

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Finance & Services) Council Report
A note by the DPFS – Kieron Creagh

Handover

This year handover began halfway through July and lasted only 2 weeks, in the past it has been a month. I arranged some time with my predecessor, Stefan Nubert, before this and found it incredibly useful. During handover we had a lot of in-house training, whilst I found this to be incredibly useful some of it could have been organised for August and I feel a little more time to work alongside the outgoing Sabbatical team would have been beneficial.

Imperial Plus Scheme – imperialcollegeunion.org/imperialplus

This year marks the launch of our volunteer recognition scheme Imperial Plus. With over 3000 volunteers it was felt we required a way to acknowledge the work they do and provide them with a way to identify and further improve on the skills they develop. Our Student Development Manager Nick Snow has done a fantastic job of developing the scheme and I've had the advantage of providing some input and support just as the scheme is launched. I hope to remain involved in the scheme and will provide updates on the uptake and feedback we receive from students. All the details for the scheme can be found on the website.

We Are Metric – imperialcollegeunion.org/wam

The We Are Metric application process has now been changed to an online form, this should make it much easier for CSPs to put their applications in. We have taken away absolute deadlines and applications can be made for any time of the year. The way we charge CSPs to run WAM events has also changed, we calculate the cost of running the event and set this as the minimum spend on Food & Drink, the CSP is only charged the difference if they do not reach the minimum spend. It is my hope that these changes will increase the number of applications we receive so that we can maximise the Metric space and run more CSP led events. As of 02/10/13 we have received 7 applications, up on the 3 we had received the same time last year.

Bar & Ents Update

There have been various changes in the staffing of the Unions venues recently and also many changes in them themselves, below is a list of notable points:

- The arrival of the new Venue Manager, Paul Gallagher
- New screens behind the bar to advertise deals, events etc
- New drinks deals
- New homemade burgers
- A wireless card machine trial

I will discuss the impact of these changes in my next report and will also seek feedback from Staff and Students.

Casual Staff Recruitment

At the start of September we opened up online applications for casual bar stewards ready for interviews and training the week before the start of term. We received 100 online applications, down from last year, and recruited around 20 new members of staff to our team. There are currently no plans for another round of recruitment however should it become apparent that we require more staff that is of course the route we will take.

We have also opened up applications for a new Casual Shift Leader position; my next report will include details on how that's going.

Welcome Week

This year the term officially started on Saturday 28th September and was marked by the arrival of over 5500 new students, of which around 2000 moved into undergraduate halls. A member of the Sabbatical team visited every hall on the day to help out; I made it to the re-opening Wilson and Pembroke, spoke to some of the wardening team and gave a hand to the #helloicu crew answering questions from Students and Parents.

Saturday and Sunday night saw the two Mingles, we reached capacity on the Saturday (~1200) and saw a further 700 students on the Sunday night which included many students who attended both. The new drinks deals proved incredibly popular and we slightly exceeded our budget on both nights. Feedback was positive and I'm looking forward to the remaining events.

Club Finances

The non-formal 'SGI Group' has developed into the Clubs, Societies & Projects Finance Group. Continuing to meet monthly and when required, the purpose of this group is to highlight any financial problems related to CSPs and assign a Sabbatical or a member of staff to fix this problem. The group contains the DPFS, DPCS and a cross-department group of staff all who are somewhat involved with CSP finances.

Sponsorship Contracts

I have spent a lot of time recently reading and signing Sponsorship Contracts, these provide our CSP with a fantastic revenue stream and are crucial to the running of many events. We provide a template online that allows clubs to quickly draw up a contract once terms have been agreed. It has become clear during this process that the guidance around Sponsorship is too vague and I will be updating the training manual before Christmas.

Associate Members

There are a number of institutions located in South Ken whose members are either purchase or are encouraged to purchase Associate Membership to ICU. Upon doing so they are able to use the services we provide and join our CSPs. This provides us with a valuable source of income and diversifies our membership. I believe this relationship is mutually beneficial and I will be working on ways to engage with these members more throughout the year and we already plan to invite them to some of the Union trips throughout the year.

Leave

I was on leave on the 29th July and 23rd August