

CSP Funding 17/18 Proposal

At Imperial College Union we boast the largest number of clubs & societies in the UK (currently at 373). However, over the years the increase of student-led activity and its associated cost has not been matched by a proportional increase in direct financial support.

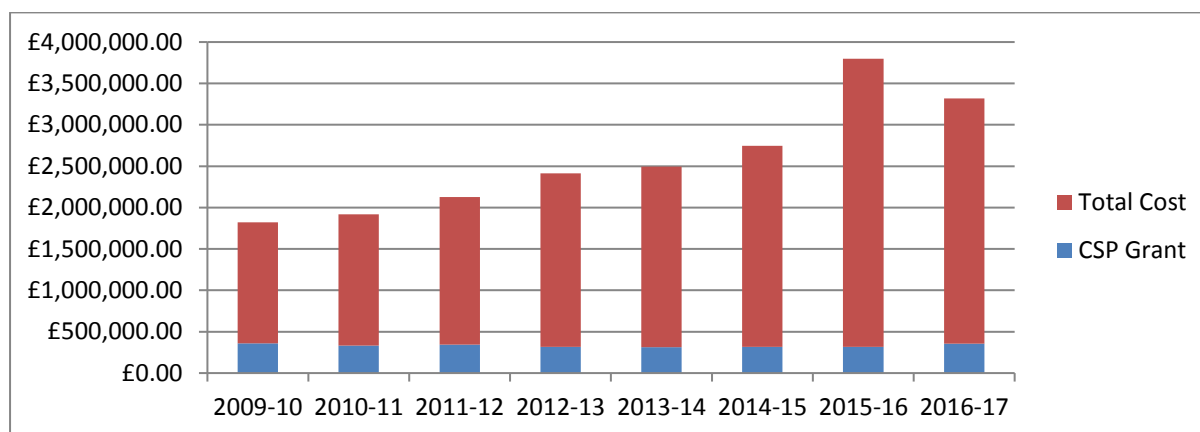


Figure 1: A graph of total cost of CSP activity as inputted into annual budgets vs. absolute annual CSP grant since 2009

Historic Context

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In the last strategic plan, the commitment was to build financial reserves and develop other services in the union such as student development and the advice centre. As a result of this, the union is in a much financially stronger position; we have gained respect from College as a result of the last strategic plan.

History of CSP Funding

CSPs remain our number one engagement with our members (59.8% of the whole student body is in a club, society or project), with 27,801 memberships last year from a student body of ~17,000 students (15,844 of these were paid memberships). CSP Grant had been maintained in approximate absolute value from 2010, not accounting for inflation (Figure 2). It is important to note that over this time, the budget freeze allowed for successful completion of the last strategic plan.

In the absence of sponsorship, clubs must increase membership cost to avoid falling into debt in their accounts. As costs have increased without increased support from the union, this has happened with significant costs being pushed onto membership income and other profit-making activities (Figure 3). This could be argued that an increase in activity could warrant an increase in membership cost as the member is getting more from the society, but there is no way to blanket that suggestion across 373 CSPs.

