

**Imperial College Union
Services & Sustainability Board / Thursday 26th January**

User Groups

Author(s): Sam Lee (DP Finance & Services)

Purpose: To set out points for discussion around User Groups.

Decision(s): To discuss

1. Current Context

User Groups are an informal governance structure within the Union, there currently exists 2: the Concert Hall Users' Group and the Bike Users' Group. The latter of the 2 is seen as more of a CSP but we shall discuss this later.

The Concert Hall Users' Group (CHUG) is a group who manages bookings and maintenance of the Concert Hall, they currently have meetings to discuss the Redevelopment Project as well as deciding which CHUG society has shows at which week of the term, and are consulted for UCH bookings. The group was formed to ensure that the societies who regularly use the Concert Hall had oversight over the space and as the space is the only real option for their needs it is reserved for their purpose. Up until this point, the Union has also been poor at supporting the maintenance of the space and so CHUG have taken it upon themselves to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the space.

It is also worth noting that the Arts & Entertainments Mini-Management Group (AE Media) also acts as a "User Group" as they have taken responsibility for maintenance and bookings for the media rooms in the West Basement

2. Discussion Points

Which User Groups should exist? When should they be formulated?

There is an option that we create User Groups for all the spaces the Union owns, it is worth noting that this would be incredibly time consuming and would require a large change to how User Groups are handles. The current view is that they should be for specific spaces that are tailored to specific activities, and therefore require more specific oversight by certain CSPs and individuals to ensure they stay that way.

How should they function democratically?

User groups is an interesting discussion due to the fact that despite them being space oriented, they would be primarily to do with the way CSPs use space, and therefore would require significant input from CSPB. Should it be a joint-owned venture between CSPB and SSB. Should they just report into the relevant committees but are ultimately managed and maintained by either the DPFS or CS?

What is the purpose of User Groups?

Should User groups be in charge of bookings within that space, due to the need for that space needing reservation for only the types of events that CSPs can do in that space? Should they have oversight or be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the space? Any maintenance or upkeep should be supported by the Union both financially as well as physically.

What should the membership of User Groups be?

Currently CHUG elects a Chair as well as Maintenance Officer and the relevant CSPs are the voting membership. How should they be elected and how should relevant CSPs be added/removed or involved in a User Group?

Please have a think about the above points prior to the meeting if you can, I understand not everyone will have an opinion on these things, but it would be good to get opinions from people external to the current User Group users.