

Imperial College Union  
**Deputy President (Finance & Services) Council Report**  
*A note by the DPFS – Michael Foster*

**Summer Ball**

The Summer Ball is on Saturday 23 June. Tickets are selling well. There is a final price hike this Friday, when Entertainments tickets will rise to £40. The full line-up has been released, and includes Pendulum, Ms Dynamite and Monsta.

The formal dinner has been cancelled, due to insufficient demand. It was put on in response to student feedback after the last ball, but not enough students bought tickets to make it viable. The dinner was at the lowest price available with College catering, and the deadline date was mutually agreed. Students have voted with their feet, so we will not be running the dinner. The cancellation will not have an impact on the financial success of the ball, as we were essentially selling the tickets at cost price (i.e. there is no loss of profit).

**Union Draught Supply**

The Commercial Services Manager and I have been in talks with a range of brewers and draught beer suppliers in order to renegotiate our draught beer supply. We have spoken with eight different companies, and have now put a short-list together. We hope to make a decision by the end of this week.

**Head of Finance**

The recruitment process for our new Head of Finance has now finished. We are delighted to welcome Malcolm Martin to the role, who will be starting on Monday 11 June.

**Club, Society & Project Officer Training**

We have carried out a full refresh of the training materials for CSP officers, including re-organisation of the material into different handbooks, updating the information to reflect our new systems, and changing the training quiz questions. These are pretty much ready, and will be distributed to incoming CSP officers so that they might prepare for the year to come.

**eActivities User Groups**

Since last we met, there have been two meetings of the eActivities User Group. The first was to feed back on the responses gathered in the previous meeting, and to garner more input. We reported on changes that had been made to eActivities in response to their suggestions, and these were warmly received.

The second session invited the user group to test the eActivities redesign, which is set to launch soon. The feedback was very helpful, and will be incorporated into the final product.

## **Manifesto Points**

### Cashless Bar and Shop Payments

There is currently a tendering process underway to change our till software and hardware. However, we are not looking at implementing a cashless payment system. Earlier this year, College found in a feasibility study that cashless was not viable, and suppliers that provide cashless systems have advised us that it's not worth the effort. Had College moved to implement cashless, the argument for us to follow suit would have been much stronger, as it would have meant that students would not have needed to carry cash anywhere on campus. Without them, however, we would have an isolated system, which is set to fade away in future.

However, we are considering a move to contactless payments, examples of which include Visa payWave and other near-field communication technology. More cards will have this technology implemented in the near future, and would fulfill many and more of the benefits associated with cashless payments.

### Reformed Online Union Finances

More Union finances have gone online this year, with great success. There are still some issues that are being dealt with, and we are by no means at the end of the process. However, we have made leaps and bounds of progress. A lot of work has gone into this project from various members of staff, and it has changed things infinitely for the better.

### More Postgraduate Events

The GSA should take the credit for this, increasing PG participation in Union events and having more of their own. The PG Mingle in October was very well attended, and the GSA has put on more of their own events, including screenings of the PhD movie and GSA's Got Talent.

### Better Service in Metric and FiveSixEight

It is always difficult to ensure you always have a full bar team when the bulk of your workforce are students, who have more important academic commitments. However, we have identified other aspects of the service at the bars that can be easily improved, including the speed of pouring pints. Our pouring times are much slower than they ought to be, and we are currently in talks to have our systems repaired or upgraded – these talks are wrapped up in the draught supply negotiations.

## **Additional Pledges**

### Bar Prices

At the beginning of the year, the acting Commercial Services Manager and I set the bar prices, taking into account price increases and target gross-profit margins. I fought to keep the price rise on our basic lager and bitter at a 20p rather than 30p increase. We also set drinks deals for Metric on Wednesday and Friday nights.

It would be amiss if I didn't mention bar nights here. The price of alcohol to clubs did rise significantly, but it was a necessary rise. We had to reverse the downward trend of our commercial services, which we have done this year.

Support for the Reynolds Bar

The Reynolds has had a banner year. Great management of the bar at all levels has it in its strongest position for years. As things stand, they are posting a significant surplus year-to-date, and all signs indicate that it will beat its budget and forecast significantly.

Increase College Subvention

The President has lead on this area, and will have more to say about it. However, we have had confirmation that our subvention will rise by at least £100k, the first increase we've had since 2008.

Organise a Great Summer Ball

Not that I wish to jinx an event that hasn't happened yet, but I'm looking forward to what looks set to be a great event. Buy your tickets now!