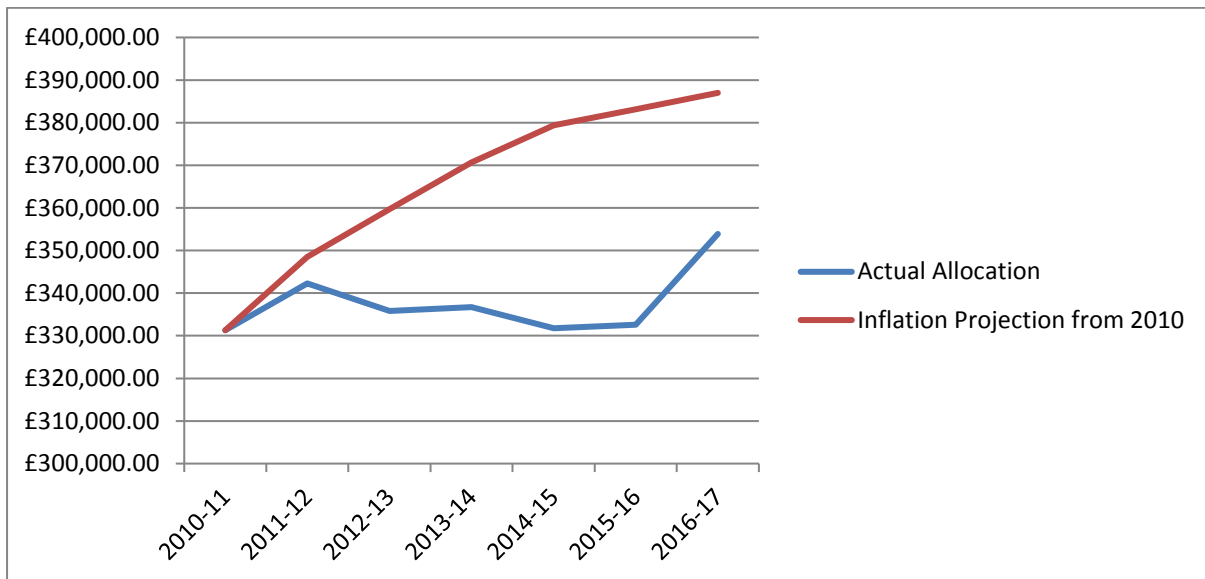


Figure 2: A graph of CSP Grant value vs. an inflation projection of CSP grant, beginning in 2010.

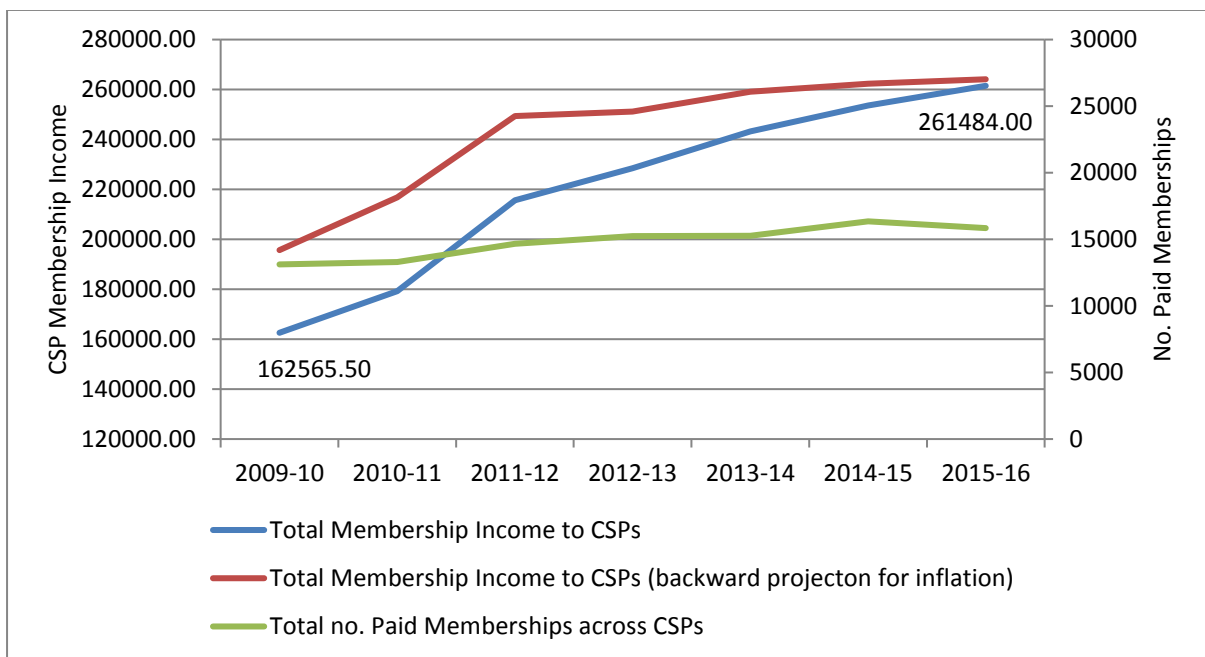


Figure 3: A graph of total paid memberships across all CSPs vs. total income to CSPs as a result of paid membership (over time)

Student Mandate

There is a clear mandate to increase CSP funding:

