

Imperial College Union
President's Report
A note by ICU President – Scott Heath

Written Updates:

White Paper Response

The Government typically asks for consultation from Students Unions during the non-term times (both for Government and Universities). The result of this was that, in August and September, myself, the DPE and the Representation Coordinator (Andrew Keenan) had to formulate a response to the Governments HE White Paper: Students in the Heart of the System.

We consulted the student body as best we could – through a comprehensive survey, by speaking directly to students, attending conferences relating to the topic and reading an endless stream of commentary.

The document was submitted to the Government on September 20 and is available to read online.

yourSabbaticals

On September 2 we officially launched the new Sabbatical blogging system, yourSabbaticals. Part of my long-term strategy to make the Union more transparent and visible it has already shown to be popular recording over 1,000 independent views in its first week.

I hope both the council members and the student body as a whole begin to use this resource to find out what your Sabbaticals are doing and more importantly find it useful and fun!

Aldwych Meetings

During the Council recess I attended 2 Aldwych Group meetings: One in Oxford, the other in Birmingham.

The Aldwych Group is the student union equivalent of the Russell Group and part of the last meeting was an Imperial-steered discussion into reaffirming the lobby-capacity and influence of the Aldwych Group.

Our topics of conversation were, in the first meeting, Handover and the HE environment and in the second the HE White Paper and plans for the year.

Ordinary Members of Council

As per the constitution the next session of council will be convened with 16 additional people, the ordinary members. The 16 positions have been allocated proportionally (see Appendix 1 for the maths), and will be:

1 x non-Faculty,
4 x Engineering (UG), 3 x Engineering (PG)
4 x Science (UG), 1 x Science (PG)
2 x Medicine (UG), 1 x Medicine (PG)

I ask the current council members to help promote these positions.

Helping New Students Adapt

Both myself and the DPE were part of an initial meeting of a steering group which will be trialling a new interactive and engaging course aimed at making the transition from 6th form/FE College to University easier.

I am the co-convenor of the part focusing on helping students adapt to teaching at Imperial.

I also formulated the document from our branch of the workshop which was used at the Management Board of College to secure funding for this activity.

It will be conducted with students not in halls, with the aim to roll out to next year's students.

Quad Improvements

I met with a member of Facilities Management to help replace the bins in the quad. Hopefully the new wooden ones provide a better aesthetic appeal to the area.

Furthermore we have begun replacing all the benches outside, have had the centre of the quad repaved and I managed to source a device for opening the awning.

We have also undergone some redecoration in the central core of the building, which will be completed by November.

Awards Policy

The Union Court declared a section of the Awards Policy indicating that a 'two-thirds majority vote of Council' being necessary to award a person as unconstitutional. As a result this section of the policy has been quashed and changed to 'a majority of the Council.'

By virtue of this a loop-hole has arisen in the policy meaning an Emergency Meeting of the Executive Committee can now be convened and award people on behalf of the Council.

I am working on a constitutionally acceptable fix to this problem.

Alcohol Consumption Policy

The previous Executive Committee passed a policy concerning alcohol consumption in Union Premises. Over the summer these were turned into Operational Policies which have brought conduct in the bars to a legally acceptable standard.

Mayoral and GLA Working Group

Both myself and the DPE have been to a working group meeting with counterparts from LSE, UoA, Kings and others discussing student-centric pledges we can work to get mayoral candidates to sign up to.

The initiative is expecting some NUS-sponsored funding and appears to have potential for forming a good lobby forum for ensuring that London-based student issues are addressed.

Charity Registration

After concerns from myself and the Trustee Board the Charity Registration procedure has been slowed down to ensure that no mistakes are made.

We anticipate completion around March and this Council will be consulted as constitutional changes must occur.

Union Strategic Review

The Strategic Review is nearing completion and will hopefully be published before the next meeting of Council.

British Grand Prix Tickets

I must make it publically award that I attended the British Grand Prix as a guest of Santander Bank.

Meeting Summary

Please see Appendix 2 for a summary of some of the meeting I have attended.

Note: this does not include many internal meetings and handover-related activities.

