful Bursary Survey.
- Consultations to the House of Lords and the Higher Education Commission.
- The Union President receiving chairmanship of the College ICT Student Experience Stream Committee. This is the first time in our recent history we have got the opportunity to chair a committee of the College.
- Our highest ever clubs and society membership numbers.
- Union supporting the Colleges best NSS turnout yet.
- Exceptional performance in the Conferencing Department as well as Catering.

Staffing Matters

Recruitment:

Head of Finance – The interviews for the Head of Finance will take place tomorrow. We have a selection of very good candidates who have been found with the assistance of Peridot, a specialised recruitment company.

Executive Committee Update

Due to the Easter vacation the Executive Committee has only gathered twice since the last Trustee Board.

Croquet Club Appeal

The committee heard an appeal and reversed a decision of the CSB to close the Croquet Club.

Entertainments Committee Dissolution

The DPFS presented a paper requesting the dissolution of the Entertainments Committee in the next academic year. It was deemed better to provide students with adequate forums to provide feedback relating to services as opposed to joining a committee which meets infrequently and only authorises 'We are Metric' nights.

Tankard Charging

A policy was passed which passes the charges of the engraving of tankards to the clubs and societies which currently possess them. This measure reduces the cost to the Union by £3,000 as well as ensures a fair system.

HEFCE/UnLtd Bid

Rhiannon, the Student Hubs Coordinator, and I are currently writing a bid for around £10,000 of funding from HEFCE (the Higher Education Funding Council for England) and UnLtd (a social enterprise charity).

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This money will be used to increase the work the Union does in the Social enterprise area and is part of our holistic vision to increase the entrepreneurial experiences and opportunities for students.

I am also working on developing corporate contacts to enhance the networking and support available.

Digital Incubator

IDEA, a student-centric element of Imperial Innovations with the aim of assisting and facilitating digital start-ups, has temporarily co-located itself with Felix due to issues with its designated location.

This will see investment in the area behind the Felix office and a more effective use of the space. It will also provide students with more access to seed funding, mentors, networking and much more.

For more information about IDEA, visit: <http://www.imperialinnovations.co.uk/digital/>

Other Updates

Budgeting and Olympics Contingency

The General Manager and I have been sitting in on budget presentations as part of the preparation for the 2012/13 Budget. One core element of this has been ensuring a reasonable contingency for restricted trade during the Olympics.

Summer Elections

The Council agreed, on principle, to apply minor amendments to the roles which are elected in the Summer Elections. The role of the Court Advocate will be absorbed by the Council Chair and the Welfare Officers will be added to the Union Council.

Holland Club Task Force

The Commercial Services Manager has been invited to replace the President in the Holland Club Steering Group to ensure continuity over the handover period.

The group will be advising on design, layout and services provided in the redeveloped area of Sherfield Level 0, which is currently occupied by the Holland Club.

Postgraduate Students Officer

The Council was invited to discuss whether, subject to funding by the College, they would welcome the introduction of a PG Sabbatical Officer. It was clear that a more detailed Job Description must be developed for the role but the idea of a full-time representative for PG students was welcomed.

Verbal Updates

General Meeting