Freshers' Fair Consultation

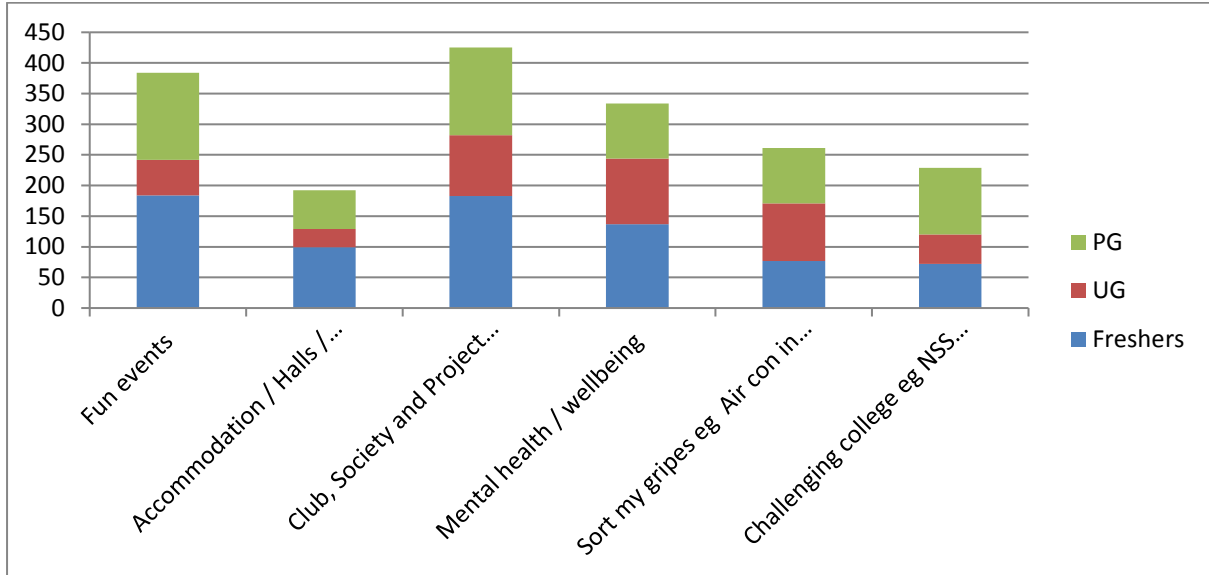
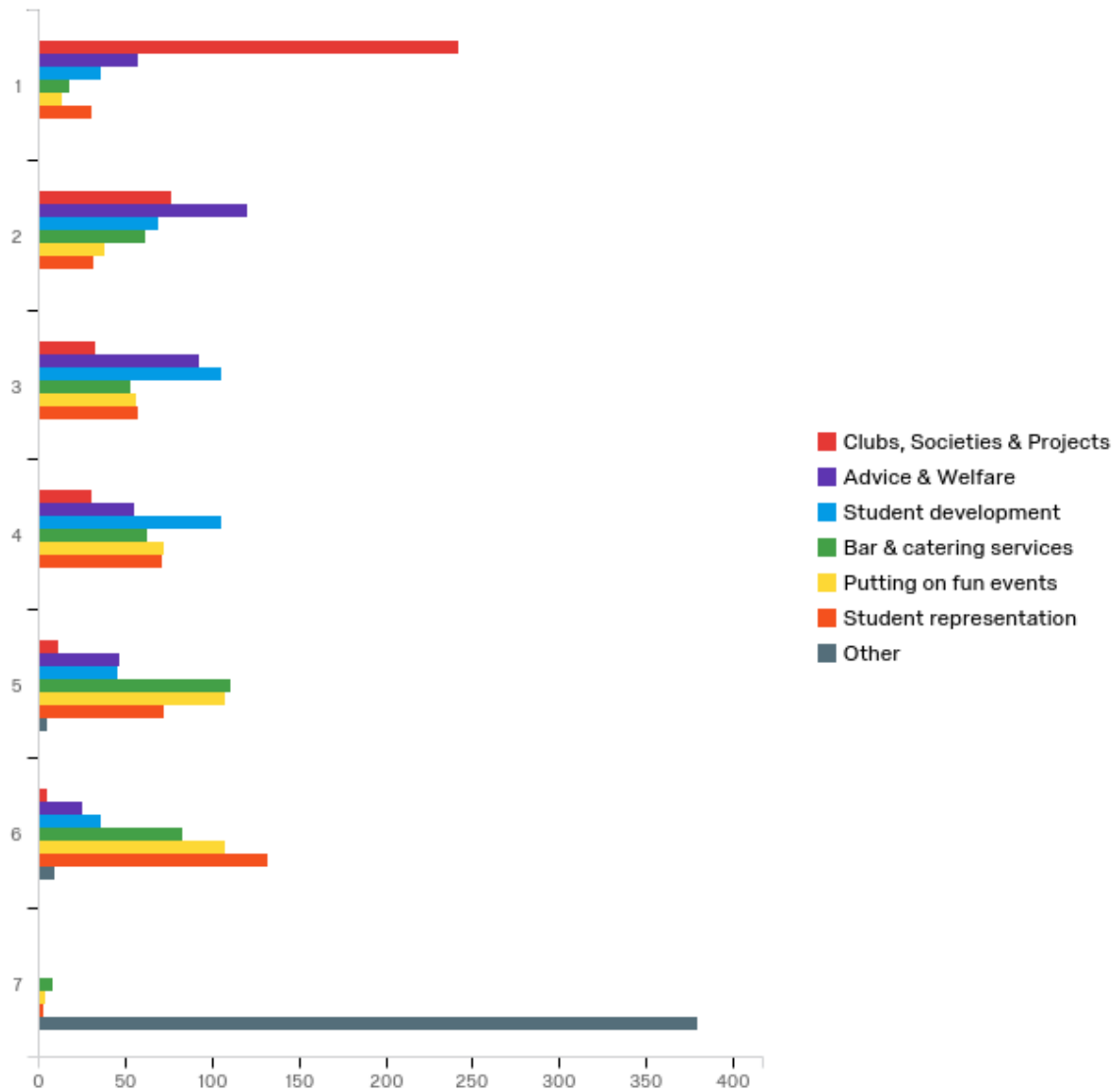


