

Council
1st May 2012

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

As the last meeting of Council was cancelled this report included everything which has happened since the last time we met – I apologise for its length.

There have been three meetings of the Executive Committee and one of the Trustee Board during this time.

Elections

Elections saw our biggest ever turnout with 41% of students voting, compared to the 32.5% who did so last year. There were significant increases in both UG and PG votes. I believe we all need to thank those members of staff involved for their hard work.

We should also extend congratulations to those who were elected as the sabbatical team for 2012-13: Paul Beaumont (Pres), Stefan Nubert (DPFS), Henry Whittaker (DPCS), Douglas Hunt (DPE), Rebecca Lane (DPW) and Tim Arbabzadah (Felix).

For your information I have attached in the appendices the breakdown of votes across departments and degree level.

There were elements of the elections which did not function particularly well, especially those areas which led to delays in announcements. These did not show the Union in a positive light, despite the Returning Officer and Elections Committee following protocol. As such I will be proposing changes to how we run the sabbatical elections at the next Council meeting which will hopefully rectify these problems.

Rep Week

The Union hosted Rep Week, which was a great success. My thanks go to all those who supported this new initiative.

PG Survey

We launched a postgraduate survey with the aim of looking at what activities we offer and what we could offer which would be attractive.

There were also a few 'fact finding' questions which relate to Clayponds and the Holland Club.

Due to the latter set of questions, members of the 'Save the Holland Club' Facebook Group decided to abuse the survey and made the results invalid.

Holland Club Task Force

The Holland Club Task Force was formed to provide external input into the proposals surrounding the changes in Sherfield Building. As I stated in all communications on the topic, it was/is essential that the Union has input into this area and, as such, we were given a seat along with the Chair of the Holland Club Committee.

Our proposal was given to the most recent Management Board and many of the suggestions we made will be considered.

VSETH 150th Celebrations

Both the DPE and I went to Zurich to attend the 150th anniversary of the students union of ETH Zurich. This was from Friday 2 – Sunday 4 March. The event provided a good opportunity for us to meet our IDEA League counterparts again and was used to compile a paper on OpenCourseware for the next IDEA League meeting.

No expenses were bore by the Union and the Friday has been counted as a day of leave.

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Launch of Mayoral Manifesto

I attended the launch of the Mayoral Manifesto, which happened at King's College SU. We have also been working with College on a matter which relates to postcodes. This has been resolved so we know they are right for the ballot papers in the Mayoral elections. This means we are one step closer to ensuring all first-year students in halls can vote.

Summer Ball

The Summer Ball advertising has begun. The event will be on Saturday 23 June, 19:00 until 2:00, with an Afterparty at the Quad.

We have brought back the option of a Dinner service too.

Tickets are £30 for an Ents ticket, if bought before May 11, with them becoming £35 after this point. The Afterparty will cost an additional £6 and the dinner an additional £40.

This remains the cheapest Summer Ball that I am aware of in the UK.

The ball typically receives a donation from the College to help cover the costs of hosting it on site. However, after the losses of last year they decided to retract this support.

As this put the ball in jeopardy I decided it was necessary to negotiate and find a comfortable alternative. Instead of retracting the donation they decided to replace the money with a guarantee to underwrite any debt up to the size of their annual donation. We hope, due to our careful planning, we will not need it. However I did not believe the Summer Ball plans could, or should, be jeopardized by rather hard-nosed reaction to last year's losses and I am thankful that we reached this middle ground.

Cash Machine

We finally got a cash machine back in Beit Quad. This ended an 8-month period of 'cash back' at the bars being the only supply of account withdrawals and also provided the topic for one of my most widely read blogs.

Finance Manager

On Friday 2 March the Finance Manager left the Union after serving their notice. We have strong interim plans to ensure that Union Activities are not affected by the interim period which have been robust enough to support us through the budgeting period. We shall be interviewing very soon and are very pleased with the long-listed applicants.

Student Accommodation

We have been involved in multiple discussions relating to student accommodation. In light of the potential closure of Wilson House for renovation, the DPE has visited accommodation sites in the Waterloo area. We have had input into an Undergraduate Accommodation Strategy, which will be given to the College Council at their next meeting.

With respect to Postgraduates we are still concerned about the plans to replace Clayponds with alternative accommodation in Fulham and the offer of a bursary as it appears the fee difference will be rather high.

On the day of Council I should have met with the Rector with Aleksandra Turp from the GSA and I am engaging in multiple conversations to seek a better deal for PG students.

