

# Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Report to Union Council – November 2020

Ross Unwin

## Summary:

- Supporting our Clubs & Societies
- CSP Support 3-year Development Plan
- Imperial Athletes support and framework development
- Welcome Back Fair
- Project work
- Lockdown and Xmas Planning

| College Meetings & Prep | Student + Union Meetings & Prep | Operational work (day-to-day) | Project work (major goals) | Misc |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| 20%                     | 20%                             | 30%                           | 20%                        | 10%  |

My second report to council mostly covers the work.

## Updates:

- Training – Equipping our volunteers to lead and achieve their aims is essential and I have worked with the Student Opportunities & Development team to create CSP, CU, and MG committee member welcome and introduction booklets, volunteer training week delivering a number of core training sessions, and have created additional eActivities training articles.
- Reacting to COVID and government announcements – the Union has had to react, very swiftly at times, to the constantly changing environment we now live in. I have tried to proactively communicate with our CSP committee members to keep them in the loop of how the law affects them. I have also been working with college to try and allow as much CSP activity as possible to happen in a safe manner. Government guidelines mean that there will be no CSP in-person activity this side of Christmas sadly.
- Supporting CSPs - This has included routine and recurring matters, such as resolving individual queries and sorting all eActivities issues throughout this term, as well specific matters resulting from COVID. Students asked for a simpler risk assessment for virtual activities, and we have streamlined the process for online activities
- Imperial Athletes – The Imperial Leagues started brilliantly, and engagement was more than expected during it's opening weeks. Lockdown 2 put a stop to these activities, but we are looking to expand the range of sports within Imperial Leagues. I have been working closely with Move Imperial to understand the situation for BUCS and LUSL in term two and they are developing frameworks for a situation where sports clubs & teams across the BUCS leagues may be unable to field teams. More work continues developing a framework for Martial Arts, Individual, and more recreational sports to fit within the IA framework – this will only be finalised after approval by student volunteers.
- Student & club disciplinaries – there are several ongoing cases and have had to implement the COVID strike policy approved by CSPB. Verbal and written warnings are being sent to clubs in a timely matter. There have been a number of appeals to also handle.
- Student Experience Meetings – My predecessor wrapped up the stream of ESOG-SE that he chaired, but I have continued to be part of ESOG-SE meetings, discussing issues from student mental health, and re-purposing of college spaces to student sport & music during the pandemic.
- CSP funding model - Work to realise an upfront reduction on CSP grant is ongoing. I am working, in consultation with senior volunteers, on a principled basis for reaching a ~25%

(~£100,000) reduction in CSP grant, minimising the adverse effect on club activity. A working group has been formed and a decision shall be ratified by CSPB in December.

- Student Experience Survey – This launches next month, and ICU joint-own this survey. I have been the lead OT on this and have worked closely with Campus Services and College staff to make changes in light of COVID-19.
- Welcome Back Fair – taking all responses and feedback from the welcome fair, I am working with the team to run a programme of events and a fair at the start of Term 2. This is going to be a mostly virtual affair.
- CSP Support 3-year Development Plan – I have worked closely with the Head of Membership Services, the Student Opportunities & Development Manager and the DPFS to establish a realistic 3-year development plan to improve the support for our CSPs. This starts with training and storage review which are currently underway and are being undertaken whilst the demand on the co-ordinators is lower.
- Lockdown & Xmas Planning – This will not be a normal Christmas. Many students will remain in halls and private accommodation in London, away from family and loved ones over the winter break. I am helping develop a programme of activities to support these students. We will also be facilitating CSP events and other activities that the wider student body can engage with.

#### Upcoming:

- Work towards Objectives, see October Report, in particular increasing accessibility and fixing broken processes.
- Imperial Athletes will take up a considerable amount of my times as I fully model IA membership and tiering system for individual and martial clubs, I will also be working with the team at Move on a Kit tender – all of this will need lots of input from and consultation with students.
- Further objective setting will soon be taking place in the Union – this time on a team by team rather than an individual basis, for permanent staff members.
  - I will be helping set objectives for the student opportunities and development team.
- Regular review of our CSP support and how we can facilitate more activity under current government guidelines, we will be directing particular focus at helping CSPs with their online capability.
- I will be meeting with senior volunteers from CSPB on a one to one basis alongside the HoMS to better understand the issues that our students and CSPs are currently facing.