Figure 1: The results of the consultation at Freshers' Fair. Students were given 3 counters and asked "Out of these 6 issues, which 3 matter to you most. You can put more than one counter in any pot if you wish". The data was gathered in such a way to split PG, UG and freshers.

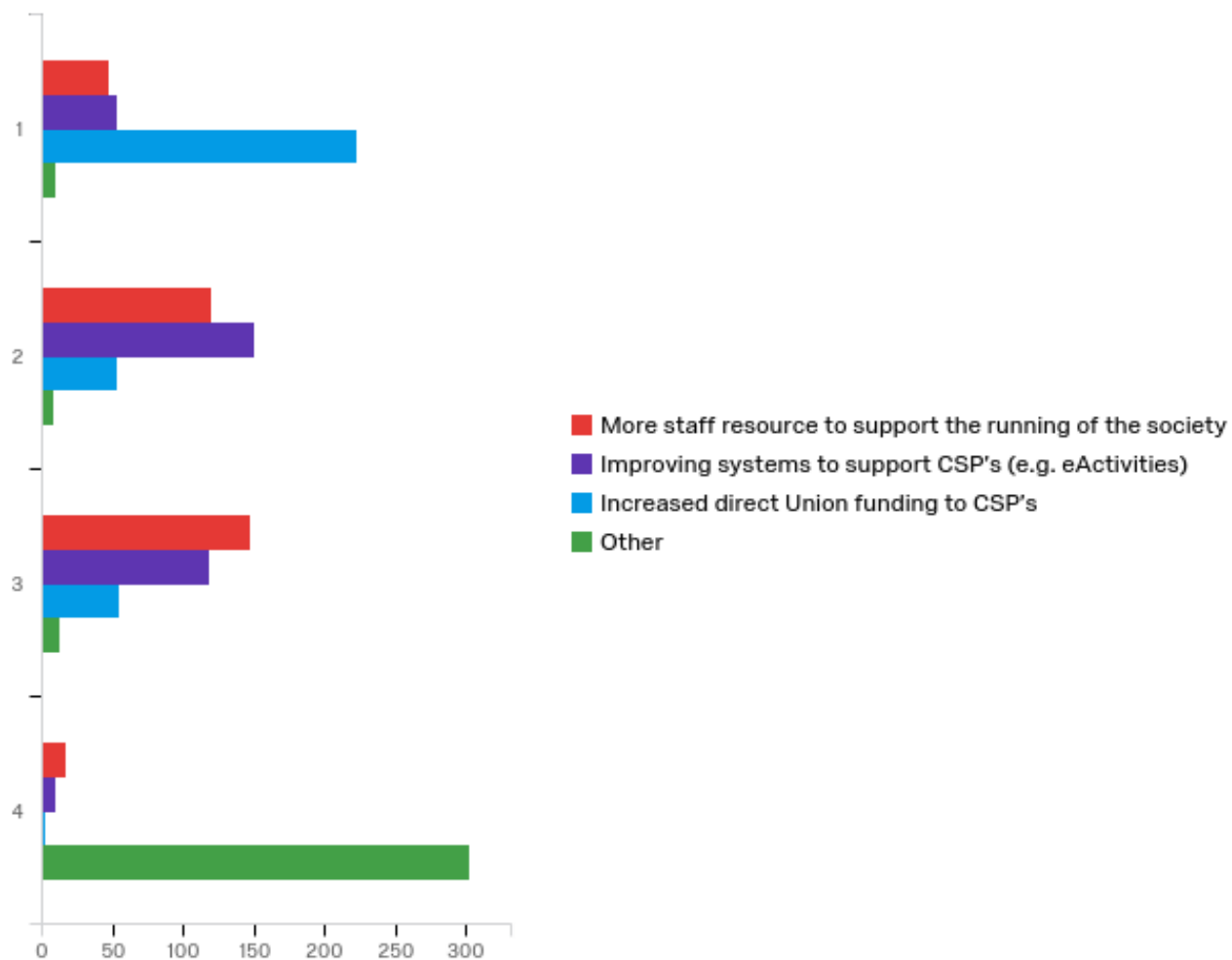
Strategy Consultation

Q38 - Where do you think the Union should spend most of its money? Please rank in order



Q105 - If extra money could be spent on CSPs where should it be spent?

Please rank in order:



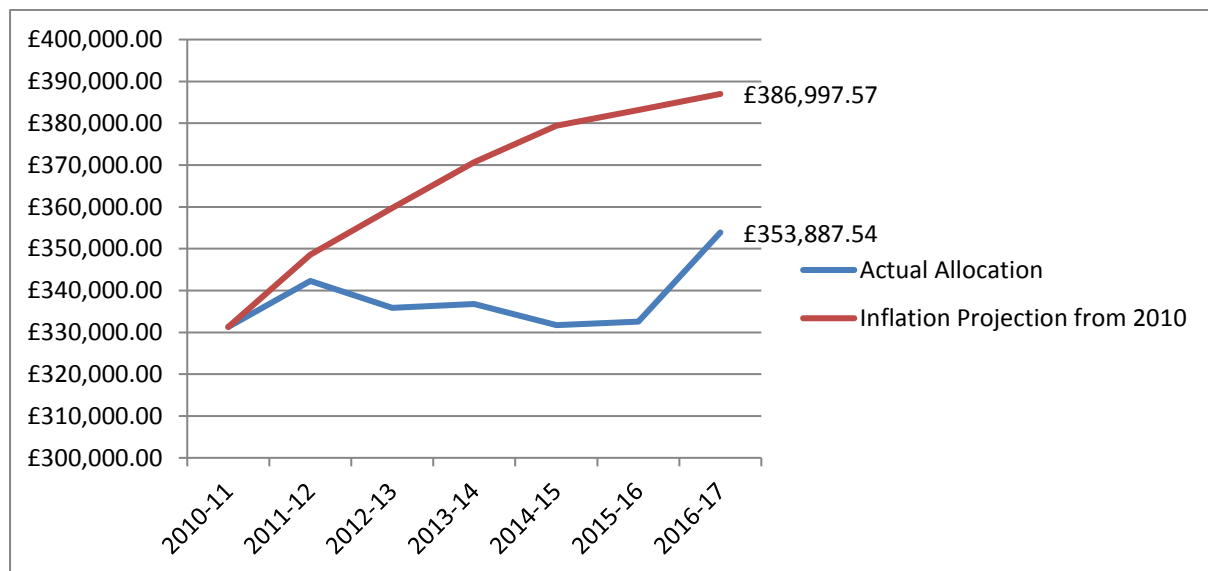
Question	1	2	3	4	Total
More staff resource to support the running of the society	14.20% 47	36.25% 120	44.41% 147	5.14% 17	331
Improving systems to support CSP's (e.g. eActivities)	16.01% 53	45.32% 150	35.65% 118	3.02% 10	331
Increased direct Union funding to CSP's	67.07% 222	16.01% 53	16.31% 54	0.60% 2	331
Other	2.72% 9	2.42% 8	3.63% 12	91.24% 302	331

Previous Discussion

At a meeting on 15/12/2016 with the President, Deputy President (Finance & Services), Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Managing Director, Head of Student Experience & Services and the Finance Manager, several options were discussed.