Oral Updates:

- Welcome Week
- NSS Response

Appendix 1 – Calculation of Ordinary Member Distribution

Regulation 5 – Composition of Union Committees

A. The Council

1.33. Fifteen Union Councillors elected proportionally from undergraduate and postgraduate Faculty constituencies

1.34. One Union Councillor elected by non-Faculty Students.

Total Full-time Students

		Faculty of Engineering		Faculty of Medicine		Faculty of Natural Sciences		Academic Non-Faculty		No of Students	%
Type	Program Type	No of Students	%	No of Students	%	No of Students	%	No of Students	%		
PG	PGR	1200	8.40%	620	4.30%	870	6.10%	89	0.60%	2779	19.40%
	PGT	1018	7.10%	321	2.20%	592	4.10%	706	4.90%		
PG Total		2218	15.50%	941	6.60%	1462	10.20%	795	5.60%	5416	37.90%
UG	UG	3665	25.60%	2147	15.00%	3073	21.50%	0	0	8885	62.10%
UG Total		3665	25.60%	2147	15.00%	3073	21.50%	0	0	8885	62.10%
Grand Total		5883	41.10%	3088	21.60%	4535	31.70%	795	5.60%	14301	100.00%

From this we see that proportionally there should be:

PG (GSA) = 32.3% (5.16) [5]
 PG (non-faculty) = 5.60% (0.90) [1]
 UG (CGCU) = 25.60% (4.10) [4]
 UG (ICSMSU) = 15% (2.40) [2]
 UG (RCSU) = 21.5% (3.44) [4]

By Faculty:

Engineering: 41.10% (6.58) [7]
 Medicine: 21.60% (3.46) [3]
 Nat.Sci: 31.70% (5.072) [5]
 Non-Faculty 5.60% (0.896) [1]

Therefore we would expect:

- 3** Engineering PGs / **4** Engineering UGs
- 1** Science PGs / **4** Science UGs
- 1** Medicine PG / **2** Medicine UGs
- 1** non-Faculty PG

Appendix 2 – Meetings Attending by ICU President

Date	Location	Title	Discussion
30 th June	Nottingham	QAA Annual Conference	Is there a Public interest in HE?
4 th July	College	New Bursary Processes	Looking at methods of communicating bursary info
5 th	College	Risk Committee	Risks relating to Colleges strategic direction, financial environment, HR, terrorism, etc.
7 th	College	Harlington Committee	Discuss handover of Harlington and the processes involved
9 th	Oxford	Aldwych Meeting	Handover related. Discussions of what education should be (Oxford), white paper, etc.
10 th	Silverstone	British Grand Prix	Complementary ticket from Santander Bank. Given to all SU Presidents of Partner Universities and some staff.
11 th	College	Student Hub/ Student Experience	Discussion with Deputy Rector, the Pro-Rectors, Commercial Services on new approaches to providing Student Hub web-based info.
12 th	Union	Trustee Board	
14 th	Union/ College	Meeting FIE	Met the FIE (Foundation for International Studies) to reach out to affiliating institute
15 th	College	College Council	Budgets, Building Projects, Equal Opps Data,
18 th	Union	Facilities	Met with Facilities to discuss Bins in Quad and the purchase of new benches
18 th	Across London	Sport Imperial Tour	Visited “all” sports facilities across London used by the Union.
19 th /2 0 th	Leeds	Students Union 2011	NUS-organised conference discussing the issues in HE for the coming year (and further)
26 th	Kings Cross	Interview with the Guardian	Interviewed for story relating to Student Finance and Debts
27 th	College	Financial Package Delivery Group	Student Support Calculator
28 th	Union	Executive Committee	
29 th	Eastbourne	Staff Day Out	
3 rd Aug	College HR	All about HR	A discussion about the HR responsibilities of the President
4 th	Ethos	Gym Opening	
5 th - 22 nd	Holidays		
24 th	Charles Darwin	CaSE Science QT	Panelist for Science QT.

	House		
5 th , 6 th & 8 th Sept	College	IC Service Management Project	Was part of a selection panel in deciding the new Service Management company for ICT.
7 th	College	Meeting with head warden	Continue to build a good working relationship with the halls warden team
8 th	College	Imperial Insights	Hosted a stand talking to new staff about the Union
9 th	College	Helping new students adjust	See report for details
10 th	London	Pre-Freshers I	The first pre-freshers gathering.
12 th	College	Finance Catch up	Quick chat with the college finance team
13 th	UoAL	GLA and Mayoral Election working group	The first meeting we could attend of the group of unions working together to form a coherent approach to secure student-centric pledges from Mayoral candidates.
14 th	College	Meeting with FoE Principle	The first of our termly meeting with Jeff Magee, Principle of the Faculty of Engineering.
16 th	NUS	Visit to NUS HQ	Visited the NUS to discuss our NSS response
19 th	College	ICT Web Page Review	Was part of a panel assessing the web facilities at Imperial. Due to the success of this event ICT will be hosting regular student forums.
19 th	College	Blythe Centre Gathering	Attended a gathering of students at the Blythe Centre who take the JH course with RCM.
21 st	Union	Implementation Workshop	The final stage of the strategic review.
23 rd	College	College Council	
25 th	Union	Pre-Freshers II	The second and final Pre-Freshers gathering
26 th	College	Fees, Financial Aid and Access Agreement working group.	Discussed allocation of some of the resources for Outreach
30 th	College	Carbon Management Board	Multiple presentations concerning colleges carbon management systems.