

# Imperial College Union – Sabbs on Tour at Silwood Park

Deputy President (Finance & Services) visited Silwood Park campus on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020, as part of the Unions 'Sabbs on Tour' campaign to improve outreach to satellite campuses. The following information was collected.

## Training for Committee Positions

Silwood is a postgraduate campus, predominately formed of 1-year Masters students. As the year finishes mid/late September, committee positions are empty until the next year of students start late/early October and must wait for the results of the Autumn Elections to be filled. The result of this is there is no 1-2-1 handover period, unless the predecessor returns of their own accord (incurring the costs of travel and accommodation). There is also a gap of knowledge due to no handover document being created to support the incoming committee. The Union offered training, which consisted of information about the Union, its structure and points of contact, and limited time on explaining the purpose, expectations and practicalities of the role.

The proposal is:

- Committee members (for 2019/20) are all required to write a handover document for the incoming positions
- The Union are responsible for offering an "Officers Academy" and Budgeting training on Silwood Park campus within 2 weeks of Autumn Elections results.

## Food Provisions

Hot food provisions on campus are from 08:00-10:00, and 12:00-14:00. There are limited cooking facilities, and the nearest Tesco Express is a 40min walk (one way) away. There is a snack vending machine on campus. As of this year, there is a minivan that the committee have organised a rota for drivers to take twice a week on a food shop, but this is dependent on the drivers availability as it is entirely voluntary.

The proposal is:

- Hot food vending machine to provide 24hr access to a hot food provision – vegan and vegetarian options required.
- Pay for student drivers (one or two) specifically for the food shop trips, also addressing the issue of a lack of student employment opportunities.

## Language Barriers

A large portion of the student population at Silwood Park is international, and there is a significant need for English language classes to support the students with their postgraduate degrees. As there are classes 9am-5pm every day, except for Wednesday, the ideal time for a class would be Wednesday afternoon or 6pm on another weekday.

The proposal is:

- Introduce English language classes, at least once a week, to support the international student's education experience.

## Supporting a Social Life

### CSPs

Clubs are more fluid at Silwood Park than any other campus, and there is no guarantee that next years students will a) run for a position if it existed formally as a club or b) members will join to make the club worth running. As a result, Silwood Exec encompasses the money for all CSPs that informally are created each year. With no budgeting training or support, it is within the Exec committees' power to allocate funds as they see fit.

The proposal is:

- To consider a process that enables CSPs to exist fluidly in terms of elections and annual budgeting.

### Social Spaces

Due to College selling land, a significant portion of the social spaces are lost including:

- Both common rooms and the gym in Unit A
- Fields for SilFest and summer activities
- Chicken and duck coop

The proposal is:

- To invest in creating a social space that accommodates for the yearly event requirements

### Bar

Silwood Park have an externally run bar on-site, which is open three times a week – Tuesday nights, and Thursday and Friday 17:00-23:00. However, there is little control on campus to ensure these hours are adhered to, so often the bar is closed when students arrive. The negative cycle results from, due to lower income, the bar is less likely to be open for the full schedule, resulting in loss of potential income and so on.

The proposal is:

- College to ensure the bar staff adhere to the hours, so that the service on offer is reliable for students.

## Estates

There are a few issues around maintenance of the campus, and not knowing who is responsible for addressing issues such as:

- The water fountain in the common room has been out of service for several months.
- The temperature controls for the spaces are believed to be controlled externally (or at least the knowledge of how to address it is missing internally)
- Degrading external infrastructure

The proposal is:

- Have a known point of contact who is responsible for a) raising and b) addressing these issues