

# Royal College of Science Union Clubs, Societies and Projects Board Report

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

Michael Edwards, RCSU President



The RCSU would like to submit the following items for consideration and discussion by the Board. I will also provide a verbal update if any other matters arise.

## Item One – Mums and Dads

- There have been a number of issues raised with the provision of the Mums and Dads programme of partnering Freshers with older year students. From a Clubs perspective, the data has often not provided to the clubs in good time for the clubs to plan well for Freshers' Week, and the questions and processes used do not lead to positive 'family' groups.
- This leads on to the secondary issue, with more of a Wellbeing element, which leads to these groups falling apart before the end of the year, having none of the desired effects of building 'vertical communities' between cohorts and developing peer support networks between cohorts.
- These issues have led to a number of our departments seceding from the Union programme and running their own independent provision, which diverts volunteer efforts away from the organisation of events that will ultimately lead to a sense of community.
- The RCSU is proposing a review of the Mums and Dads programme using a two-pronged approach from both Clubs and Well-being perspectives. Inclusion of all stakeholders within CSPB would be sought, and the consultation of Departmental Society volunteers would be of paramount importance.

## Item Two – Room Bookings

- This is not an issue which is isolated to the RCSU Clubs, but we would like to raise this officially to ensure the concerns of our clubs are heard. The standard complaints have been raised regarding opacity of the process, poor turnaround on booking requests and poor response times on queries.
- RCSU Clubs are in a privileged position in that they are able to seek support from departmental room booking administrators, but this support is varied throughout FoNS with some clubs caught between the administrators and the Student Activities Centre unable to conveniently book rooms.
- We would like a uniform system across FoNS in which all DepSocs are able to request rooms through either SAC or their department conveniently. This will require clarification of some responsibilities and discussion with departmental and Faculty staff. We will be tying this in with our work to enhance DepSoc support provision.

## Item Three – Sponsorship

- A number of my clubs have raised concerns regarding the turnaround on their sponsorship contracts. Some clubs have lost significant income on some contracts due to slow procedures, and have asked me to raise this in this forum.
- Clarification is sought from the DPFS regarding how the process for next year may be streamlined and this issue does not become more widespread in future with more and more Union clubs seeking sponsors to run and expand their core activities.