Imperial Business Partnership

I was invited to attend an IBP event which was talking about the potential effects of the new fee regime on Industry. This provided a good opportunity for me to speak to rather influential individuals about issues which affect our members: shortages of internships in Industry; not enough support for Postgraduate Taught students and a lack of information about the transition from PhD to industry.

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As well as this, due to the presence of BIS Director General, Adrian Smith, I was able to emphasise an area of personal concern – the charging of interest on student debt during PhD study.

ICT Student Experience Board

Over the past 6 months I have given two talks to ICT Staff: one to senior management the other to all staff. It appears that this interaction has been beneficial and it encouraged members of the ICT's Student Experience Board to undertake a radical change in its structure. They have decided to add two Sabbaticals to the committee as well as the Membership Services Manager. However, the most interesting change is potentially a College-first: the chair of this College Committee shall be the ICU President.

Bursary Survey

The Bursary Survey was completed with a staggering 52% participation. The results have been circulated to the Fees, Financial Aid and Access Agreement Working Group and the recommendations will have been blogged about before this meeting.

Periodic Review

I was part of the Review Panel for the Periodic Review of the Faculty of Medicine BSc Year's Optional Courses. This is only the second time a Sabbatical has performed one of these, with the DPE doing the first.

It was a very useful exercise and is a sign of a positive move by the College to include us in such activities

Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Awards

The Union is proud that our nomination of the Library for the THELMAs has been shortlisted. We felt there was nothing more fitting than to nominate the library for this award in light of their year-on-year success in the NSS, the low-level of fees given to students, the 24-hour opening, their campaign against journal fee rises and much more.

Council Report Appendix

Date	Location	Title	Discussion
Mon 13th February	College	Monthly Meeting with Julia Buckingham	
Tue 14 th	College	Meeting with Andrew George	PG Representation, Clayponds
Wed 15 th	College	Health, Safety and Environment Committee	
Thur 16 th	Union	Executive Committee	Budgets
	College	GSA PG Forum	Clayponds and the Holland Club
Fri 17 th	College	ICT Presentation	
Mon 20 th	College	Monthly meeting with Rector	
	Kings College	Launch of Mayoral Manifesto	
Wed 22 nd	College	Senate	
Thur 23 rd	College	DUGs Lunch	
	Union	RWB Budgeting	
Mon 27 th	Union	Meeting about PRES	
	Union	CSB Budgeting	
Tue 28 th	College	Risk and Disaster Recovery Steering Committee	
Thur 1st March	Union	Exec Budgeting	
Fri 2 nd	Zurich	ETH SU 150th	
Mon 5 th	College	Meeting with Muir Sanderson	Summer Ball financing

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	College	ICSM Project Meeting	
	College	Visit to Alumni Telethon	
Tue 6 th	Union	Trustee Board	
Thur 8 th	College	Meeting with Maggie Dallman	
Tue 13 th	College	Risk Committee	Presented paper about the Potential Risk to the College if the Expectation of Students is not met.
	College	Holland Club Task Force	First meeting
	College	Meeting with Julia Buckingham	
	College	Meeting with Stephen Richardson	
	College	Imperial Business Partnership Dinner and Debate	Discussion about student finance and the effect it may have on Industry.
Thurs 15 th	College	Strategic Education Committee	
	College	Presentation to Comms	Talk about the year so far, lessons learned, etc.
	ICSMSU	Emergency Executive Committee Meeting	
Fri 16 th	Union	Meeting with the New College Secretary	
Mon 19 th	College	Holland Club Task Force	Tour of Holland Club spaces
Tue 20 th	College	Student Surveying Working Group	
Wed 21 st	College	ICT: Student Experience Board	Discussed the new structure of the Student Experience Board
	College	Meeting with Denis Wright	
	College	Equality and Diversity Committee	
Thurs 22 nd	College	Meeting with the Rector	
	Union	Executive Committee	
Mon 26 th	College	Fees, Financial Aid and Access Agreement Working Group	The bursary survey results and recommendations relating to this.
	College	Undergraduate Co-Curricular Committee	
Tue 27 th	College	Periodic Review of the Department of Medicine	
Wed 28 th	College	Meeting with Company about the Appointment of the new Rector and Provost	Spoke with Headhunting company about what the Union/Students expect from the Rector and Provost roles
	College	Meeting with Jenny Higham	Financial support for GradMed students; NSS
	College	Holland Club Task Force	
	College	Symposium on Induction Programmes for Teaching and Learning	
Thurs 29 th	College	Scholarship Panel	
Fri 30 th	Science Museum	General Meeting Away Day	

