

Imperial College Union Council Report

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This month, a lot of time has gone into bringing CSP Budgeting to a close. Allocations are now done and only appeals still need to take place before the end of term. With allocations totaling £428,000, a further £22,000 is on the table, wider Union Block Grant negotiations allowing.

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At the time of running in the Leadership Elections 2019, Imperial College London's sports facilities were outdated and not fit for purpose.

- In 2019, £700,000 was invested in improving facilities at Harlington
- Sale on Heston consulted on with student stakeholders and set for summer 2020
- The Monday night service now forms part of a wider transport strategy being devised for the Union, with the aim to cater to students' transport needs. This includes minibuses, coaches and the recently acquired truck. A price freeze for Monday night transport has been secured at £4.50 for the rest of term.

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.

- Arts Night and ACC Nights are two student-led events that take over the venue at Beit Quad. They are also two of the venues' most successful nights.
- An events group, similar to the Concert Hall User Group, will be created to review the events put on by the Union to better reflect the students' interests.
- Weekly meetings for the Summer Ball 2020 are underway and The Imperial Varsity took place with a new format week commencing February 24th. Key students and CSP representatives are actively engaged but ticket sales are slower than anticipated.
- The design of a social media takeover app has been paused. In the meantime, forms are now available to advertise [CSP events on screens](#) in the Union building and on the Sheffield walkway, as well as through [Instagram takeovers](#).

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.

- Our partner creative agency, Borne, have come back with initial creative plans for the Sports Hub. At this stage, the Sport Chair, myself and Move Imperial have given feedback. Borne are putting forward the next proposal this week and the Sport Chair as well as the ICSMSU Clubs & Socs Officer will be joining. Once Borne come back to us, feedback will be gathered from the student body and they will choose the brief we will be going with.
- With CSP Annual budgeting well underway and the first round of review having come to a close, parallel budgeting has now begun to ensure the Sports Hub's model is viable. Along with the development plans Move Imperial are creating with the clubs, this will form the basis for the roll out in September.
- Kit tender to take place once the branding of the Sports Hub is completed

Goal 4 – Improve spaces and processes

Our spaces are outdated and some of our processes need reviewing

- A review of the training provided to our volunteers has been initiated and the first resources will be shared in the coming month. The Student Development team are also doing an audit of the team and undertaking a Learning Needs Analysis of all our volunteers.
- The first step of this review looks at supporting senior volunteers who have long been undervalued by the Union but are essential to the running of our core networks, including CSPs. Starting this term, senior volunteers (including members of CSPB) will be invited to regular meetings where we will provide Union-wide updates and engage in conversations to answer any questions they may have about the wider Union's works.

- A storage project is underway, looking at maximizing the use of currently available spaces in Beit Quad and understanding further space requirements. We are currently addressing
- A project looking at supporting CSPs to be more H&S compliant is underway, with an external consultant supporting project leads with the Union.
- CSP Budgeting now enters its final phase. A lot of time has gone into writing and reviewing budgets and I would like to thank the volunteers of CSPB for all their hard work so far. By the time Council convenes, all allocations will have gone out to CSPs and appeals (which represents the final and shortest phase of budgeting) will take place within two days. The new approach and system seem to be working very well, with budgets being more realistic and in line with CSPB's expectations. With grant eligible lines funded to over 70%, this has been the most successful round of CSP budgeting. This was mainly

Goal 5 – Better consultation and 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 process 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.

- Regular meetings are taking place with senior volunteers and the Head of Student Experience and the DPCS. Follow up meetings are going to be organized for this term to review the outputs of the previous meetings and maintain the relationship that was built last term.
- Looking to put students at the centre of more decisions, I am working to get the Clubs, Societies & Projects Board (CSPB) involved in more decisions that affect CSPs, including those around Welcome Week and systems improvements to eActivities.
- 3000+ students have completed the Student Experience Survey. Having closed last week, its results will inform the operational plans the Head of Departments are putting together and will inform the 1-year plan the Union is writing for 2020/21.

Other

In this section, other items due to start in the near future are highlighted:

- Finish the roll-out of the new system for CSP Annual Budgeting
- Further support is being provided to those CSPs who host large shows this term
- A project to semi-automate the room booking process has now been confirmed and will be rolled out over the next 8 months
- Following initial conversations with DoCSoc, we are going to look into the feasibility of having Imperial students directly contribute to the improvements of the Union's systems – delayed until student volunteers are available.
- Continue to support the Underwater club with the logistics around the purchase of the expedition truck and the required modifications (truck undergoing expedition modifications currently, which will help cater to students' transport needs)
- Involvement in the recruitment of the interim and permanent MD for the Union

Major update: the Union Concert Hall Redevelopment project was approved last year at the Finance & Risk committee and was to take place over the Easter break 2020. Funded by the IC Trust up to £430,000 the project will have a significant impact on the student experience and members' usage of the building, featuring retractable rake seating and a more adequate entrance to the space. In December, the project planning was put on pause as the building manager felt it was not within scope anymore. After seeking approval from the IC Trust committee, the project has been unpaused and the project management team will meet soon to determine new timelines. This is likely to be either over the summer or during the Easter break 2021.