

Imperial College Union
Council Report
By Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Yas Edwards

Student Volunteering Week

Student volunteering week was a national week at the end of February which promoted and celebrated student volunteering. The Union including myself and Imperial hub worked with students to put on a number of events throughout the week. We also launched Community Connections, which is ICU's volunteering scheme with mass volunteering opportunities and ongoing opportunities available to students in the local community. We also used the week to promote Imperial Plus and got an increase in students registered for both the accreditation and certificate.

Global Awareness Week

We ran global awareness week for the first time this year, supporting and advertising events such as promotional stalls for OSC groups, an international short film night and culminating with I-night held on March 6th. I attended this event as a judge and enjoyed the many clubs and societies that took part and performed at the event. We hope to increase the activities and events on offer in the week next year.

Outreach Strategy

We are about to publish our outreach strategy, aiming to improve the student community at campuses other than South Kensington. As outreach was added to my remit last year, I have been working with the staff on this. I have visited Silwood four times this year and we recently sent the first specific email to the students there, including amongst other messages events near to them, and encouraging them to partake in Clubs and Societies tours. We plan to extend this to the other campuses also over the coming months.

RCA and RCM

David, Anthony Crowther and I, the Student Activities Manager have been meeting with student officers from the Royal College of Art and Royal College of Music to improve the relationships between the three institutions. Imperial College Union has a lot to offer students from these institutions and they can become associate members and join any of our CSPs. In the most recent meeting we discussed Artifact, upcoming events, student engagement and national surveys.

Budgeting

Annual budgeting is currently ongoing after committing to a third Clubs, Societies & Projects Board meeting which will be held next Tuesday, on March 18th. The process is new for this year and has so far bought up some interesting conversation and debate and received some feedback with regards to the atmosphere of the meeting and fairness for all clubs. We already have some ideas for proposed alterations to the process for next year and will be taking feedback after the process from those involved with the aim of continued improvement.

Tours

Applications for spring tours were considered at CSPB. Those applications that were accepted required tour budgets which were submitted. From these we allocated the tour money from the IC trust to 39.88% of the transport costs of students. As always, we will be requiring tour reports from all the groups who have received funding in any tour period. We will be opening Summer tour applications shortly and I will notify all club officers of the dates of these.

Training Manuals

We are in the process of reviewing all of the training manuals and updating them in time for volunteers who will take up office in August and I have been involved in reviewing 17 of these. Included in these training manual reviews will be changes in the event budget process and annual budgeting amongst others. We will also be writing some useful pages to go at the front of the manual containing common questions and answers or key facts contained within the manual.

BUCS Regional Meeting

I attended the British University & Colleges Sport London regional meeting at UCL on Thursday 20th February. We had an update on competitions, national fitness initiatives and the sport activation fund which Sport Imperial is applying to. I will be working with the sport administration coordinator to contribute to this process to increase the availability and range of sports available to all groups of students.

FIE Conference 2015

David and I met with members of staff from the Federation for International Education who have American students visit London for a semester and can become associate members of ICU. I have worked with them previously this year, giving talks and welcoming their students. They are holding their second conference on the topic of leadership in March 2015 and wish to continue the partnership they have with ICU for this event. We have put some plans in place for this to continue when our term of office is over.