

# Imperial College Union Council Report

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## Introduction

One of the first things I did when beginning the role was to look at the on-going projects and student campaigns in the Union and College. Combined with my manifesto points, I have decided to focus on: sustainability, service quality, communication and engagement. I have adapted my goals from my original manifesto, as I now know what resources I have available to me and have found out what other student campaigns want to focus on.

In the Autumn Term I aim to: introduce a Union breakfast trial and carry out a full review; fully review the sustainability of our bar outlets and investigate ways to improve; work with College to look at food provisions on campus; and review our offerings in Shop Extra and Reynolds.

## Report on Progress

### Goals as DPFS

We have three main OT team goals of PG engagement, Communications, and Space. Since beginning the role, I have started to tackle communications in my areas first. Details on my progress are in the OT team report for Union Council. As well as team goals, here are updates on my current individual goals I have been working on the past few months:

### Union Breakfast

Since SCR breakfast was shut by College, there has been no alternative for sit down breakfast on campus. As well as a promise in my manifesto, it was also a project pushed by the head of commercial services. I joined the project midway, during handover, and have taken part in many rounds of anonymous taste testing and evaluations to gain feedback on the meals the chefs have devised.

- Breakfast trial launched! (Soft launch 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, Hard launch 1<sup>st</sup> Oct)
  - Trial is allowing us to test a variety of dishes and gain feedback from students on all aspects of our offering, helping us shape future breakfast menus or see if it should even be continued at all.
  - Comms: I have tried to spread the word of the launch via Twitter and Instagram, on top of the Union promotion for it. Instead of just posting about it, I have also been waitressing each morning for the first two weeks to serve customers and also chat to students about their expectations and their thoughts on the meals and service. I've added all my notes to a larger bank of feedback Beit bars has been collecting.
- Breakfast review
  - All feedback will be reviewed, alongside sales data
  - Other forms of review/review timeline not fully planned yet

### Other work

Other updates on work I've done so far:

- Union bars sustainability review
  - Focus has been on plastic use, driven by student campaign proposals and global media
  - Have identified all the different ways our bar outlets use plastic
  - Now working out ways to eliminate, replace, reduce the use of the of single-use disposable plastics

- Have also sat on the Greening Imperial College Committee, discussing their ideas to improve sustainability and also visited the Natural History Museum and LSE to hear their thoughts on the issues and how they've been tackling sustainability.
- College food provisions
  - 24hr vending being trialled on campus (updates from campus services coming soon)
  - Working with campus services to improve dietary information on all their products
  - In future, want to look at food range, focusing on healthier options, and student offers
- Shop Extra & Reynolds offerings review
  - Yet to begin

## Operational Achievements

Significant operational tasks I have completed over the summer period are as follows:

### Sponsorship Contracts

Sponsorship contracts used to be emailed to DFPS, printed off, read, signed and stamped, scanned back in, resaved and emailed back to the student, while a hard copy was also filed for records. This was a very lengthy task, wasted a lot of time, and contracts risked being lost in a very busy inbox.

- New sponsorship email address created: [csp.sponsorship@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:csp.sponsorship@imperial.ac.uk)
- All signatures and stamps digitalised, making online signing possible and speeding up process.
- Working well, 76 contracts currently approved. Build-up caused in lead up to welcome week as other work took priority and I was also on sick leave. However, turnover time is down from months to weeks, a significant change from last year.
- Aims to improve contract template, further reduce reply time, and improve the training guidelines online.

## Items for discussion

It is important to all the OTs this year that we start communicating our work appropriately and timely to other students. Furthermore, we want to get a variety of students discussing our ideas, giving us feedback and helping us improve our plans.

### Sustainability of the Bars

I'm looking at the sustainability of our bars, and how we could improve. Having looked at all the materials we use, it has stood out to me that single-use disposal plastics are used frequently and flippantly. My idea is to replace our single-use plastic drinks cups with reuseable thick plastic cups, run under a deposit scheme (pay extra for the cup, but get it back when you return the cup). They can be reused up to 350 times before being recycled by our bar staff. For licencing reasons, we cannot have glass after a certain hour in the bars.

- ❖ Do you think students care about our sustainability? What aspects of sustainability would you like me to focus on?

Note: If you have any ideas on ways to communicate the changes being made in bars, and encouraging students to participate, please come chat to me after or send me an email.

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Want to know more? Have any thoughts, ideas, questions? Please get in contact!

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