

Imperial College Union

Appeal for revision of OSC allocations

A paper by the OSC Management Group

In light of the recently concluded round of Clubs & Societies Board budgeting on the 27th of February 2012, the OSC would like to submit an appeal to the Clubs & Societies Board to revise the allocation that the Management Group received.

The motivations for the appeal are as follows:

1. The OSC deems that decision which was made towards the end of the budgeting round to punish MGs with large underspends was too excessive on our Management Group. This is in light of the fact that a large portion of the underspends was attributed to an oversight by the previous OSC Executive Committee which made the charges for expenditure through the SGI rather than the Grants. While we acknowledge that such a mistake deserves the appropriate punishments, we believe that the CSB should treat this as an exceptional case as the funds were actually spent but through the wrong account, which has resulted in the new Executive Committee starting the year with a debt of £1,303.04.
2. The OSC feels that because of the nature of the Union's funding policies the activities and events of international societies are massively under-supported. The main objective of all societies under the OSC is to promote the cultures and traditions of the richly diverse international community here at Imperial College London. Food forms a large part of our cultures and it is one of the best avenues to promote our objective of cultural appreciation. In addition, another avenue through which societies promote culture is through performances and shows. Such events incur large costs in the range of £3,000 and most societies receive on an average of less than 10% subsidy for the costs incurred.
3. The OSC believes that the nature of the Management Group is unique to the Imperial College Union. With our main objective as aforementioned in Point 2, it is imperative for the Management Group to possess sufficient funding and support to organize events at the Management Group level so as to encourage inter-societal interactions and promote cultural exchange between various nationalities. The two inaugural events in the form of the OSC World Summit and the OSC International Festival have been specially designed to allow a platform for such interactions which can help to bolster the international scene here at Imperial College London. The OSC would like to make such events an integral part of the calendar year following significant amounts of positive response. A cut in the budget allocation will severely limit the ability of the subsequent Executive Committees from carrying on the tradition. Moreover, a cut of £1083.24 (down to £4186.48 from £5269.72) will fundamentally restrict the OSC from running our basic core events such as International Night and the Football World Cup.
4. The OSC believes that the role of our management group should be upgraded in the following years to support the increasing numbers of international students arriving in Imperial College. Having in mind the importance of supporting diversity and Multiculturalism in a college proud of its strong international community, we feel that by reducing the grants

allocated to our management group we effectively reduce its effectiveness and the potential of upgrading the international profile of Imperial College.

Proposed resolution:

1. To consider the importance of the Overseas societies and what could be the impact of an upgraded and heavily supported group for the public image of Imperial College.
2. To request for a transfer in allocation of £1000 to the OSC management group. This will allow the OSC to at least retain the same levels of management as 2011/2012.