

Council  
14 January 2014

## Imperial College Union

### Council Report

By Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Yas Edwards

#### **Give It A Go**

This ran for the first time in October and gained some positive feedback from clubs involved. It is running again in January 2014. Booklets will be produced with a calendar of events and student groups will have stalls in the JCR at lunchtimes throughout the first two weeks of term. More information can be found here: <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/give-it-go> with an up to date calendar of activities on the What's On page of the union website.

I will again be collecting feedback from student groups and individuals involved, to ensure this type of scheme is as effective as it can be. The aim is to advertise Clubs, Societies & Projects and encourage people to try new things so engagement and involvement stays high throughout the year. This will also be advertised to the Royal College of Music, the Royal College of Art and visiting American colleges who can all become members of a Club, Society or Project if they become an Associate member of the union.

#### **Budgeting Policy**

A new budgeting policy for Clubs, Societies & Projects was passed at the Clubs, Societies & Projects Board on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013. This will begin this year with budgeting opening on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January for union groups to apply for funding for their activities. We hope the new policy and process is more positive, building up rather than making cuts, less wasteful, and allows for development of clubs and activities. The policy can be found here:

[https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/13-14/Clubs%2C Societies %26 Projects Board/file/2273](https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/13-14/Clubs%2C%20Societies%26%20Projects%20Board/file/2273).

#### **Hyde Park Consultation**

On December 19<sup>th</sup> 2013 the following email was sent to some of those who submitted a consultation questionnaire about the Hyde Park Old Football Pitches:

*The Royal Parks Executive Committee has provided direction on the continuing process of consultation about the future management of the Old Football Pitches at Hyde Park. After consideration of feedback from the process initiated in September 2013, the next steps are that TRP will set out its proposal for the future management of the pitches and consult with user groups and the wider public in the New Year on that proposal. Once consultation is completed an executive decision will be made by Spring 2014.*

*We will contact you again when we publish the next stage of our consultation process.*

The Imperial College Union members' questionnaires were hand delivered by myself with a covering letter encompassing the Union's opinion on this after a paper was approved at Union Council earlier this academic year. My covering letter was not acknowledged, nor was I contacted in a personal capacity, having filled in a questionnaire myself.

With still no response, I emailed Marcus Coatsworth who sent the email and works in stakeholder and marketing relations for the Royal Parks. I also copied in the CEO of the Royal Parks and the Chair of the Royal Parks Board. The response to this stated he would look into this for me and respond.

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I hope the further information from this is positive and allows us to have involvement and put pressure on the decision makers before spring. We will be increasing the pressure if they provide no further information on this or they are unwilling to work with us and hear Imperial College Union's opinions. Potential methods include campaigning, political lobbying and agreeing a joint statement with the College to add impact.

### **Beit Redevelopment**

Following meetings between media group users, members of union staff involved and college staff, changes were made by the architect to the overall layout. These are progressing into the final stages of the design for the space in the East basement which will be redeveloped.

There is not update following meetings with Media users and union staff about the equipment which will go into the space apart from changes that were made to the main plans regarding built in equipment.

### **Associate Members**

The other sabbatical officers and I attended three associate member events from American Colleges. Two of these took the forms of information fairs and one a talk. They can all become associate members for a monthly or annual fee, allowing them access to our bars and they are able join our Clubs, Societies & Projects. Some are already associate members through their college which bulk buys membership and others were informed of the benefits they could gain by becoming an associate member. Associate members are a great pool of new people for Clubs, Societies & Projects to attract to their events, activities and potentially become members. Give It A Go was highlighted as a good opportunity to go to an event before having bought membership, and clubs can still add their events as a Give It A Go event to the What's On event via eActivities.