Options

Option 1: Raise to £386,997.57 to match projected inflation from 2010

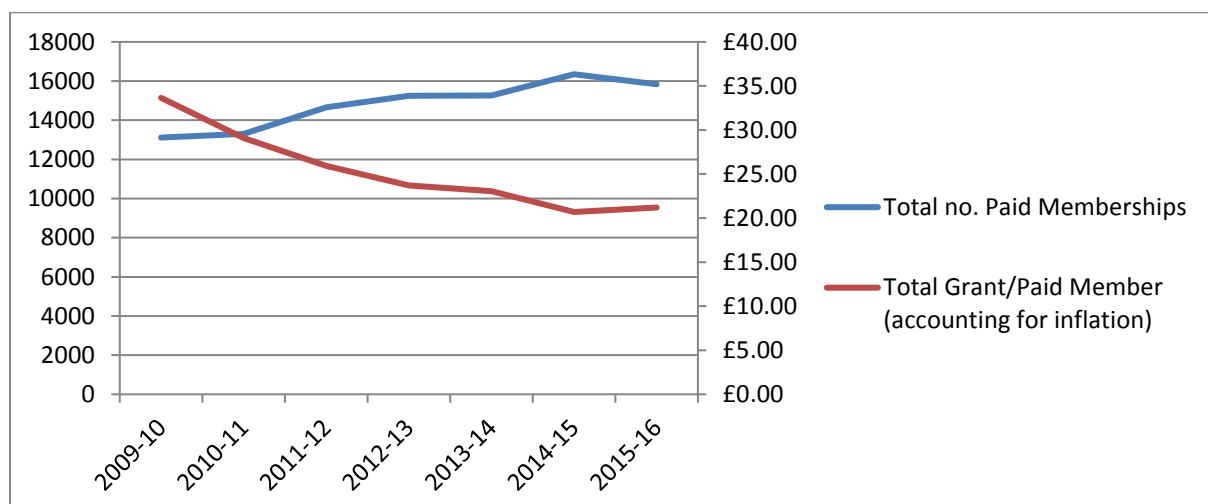


Option 2: Bind CSP funding to a proxy to track over time (in this case grant/paid member was used). By calculating a mean grant/paid member over the past 7 years, we could multiply that for future years to create a base level of to what extent the union should support each paid membership. In this case the total would be:

Average Grant/Paid Member since 2009 = £25.33

Total no. Paid Members 15/16 = 15844

15,844 * 25.33 = £401,323.84 (increase of £47,436.30)



Option 3: Raise CSP funding to £390,000. This option was discussed in the meeting (15/12/16) as a compromise to Options 1&2, with the President and Managing Director citing the strategic value of illustrating a commitment to the students for the new 3-year strategy; DPCS agreed that this compromise was reasonable.

Funding an increase

Our ability to fund any increase was also discussed. Whilst noted that we do not have guarantees of how this funding can be achieved, there are several avenues available to secure additional funds.

These include:

1. Additional income through Social Enterprises. Budgets this year are currently being exceeded in a number of areas, in particular catering and would be reasonable to budget on this continuing. Catering is currently c.£25k ahead of budget.
2. Savings to budgeted costs on changing card payment acquirer. This is expected to save c.£18k annually.
3. Additional income from Sponsorship. Whilst a relatively new area for the Union, there is scope to increase this going forward.
4. College grant. We are due to renegotiate our grant from College and we know that they value the offer to our students through CSPs.

Given the above, and noting the hard work done through the previous strategic cycle to build financial stability, it is positive to be in a position where we are able to be confident in our ability to secure the necessary finances to fund Union priorities.

Proposal

1. Raise CSP Funding to £390,000 for the 17/18 budgeting round and aim to maintain the value with inflation.
2. The New Activities Committee and Activities Development Committee are to be reviewed by the Clubs, Societies & Projects Board to reduce the budget constraints of new activities.

James Cox (DPCS), Nas Andriopoulos (President), Rachel Blythe (DPFS), Emily-Jane Cramphorn (DPW), Luke McCrone (DPE)