

Council
1st May 2012

Imperial College Union
Council Report
By Monya Zard, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Clubs, Societies & Projects Budgeting

All budgeting is now complete. Exec and RWB budgeting were very smooth, but as with every year CSB budgeting is always a tough meeting. Having been in the MG Position for two years I know exactly how upsetting it can be to take cuts to your budget and I want to congratulate all Officers in the meeting for conducting themselves well throughout. Michael and I will be preparing a debrief document for next year's Sabbaticals on what went well and what could be improved.

eActivities

A large-scale review of eActivities is currently taking place, looking at all aspects from usability to the actual processes in place for Club, Society & Project finance. The revisions being made should make eActivities a lot more streamlined and we are working to tight deadlines to ensure things are in place for next year's club Officers.

We are currently revisiting the way we train Club Officers and I have spent (and will be spending) considerable time rewriting the training materials for all aspects of being a Club Officer. There will also be step-by-step instructions on each page within eActivities, and many other small changes which should give a whole different feel to the site. The changes are heavily based on feedback from the eActivities User Group to which I would direct anyone with an interest in improving the systems in place.

PG Activities Survey

In an effort to identify reasons for lower PG engagement with Clubs, Societies & Projects and identify what steps we can take to begin to change this, a survey has been sent out to all PG students in College. The survey is now complete and had over 500 participants. We have analysed the data to pick up on differences between campuses, year of study, whether they did an UG degree at Imperial and other factors.

In order to find out what clubs already run over the Summer Term and UG Summer Holidays (historically a 'down time' for activities), all PG Club Officers have been sent some detailed questions about provision. All Club Officers have been sent broader questions about what they run over the Summer. These responses have also been collated.

Based on the results from both PGs, Clubs, and on consultation with the GSA we are putting together a programme of the events and sessions taking place over the summer. We will be making sure that everything goes onto the What's On calendar as well as creating a microsite where the activities will be grouped. This should allow us to target marketing towards those students still here over the summer. Hopefully the end result of this exercise will be a comprehensive range of activities operating all year, which are friendly to both PG and UG students.

Council
1st May 2012

Imperial Festival

Planning for this is on-going and it looks like several of our Clubs & Societies will be involved in the event when it takes place on 11th&12th May.

Mountain Hut Charges & Sport Imperial Funding

Earlier in the year, Sport Imperial raised in a Sports Partnership Meeting that they wished to begin charging for the use of the Snowdonia Mountain Hut, a hut donated to St Marys before it became part of Imperial, and historically free for students to use. Sport Imperial's main purpose for charging for the hut was to reduce cancellations.

Despite looking for original terms of donation from various sources I was unable to find them. However after a meeting with Sport Imperial where club's concerns were discussed, it was agreed that clubs would fill in a 'Club Development Plan', setting goals for the year. Once assessed by Sport Imperial and the RCC Chair, the club will be awarded a certain number of 'free uses' a year. While this system will not allow for clubs which do not use it as part of their core activities to have free access, it does at least protect the clubs which use it most frequently throughout the year.

The RCC Chair and I have been working on the form, which is now in its final stages of revision by Sport Imperial and should be ready to be sent out soon. This includes the method for application to use the Mountain Hut.

RAG/Rector's Scholarship Fund Event

Historically, RAG has run Slave Auctions in order to raise money for charity. While we haven't encountered any problems so far, other institutions have felt the negative reputational effects these can have if not managed properly. In order to re-launch the concept we have decided to run a people auction in May/June.

We will approach not only students but lecturers in College and ask them to pledge themselves for a task (eg a dinner, a squash match or anything else)- this gives them the option to limit what they can be asked to do to within their comfort zone. We have chosen to work with Sam Bell to raise money for the Rector's Scholarship Fund for this year- this gives us the advantage of guaranteed support within the College and a much better chance of getting a wide range of staff and students involved. If successful, we hope the event can become annual and grow in scale.

Sponsorship Training and Speed-Dating

Last term we ran two Sponsorship Training sessions for Club Officers, advertised to all clubs but with an aim to help those who have never received sponsorship in particular. They differed from the training already available online and asked clubs to consider different angles when applying for sponsorship. The format was a presentation with interactive tasks. The sessions were booked out and the feedback was incredibly positive. We are looking at running more sessions this term to mop up any attendees who wanted to come but were on the waiting list.

Sponsorship Speed-Dating is however not going so well. The Careers Service have only received four registrations of interest from companies in attending such an event (compared to 14 last year), this is believed to be due to the Olympics mopping up much of the sponsorship from large companies in advance this year. I am currently discussing with Careers whether the event is worth pursuing in this format.

Council
1st May 2012

BUCS update

We are inviting Karen Rothery, the CEO of BUCS, to a meeting to put forward our views and opposition to the proposed changes taking place in BUCS with respect to Medic/non-Medic teams. I will update Council on this after the event. We also must wait until the BUCS National Advisory Board meeting in May to find out about the proposed changes to the London Region and the inclusion of more institutions. A paper is being put forward which voices the collective London institutions' opposition to expanding the region.

Arts Imperial Social Media

After the termly meeting of the Arts Imperial Board, the need for better and more cohesive promotion of the arts on campus became apparent. After a meeting with interested parties we have come up with a strategy to promote the arts societies and this will be written into a paper so a student can be charged with raising the profile of the arts at Imperial in return for a small annual stipend.

Fusion

As you may be aware, Fusion @ London took place on the 26th & 27th February. While the accounts are still being consolidated and a final balance readied it is clear that the event has made a loss. Every effort was made by the Fusion team and the Union to ensure the event was a success, but poor ticket sales let it down. The DPFS and I are preparing document on the causes for the loss, the outcome of which may result in changes to the approval process for such large events to ensure the situation does not happen again.

Leave

I took 9 days of annual leave between 7th April and 22nd April.