

**Imperial College Union  
Board of Trustees / 24 February 2021**

**Officer Trustee Update**

Author(s): Abhijay Sood (President)  
Sam Lee (DP Finance & Services)  
Michaela Flegrova (DP Education)  
Shervin Sabeghi (DP Welfare)  
Ross Unwin (DP Clubs & Societies)

Purpose: To note the work of the Officer Trustees.

*For more detail and to see some of the business currently being discussed within ICU, you can find papers from our last Council meeting:*

[https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/20-21/Union\\_Council/2121](https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/20-21/Union_Council/2121)

**1. Sam Lee (DP Finance & Services)**

Key pieces of work I've been involved in include:

- i. UCH Redevelopment project – Work on the project is still ongoing although we are very close to having the stage 3 plans signed off. I have ensured students are involved in all key decisions around the project.
- ii. College Food Sustainability – Campus Services are currently looking at reviewing their food sustainability practices, I have met with student sustainability representatives and the Services & Sustainability Board to ensure that the approach we take is in both the organisation's interest, as well as the student body
- iii. CSP Refund Policy – I have been working on writing up a policy for this year to outline a set of principles for refunding CSP memberships under COVID
- iv. Sponsorship Policy & Review – Sponsorship Policy was passed by Finance & Risk; I have been pulling together information on sponsorship contracts to enable us to do an in-depth review of CSP sponsorship
- v. Health & Safety Policies – I have worked with Tom Newman, and our external consultant to write first half of the Health & Safety policies for ICU, we are currently working on developing the rest of the policies for the next F&R meeting

**2. Ross Unwin (DP Clubs & Societies)**

Key pieces of work I've been involved in include:

- i. Worked with College Estates and the Student Opportunities and Development team to establish processes and protocols to enable safe activity.
  - a. New Activity Risk Assessment process and over 300 authorised risk assessments created by CSPs for their activities.
  - b. Creation of Imperial Leagues with Move Imperial to enable some sporting competitions when COVID restrictions allow.
- ii. Creation of an ICU CSP Support Development Plan and 3-year roadmap – an outline transformation of the Union's support to student groups over the coming years with more specific objectives and projects within this academic year
  - a. Creation of a wiki to hold operational information for CSP support to be accessible for staff, OTs and student volunteers.

- b. Review of our New Activities Committee and Incubator and reopening the application for new students.
- c. Minibus & Transport project of which some board members will have seen the proposal before Christmas. Review of our provision and development of plans to ensure we are offering the correct service to students
- d. Storage and space project – work with Student Opportunities & Development team to pest proof and deep clean our two largest storage areas, reallocate space as a result of losing storage space from the sale of Heston Sports Grounds, and project plan developed further to conduct a full audit of our space.
- iii. CSP Annual Budgeting and allocation of other CSP funding pots, as well as the reallocation of CSP grant to enable more remote activity whilst ensuring the underspend required due to the Union's financial position.
- iv. Roll out of Imperial Athletes framework and support to our sports clubs – evolution of the Sports Hub
- v. Development of the Imperial Award with the Education Office to make it more accessible and applicable to our CSP committee members and wider ICU volunteers

### **3. Michaela Flegrova (DP Education)**

Key pieces of work I've been involved in include:

- i. Fair assessment: working with Abhijay, Shervin and the College to put together a package of no detriment measures for this year, and consulting with student rep to find out what the needs and concerns are
- ii. Refurbishments of student spaces: working with key contacts in the College to help allocate a £3m refurbishment budget; leading on student consultation into identifying smaller, local spaces within departments, as well as a consultation group looking at RCS Chemistry building refurbishments
- iii. Working Together Task Group: been involved in a group looking at improving Imperial College working culture following the bullying scandal
- iv. Student feedback mechanisms: worked with a group of staff in the College on improving the ways students can give feedback on their courses, including a review of the SOLE survey; collecting feedback from students on the survey
- v. PG support: in active discussions with PGR reps, talking about better support for PGR students during the pandemic; will be joining a meeting with other SUs on this topic to see what is happening around the sector & how we can work together to lobby UKRI & other national bodies
- vi. Digital Education Recording Policy: still working with the College on this one (it's been months...), which will set out the rules around which educational activities have to be recorded & who retains which rights

### **4. Shervin Sabeghi (DP Welfare)**

Key pieces of work I've been involved in include:

- i. Fair assessment: Working with Michaela and Abhijay on lobbying the College for a “no detriment package”, ensuring they are not disadvantaged this year due to the pandemic
- ii. Halls: talking to College about 1) extending the rent waivers for Term 2 until 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2) Looking at AY 2021/22 and discussing which measures will stay around (fewer shared rooms, smaller households etc), 3) Coming up with a better household matching system for 2021/22 so people get on better
- iii. Recruitment: working with Tom N. and Michaela on the recruitment of our new Rep & Advice Manager

- iv. Rep Networks support: have now started a regular newsletter to all reps, as well as bringing Rep of the Month back to life; been trying to keep reps engaged despite the lockdown
- v. Discipline matters: unfortunately, disciplinary matters continue to be on my plate. Since the last meeting, I've sat on a further two halls Residence Tribunals and one College disciplinary panel.

## **5. Abhijay Sood (President)**

Key pieces of work I've been involved in include:

- i. Working with Michaela and Shervin on College-facing lobbying efforts, primarily on fair assessment.
- ii. Supporting a review of Felix. With the agreement of the DRO and Felix committee, we are pausing the election of the editor and conducting a thorough consultation on the nature and selection mechanism for the role, its support from the Union and the Felix committee, and the output of the paper. This follows some structural challenges (especially relating to accountability and connectedness) as well as short term performance concerns with the editor and his predecessor.
- iii. Progress on the implementation of the Socially Responsible Investment Policy. Working with academics across a range of views, we are looking at ways to enforce metrics and engage to try and change the behaviour of firms in the Oil and Gas sector, while also considering consultation with the community on how to go about this and when to walk away. My hope is that principles we adopt can apply beyond energy extraction. The consultation closes on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. I chaired a panel event on this topic on the 17<sup>th</sup>, which was received fairly well.
- iv. Concrete progress on support for refugees and asylum seekers looking to study at Imperial, with Registry now collaborating with us on a proposal for implementing this. I am now part of a new committee in the College on scholarships and bursaries, where this proposal will be tabled in March.
- v. Some work relating to College Council, in light of the scandal. The first Council discussion of this matter was held, at my behest, on February 9<sup>th</sup>.