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Monday 2nd April – Wednesday 11th: 4 days holiday and College Closure Time			
Thurs 12 th – Saturday 14th	Glasgow	Aldwych Conference	
Mon 16 th	College	Olympic Strategy Committee	
	College	Meeting with Stephen Richardson	
Tues 17 th	College	Meeting with Sam Roseveare	Potential models for the bursaries in 2013-14
Wed 18 th	Union	Budget Presentations	1 Day of budget presentations from the departments of the Union
Thurs 19 th	College	SRASOC	
	College	Meeting with Julia Buckingham	
Mon 23 rd	College	Meeting with Stephen Richardson, Jane Neary and Nick Roalf	Summer Ball
Tue 24 th	College	Meeting with Library	Away Day
Wed 25 th	College	Meeting with Jeff Magee	
Thurs 26 th	College	Meeting with Simon Buckle	

	54.6%	62.8%	8.3%	23.9%	16.9%	-7.0%	16.1%	19.4%	3.3%	25.7%
	47.1%	63.3%	16.2%	18.5%	21.9%	3.4%	16.1%	23.6%	7.5%	24.9%
	42.7%	50.7%	8.0%	33.6%	18.5%	-15.1%	21.2%	29.1%	7.9%	21.6%
	59.5%	72.0%	12.5%	41.7%	59.3%	17.6%	24.1%	24.1%	0.0%	18.6%
	42.8%	50.5%	7.7%	17.1%	8.1%	-9.0%	26.5%	27.7%	1.2%	25.1%
	n/a	n/a		11.1%	0.0%	-11.1%	n/a	n/a		0.0%
Total Engineering	46.1%	58.8%	12.7%	17.3%	19.6%	2.3%	20.7%	25.6%	4.9%	22.9%
	n/a	n/a		17.8%	22.9%	5.1%	15.7%	26.1%	10.4%	3.3%
	53.9%	65.6%	11.7%	15.6%	23.9%	8.3%	17.5%	29.0%	11.5%	26.5%
	53.3%	63.8%	10.5%	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		46.7%
	42.2%	51.1%	8.9%	10.5%	18.9%	8.5%	14.5%	16.7%	2.2%	21.7%
	57.4%	59.2%	1.9%	26.5%	29.5%	3.0%	19.6%	25.3%	5.7%	36.5%
	n/a	n/a		23.2%	n/a		21.0%	n/a		8.1%
	n/a	n/a		34.6%	27.6%	-7.0%	20.4%	21.1%	0.7%	8.5%
	n/a	n/a		n/a	20.8%		n/a	14.5%		n/a
	n/a	n/a		23.1%	21.4%	-1.6%	31.1%	20.0%	-11.1%	7.4%
Total Science	51.8%	59.7%	7.9%	20.5%	23.3%	2.8%	19.0%	23.2%	4.2%	29.6%
	n/a	n/a		9.5%	9.5%	0.0%	6.8%	15.4%	8.6%	7.9%
	n/a	n/a		8.0%	11.7%	3.7%	9.5%	12.6%	3.0%	4.2%
	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		13.3%	12.3%	-0.9%	0.0%
	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		0.117647	n/a		6.8%
	n/a	100.0%		1.3%	7.5%	6.2%	8.6%	19.4%	10.8%	4.0%
	34.4%	53.8%	19.4%	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		26.8%
	n/a	n/a		8.6%	12.3%	3.7%	11.7%	27.0%	15.3%	9.6%
Total Medicine	34.4%	53.8%	19.4%	7.8%	10.3%	2.5%	9.0%	16.4%	7.4%	18.1%
	n/a	n/a		5.0%	9.5%	4.5%	n/a	n/a		0.0%
	n/a	n/a		17.0%	27.5%	10.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.7%
	n/a	n/a		8.7%	7.1%	-1.6%	7.4%	5.3%	-2.1%	5.9%
	n/a	n/a		100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	n/a	n/a		100.0%
Total Others	n/a	n/a		10.4%	9.9%	-0.5%	5.7%	3.8%	-1.9%	6.4%
GRAND TOTAL	45.2%	57.9%	12.7%	14.2%	15.8%	1.6%	16.3%	21.7%	5.4%	22.8%