

Council
13th February 2012

Imperial College Union
Summer Ball 2012 Plan

A paper by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)- Michael Foster

Background

The 2012 Summer Ball will be held on Saturday 23 June. In responding to student feedback after last year's Ball, our goal for this event is to make it fun and affordable, with students involved at all levels. In this spirit, the Executive Committee has approved the preliminary budget, along with the assumptions used to form the budget and the general outline of the event so far. Interested students can ask to see a paper copy of the budget.

The plan is here being brought to Council, and the budget will also be taken to the Finance & Risk Sub-Committee of the Trustee Board. Any changes to the budget will go to Exec, and Exec will receive a report at every meeting on the progress of the planning. I will also be organising a Summer Ball Forum to gather feedback from the rest of the student body.

Outline

The Ball will be black-tie with a formal sit-down dinner. The current plan is to host it in the Queen's Tower Rooms starting at 17.30, with a capacity of 350. The price for the dinner has not been set yet, with menus still being discussed. There will be a minimum attendance figure to make the dinner viable. If this number is not reached by an advertised pre-defined date, the dinner will be cancelled and refunds given to the people affected.

Ents will start at 20.00 at the Queen's Lawn Stage and the Great Hall, with an Ents ticket priced between £25 and £30, subject to further budget scrutiny. There will be one headliner on each stage, with support from DJs and cover bands. We will have a fairground as usual, as well as fireworks at 22.45, and all Ents on the main campus will finish at midnight.

There will only be one bar in each venue, in order to reduce wage costs. The initial plan will be to have a cash bar, but if the number of tickets sold approaches 1,500, we would consider changing to a cashless system. There will be no draught drinks, only bottles, cans and spirits.

The After-party will start at 23.00 in the Union building, one hour before the main Ents finish, in order to avoid the rush we had last year. There will be 1,200 tickets put on sale (which is our capacity limit) at £5-7 each (again, depending on the final budget). It will run until around 05.00.

Proposal

- To agree to the general plan for the 2012 Summer Ball.