

## **Council Report**

*A note by Union President – Paul Beaumont*

### **New Code of Practice & Relationship Agreement**

Further to a paper on this agenda, I have been working on a new Code of Practice and Relationship Agreement with the College. This formalises many of the things that go on between the College and Union, and also introduces a fair process for allocation of future space (particularly important for Imperial West) and commercial outlets (ie, to change the Holland Bar bidding process). This has been passed by the Union Trustee Board already and is going to Management Board shortly before College Council.

### **Funding discussions**

As part of the CoP and Relationship Agreement, I've been in discussion over a financial package for the Union's next 3 years. Each year the Union is never sure how much money the College will give in a subvention; this change to a three year agreement, which will hopefully be agreed in mid-March at College budgeting will give the Union financial stability for the next 3 years, and allow us to plan ahead sensibly.

### **Charing Cross discussions**

A pot of money in the region of £250k is being discussed to improve the ground floor of the Reynolds building. The hope is that the space may be improved with better café and bar provisions for students on the campus and in the local area. An activities space to make more room for clubs and societies is also hoped for.

### **Summer Ball draft budgets**

Draft budgets for the Summer Ball have gone to the Executive Committee, and will be formalised before going back for final approval. The aim is to marginally increase capacity for the ball on last year, and to break even again. More plans will be available in the near future, but the Exec were all in rough agreement about the format and plans presented in draft.

### **New Survey System**

I have been trialling the College's new Survey System that was requested by the Union at the beginning of this year. The system will hopefully eventually replace SOLE, TOLE, POLE etc, as well as being a platform for all other College wide surveys. The system is able to reduce the number of questions asked of students by already holding data such as gender/department/year of study. So far – a success...

### **Bursary & Financial Support 2013**

...the survey I've been piloting the system on is the ICU Bursary & Financial Support survey. This is an annual survey that then supports the College's annual Access agreement. I will present the results to the College's OFFA, Fees and Financial Aid working group, who will determine how College distributes its support packages (ie, accommodation fee waivers, food, travel vouchers etc). Fill it in!

### **Meetings re International Fees**

Further to last Union Council's paper on International Fees, I discussed the matter with the Pro Rector (Education), Deputy Rector and College Secretary, all of whom are in principle behind the proposal of releasing a planned schedule of fees in advance. I have a further meeting with the Director of Strategic Planning on Thursday 14 February to discuss this further.

### **Translation Studies Unit**

The Translation Studies Unit is in a consultation process for moving to a different University. I have had meetings with the Deputy Rector to discuss this and he has confirmed that no current students at Imperial will be at risk or disadvantaged by the changes. I have had further conversations with the Rep (Emmanouela) and have helped her organise her petition in the JCR and Sherfield Foyer area. The paper whether the Council supports the motion or not is in the agenda.

### **Live Below the Line**

Students and staff in Hammersmith are looking to expand their 'live below the line' campaign into South Kensington and other campuses this year. I have organised meetings with the Head of Catering to try organise this: an initiative where people try live on £1 worth of food a day.

### **Silwood Student Experience Forum**

I drove the Imperial delegation to the Silwood Student Experience Forum where we met with students and staff based at the campus about facilities and changes that could be made to improve the student experience at the campus. Commercial Services, the Dean of Students, Director of Recruitment and the Director of the Graduate Schools all attended. Points were raised on accommodation, provision of a car-share (or vehicle of some sort – perhaps not the originally proposed second minibus) and provision of PGR development courses. I was careful to make sure that the maximum accommodation fee students at Silwood could afford was noted.

### **Richmond Spring Fair**

I attended the Richmond Spring Fair with a view to increasing participation of their students in the Union's activities. Hopefully this will mean increased participation in clubs and societies from associate members at Richmond.

### **Subwarden Interviews**

I have been on the appointments panel for a subwarden position in Alban Hall.

### **Save the Children & iNight**

I have been on the judging panel for the RAG Save the Children 'Imperial's Got Talent' event in Metric, and iNight in the Great Hall – Imperial really does have talent!

### **UCAS Applicants**

Historically, the College quite often is the 'insurance' offer or is declined by UCAS applicants (due to the high number of students applying for other incredibly competitive universities). I have sent an email to all 3,800 students who have been given an offer to study at Imperial telling them about the student experience, clubs, societies, bars, representation, welfare advice and life at the university. I wish to expand on this in the next few months with an alternative prospectus, applytoimperial.com