

# Imperial College Union Council Report

## Thomas Fernandez Debets, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

It's been a busy month and a lot of work has gone into addressing wider issues that are affecting the Union, including the announcement of the Managing Director's departure and a greater focus on Health & Safety. In this report, I've highlighted progress made so far this year with respect to my manifesto and included updates since the last Council meeting. Feel free to ask me any questions during the meeting or at any other time.

### Goal 1 - New Sports Complex

At the time of running in the Leadership Elections 2019, Imperial College London's sports facilities were outdated and not fit for purpose.

- *Over the last 12 months, £700,000 was invested into facilities in Harlington to improve users' experience. Examples are included in previous reports.*
- Following the consultation workshop ICU and the Head of Move Imperial conducted with respect to the sale of Heston, we are now contacting the relevant clubs to gather more specific feedback to tailor future improvements to Harlington
- A transport strategy is being devised, with the initial phase for sports club consisting of transport to Harlington for Monday night trainings. There have been issues with the scheme, but I am working with the Sports Sector Chair to iron them out. Evaluation of Monday night transport is yet to be conducted.

### Goal 2 - Promote CSPs' Activities

Our Clubs, Societies & Projects (CSPs) have great knowledge and experience within their respective fields and cater to their members' needs. Promoting their activities does not only provide them with a platform to showcase them but would also ensure the Union engages more adequately with its membership, reflecting their interests.

- *First Arts Night happened on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended and very successfully run by the "Arts & Entertainment" management group. A post-event evaluation is underway (though delayed) and will help shape future iterations of the event. This is one example of many successful student-led events – currently looking how to engage CSPs further and empower students to shape events at our venues.*
- Weekly meetings for the Summer Ball 2020 are underway. Key students and CSP representatives are actively engaged and preparation is ticking along nicely.
- Design of an Instagram takeover app has been paused but further work is in progress to engage CSPs further on social media. I hope to have an initial prototype by the next Council meeting. *This should allow for further promotion of content that is relevant to our membership and embrace the "Students as Partners" mentality, where the Union would act as a channel for students to promote their interests better.*

### Goal 3 - Implement the new Athletic Union

The roll-out of the Sports Hub over the next few years is a joint project between Move Imperial and Imperial College Union that will improve students' experience within sport.

- Due to understaffing in both the Union and Move Imperial's teams, this project has slowed down greatly. After an 'away day' with Move Imperial and the Sport Sector Chair, we have set clear goals for the coming month and our ambitions for this academic year. More to come once Annual Budgeting is in full-swing.
- *As part of sport's rebranding at Imperial College, branding for the Sports Hub is to be conducted this term with an external agency. Initial meetings have taken place with the Sports Sector Chair as well as the ICSMSU Chair. Clubs are meeting with the agency on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.*
- *A kit tender process will be undertaken once the branding is done.*

#### Goal 4 - Improve spaces and processes

Our spaces are outdated and some of our processes need reviewing.

- *A review of the training available across the Union and its delivery has been initiated and aims to establish best-practice in supporting our CSP officers, management groups/constituent unions executive committees, academic representatives and sabbatical officers.* The recruitment for the Student Development Manager role is underway and this will form part of their focus.
- *A project sponsored by the Harlington Trust is underway and will fit within the Union's Space Strategy, specifically looking at CSPs' usage of space and aiming to establish a 5-year plan as well as setting a 10-year and 20-year strategy.* There is a big focus on undertaking major Health & Safety work in the Union building which will shape the initial stages of this project.

#### Goal 5 - Better consultation & student inclusion

Despite a common aim to improve the student experience at Imperial College London whilst thriving for academic and research excellence, students have often been left out of the decision making processed at the highest level of the Union and the College. Their inclusion, and better understanding of the different groups that constitute our membership, will lead to better tailored decision-making.

- *Initiatives like the Heston consultation workshop and the Summer Ball committee (cf. above) lead to the definition of projects/plans that are better suited for our students.*
- A review of postgraduate and non-South Kensington activities within CSPs needs to be conducted to improve engagement. With the Head of Student Experience, we have met with most senior volunteers and will put action plans together early next term.

#### Other works in progress/completed

##### Recruitment involvement

- Student Development Manager (in progress)
- Student Activities coordinators x2 (complete)
- Student Activities coordinator x1 (in progress)

##### Looking at the Student Experience directorate

- Mapping of the operations and outputs for a better understanding of the directorate in setting its strategy (key student volunteers' meetings to feed into this) – still ongoing

##### Operations

- Due to the current staffing situation in the Activities Team, more administrative tasks have been performed to ensure CSPs' activities can go ahead and to support our volunteers.
- Fallen behind with CSPB's sub-committees. This should pick up again this month and going forwards, with 2 of 3 Student Activities Coordinator coming into post this month