



Imperial College Union Finance and Risk Committee

26th March 2020

AGENDA ITEM NO.	10
TITLE	CSP Finance
AUTHOR	Deputy President (Finance & Services) – Fifi Henry
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>There are 26 CSPs which are in debt. 11 CSPs are in more than £500 of debt. All clubs in debt are either short term or have been called in to discuss a debt plan.</p> <p>Due to COVID-19, this report attempts to address foreseeable issues, as a significant number of CSPs have had to cancel events and trips/tours and there will be a large sum of income lost due to refunding customers, and uncertainty over how much expenditure can be recovered.</p>
PURPOSE	Members of F&R are to consider the future financial and reputational risks posed, and the approach to CSP finance.
DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED	This paper is for reporting purposes and a decision is required on our approach to CSP finance recovery in relation to COVID-19.

CSPs Debt Report (1st February 2020 – 20th March 2020): Highest to lowest

Committee	Status	Grand Total (£)	Meeting Required? (Y/N)
CTA Punjabi (289) [1]	Frozen	-74,160.00	Y
CTA Int. Tamil (245) [2]	Frozen	-18,477.16	Y
CTA Indian (309) [3]	Frozen	-10,553.10	Y
CTA Sri-Lankan (321) [4]	Frozen	-6,997.81	Y
CGCU Data Science Society (627)* [5]	Frozen	-4,589.24	N
CTA Pakistan (317) [6]		-3,365.91	Y
ICSMSU Rugby (671) [7]	Frozen	-3,204.69	Y
CTA Indonesian (328) [8]		-3,057.43	Y
RSM Geophys Soc (654) [9]		-2,076.31	Y
RCSU BioSoc (630) [10]	Frozen	-761.64	Y
CTA Chinese (304) [11]	Frozen	-565.93	Y
RCSU Synthetic Biology (738)	Frozen	-465.28	N
REA Cheese (285)	Inactive	-423.74	N
ICSMSU Basketball (659)	Inactive	-390	N
CTM Saudi (350)	Frozen	-262.6	N
ICSMSU Immunology (735)		-211.22	N
RSM De La Beche (647)		-197.92	N
REA Rock and Metal (265)		-161.9	N
SPC Dodgeball (063)		-127.88	N
KNC Management (467)	Frozen	-71.99	N
Knowledge Sector (200)		-53.19	N
KNE Animal Protection and Education Society (238)	Frozen	-46.44	N
KNE Beyond (214)	Frozen	-29.29	N
REA Wilderness Medicine (169)	Frozen	-23.05	N
RCSU Life Sciences Exec (623)	Frozen	-10	N
ICSMSU Medical Humanities (268)		-9.55	N

*Looking through eActivities for an explanation for this debt has highlighted an issue with imprests

[1] Punjabi Society

Punjabi Society run their annual flagship event ‘The Bhangra Showdown’ – which is financially a high-risk event and resulted in them being in almost £30,000 of debt at the end of 2018/19. A 3-year debt management plan was created, with the aim of reducing their debt by 70% by the end of 3 years. This year, the expected profits from the event, given 83.3% attendance (2000 for a 2400 venue), was £8437.50. Ended up selling 2200 tickets. The Punjabi Society used an external ticket company, so waiting for money to be transferred.

[2] International Tamil

Annual flagship event ‘Mega Maalai’ on 23/02/2020 was predicted to make £7675 profit. In the days running up to the event, the police submitted notice that there was a viable threat and additional security was required for the event to go ahead. This was £7,000 of additional security, and should have resulted in the event breaking even, instead of making a profit. Ticket income (£25,000) pending.

[3] Indian Society

Indian Society started the financial year £5000 in debt. After an initial meeting, revealed they have a 2-year debt management plan. £19,500 ticket income has already come through, with £9,100 potential ticket income. Cancelled their second flagship event (“East Meets West”) due to COVID-19 concerns, so refunds will need to be given.

[4] Sri-Lankan Society

Sri-Lankan Society run their annual flagship charity event ‘Sapphire’ - which is financially a high-risk event and had issues last year, including excessive ticket prices on the door and insufficient catering. ICU released an official statement in response to backlash. DPFS met with the committee to discuss how to move forward and ensure similar issues were avoided this year. Ticket income is not yet on eActivities, but expected income is £49,500. The profit for the event, at 100% attendance is £11,524.01.

[5] Data Science Society

Awaiting £5400 sponsorship to come through.

[6] Pakistan Society

Event ‘Shaam’ on November 22th 2019 has received £3070.83 of the £8904 expected ticket income. DPFS to set up meeting.

[7] ICSMSU Rugby

Prepayment for event in April (£8,371.00) which will have to be cancelled. DPFS to support.

[8] Indonesian

Delayed internal transfer to DramSoc for an event on March 9th 2019, paid in October 2019. DPFS to set up meeting

[9] Geophysics Society

Payments for summer tour on September 13th 2020. DPFS to support.

[10] Biology Society

No money has been spent this financial year – awaiting contact as concerned over potentially spending from external accounts.

[11] Chinese Society

No money has been spent since October 31st 2019 – awaiting contact as concerned over potentially spending from external accounts.

COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19, and the guidance from the government, College and ourselves, has resulted in many CSPs having to cancel events, activities and trips/tours. In some cases, activities have been postponed to September 2020 and beyond in order to save money, reducing risk of not recovering expenditure. Some events, before guidance, went ahead and had lower attendance due to concerns or were cancelled before instructed to. Whilst several CSP's have already been in touch with the DPFS and Student Activities with regards to ticket refunds and support getting money back for expenditure, there are many societies that have not done so yet, so it is hard to fully appreciate at the time of writing the scale of risk.

We believe that the Union should support these CSP's to ensure they reach the position they were at before the financial impact of COVID-19, and are asking for Boards approval on this principle. It must be considered that they have been financially responsible throughout the year, and made reasonable judgement calls in the best interest of our members and their attendees. There is work being done by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) around pre-existing pots that could potentially be utilised elsewhere (given the circumstances), for a sum of up to £50,000. As a Union, and responsible for our CSP's, we should consider to what extent we should and can support our CSP's to return to their original (or as close to original as feasible) position.