



Imperial College Union Communications Committee Report

Thursday 28th June 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO.	
TITLE	<i>Felix</i> Review – Update
AUTHOR	Fred Fyles – Felix Editor
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<i>Felix</i> Review has stalled since last Communications Committee. Meaningful consultation with student body was not carried out. Fred Fyles has submitted a separate paper with recommendations obtained from progress on <i>Felix</i> Review thus far.
PURPOSE	Committee members to note the report, provide any immediate feedback on <i>Felix</i> Policy, and advise on next steps.
DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED	To note the report and provide any immediate feedback on direction of the <i>Felix</i> Review.

Background

- *As has previously been discussed at Communication Committee, this year Andrew Keenan (AK), Fred Fyles (FF), and Nick Burstow (NB) are undertaking a Felix Review.*
- *The purpose of this review is to examine the governance, editorial structure, and long-term development of Felix, specifically looking at how Felix and Imperial College Union can work more closely together.*

Updates

Since the last Communications Committee meeting on March 24th, developments on the *Felix* Review have stalled, with AK being unfortunately unwell, and FF focussing on producing print editions for the final term.

Despite this, progress has been made on the *Felix* Policy, which will be presented to Trustee Board at their next meeting. Other aspects of the *Felix* Review will be partially covered in a separate paper written by FF – ‘*Felix* Review – Editor’s Recommendations’

Looking at what the next steps were in the last update:

- Finances
 - Previous Next Steps: Budgeting currently ongoing. *Felix* Editor to receive information about budgets next year.
 - Updates: Information about next year’s budgets forthcoming. FF has included recommendations on finances in ‘Editor’s Recommendations’ paper.
- Policy
 - Previous Next Steps: Communications Committee to give any general/specific feedback on the Policy; feedback from stakeholders on content guidelines (see below); scheduled to present to Council on 15th May, and have final paper ready for the Board of Trustees 23rd June.
 - Updates: Feedback obtained from Communications Committee; Policy presented to Union Council, where it was generally well-received; unable to obtain feedback from stakeholders on content guidelines; Policy ready to be presented to Trustee Board.
- Governance
 - Previous Next Steps: Refer to existing documentation within the *Felix* Policy; look through suggestions sent through by LB
 - Updates: Suggestions from LB incorporated within Policy; existing documentation reflected in Policy; Policy ready for Board.
- Content Guidelines
 - Previous Next Steps: Consult with stakeholders on content guidelines.
 - Updates: Meaningful consultation was not carried out with the general student population; general content guidelines have been written into *Felix* Policy.
- Transition/Handover Support

- Previous Next Steps: AK and FF will work with the incoming *Felix* Editor, Andy Djaba (AD) to outline what support/training is needed for handover; FF and AD will discuss team structure for next year, and produce an outline for the Union.
- Updates: Meetings between FF, AK, and AD unable to happen; FF and AD have been discussing handover separately; FF has met with Emilie Helsen (Student Development Manager) to discuss incorporating *Felix* into handover generally; team structure to be drawn up for next year.
- Development
 - Previous Next Steps: Consult with editorial team and wider Union membership on what support they would like, why they are involved/why they are not involved etc.; establish regular communication between *Felix* Editor and Union to work on longer-term goals
 - Updates: Consultation not carried out; recommendations written into 'Editor's Recommendations' paper.

Action Planner

- FF to receive update on budgeting and finances, if available.
- FF to present Policy to Trustee Board.
- FF and AD to work on handover structure.
- FF and AD to produce team structure outline for Union staff at the end of handover.
- FF to present '*Felix* Review – Editor's Recommendations' to Communications Committee.

Final Thoughts

While the *Felix* Review has not managed to achieve the goals set out at the beginning of the year, some progress was still made on it: a much-needed update to the *Felix* Policy has gone to Board; *Felix*'s financial model has been investigated by AK; and AK, FF, and NB have been able to generate recommendations based on the work done thus far.

While I would not recommend extending the *Felix* Review to the next academic year, I believe the Union should next year work with *Felix* and the general student body to ensure further improvements can be made.

Thank you to everyone on Communications Committee for your insight and patience with this project.