

Imperial College Union Council Report

Rob Tomkies, President

Introduction

The recent period has been frustratingly full of meetings - this alongside a number of urgent matters that have arisen and having large projects that have just finished up have left very little to report on under the previous headings. For this reason I have quickly bullet pointed progress/the place projects are at and then gone into the work that has been done over the past month.

04/03/2019				
College Meetings	Project Work	Student + Union Meetings	Board of Trustee meetings + work	Operational
38 hours	28 hours	34 hours	18 hours	45 hours

Report on Progress

Club, Society, Projects (CSPs) and Constituent Union (CU) Support

- Alumni service agreed initial pages will go up on Plexus by the end of the year – they are currently constructing the platforms. CSPs are slowly informing of the size of their alumni networks and if they are interested.
- Working alongside GSU tackling work streams previously stated. Most recently we have been mapping the GSU communications and designing how both Union and GSU can communicate to Post Graduate students more effectively.

Governance – Process Development

- Policy Review – “Exec” policies split. Council policies have now had the background research completed so we now can begin the review process of policies that need be reviewed/renewed – these will be brought back to council. Staffing and operational policies now have ownership at “Leadership” level and so now have oversight from OTs as well as staff.
- OT role review, GSU governance, elections + election disciplinarys are now completed.
- Disciplinary review is ongoing.

Support for the Deputy Presidents

- The OTs have all been through the first stages of our 360 reviews – a number of people here will have helped with this process, so I thank you all for the help you have provided. Each of us have had an interview with a coach taking us through the feedback and we will now be hoping to use this moving forward to better represent and implement change for our members. We will also be looking at areas that as a team we are generally weaker at to improve as a whole.

Operational Highlights – College

- I attended the **College Council strategy away day** – this focused on planning for difficult times ahead, anything from Brexit to financial crashes to classical subject areas such as “physics”, “medicine”, “mechanical engineering” no longer being relevant and desirable subjects. Here I made sure that a reoccurring theme throughout the day was “and how will this affect the student experience” rather than just focussing on research.
- We are taking a more **holistic approach to Colleges alumni service** including looking at initiatives such as peer to peer mentoring, alumni and Union events. This is to try and take advantage of the growing “Imperial for Life” attitude that the Union has yet to tap into successfully.
- I am **supporting an appeal with college to raise for the student support fund** with advancement and so have been interviewed and will be writing out to our alumni to help raise awareness and donations to the fund.
- The relationship with the new Provost has been consolidated now that Ian has settled down into the role. Myself and Jarlath (the Managing Director) now meet with Ian periodically.
- **H bar** – I will verbally update at Council as I will have further updates by this time. Discussions are being held with the Provost, Head of Campus Services to push to reverse the decision. A petition has been set up and letter writing campaign. An all graduate student email has been jointly sent out by myself and Ute (GSU President) signposting to information.
- **Brexit Communications** – have now been sent to all students from a letter jointly composed by the Union and College – this largely forwards people to the already existing information page however we hope will aid in people coming forward with concerns.

Operational Highlights – Union

- A large amount of work has been put into looking at **how the leadership team works**, improving and preserving changes so that come next year the lessons learnt this year are carried over. These include structural changes, changes to handover/induction, decision processes and even office layout.
- **Elections** are now in full swing – the processes behind this election I have had a large hand in ensuring they are student orientated, the work for this is ongoing. Best of luck to those running.
- Myself and the activities team **met with the Royal College of Arts Union** to establish a working relationship here and what opportunities there are between us and them. We are also reaching out to the Royal College of Music to look at joint offerings here as well.

Closing Comments

As always, I am available in person and via email for any questions you may have on my report or the Union’s work.

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