



# **Silwood Park Students' Union Report**

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## Overview

As usual, things are relatively quiet at Silwood. However, there have been developments on the objectives and ongoing projects outlined in the previous report.



### **Create separate activities accounts for the societies that exist every year**

This has been raised and I am awaiting a response from the DPCS to move this forward.

### **Integrate Silwood elections into the Union system**

From what I understand, this has been done, and future elections will be performed through the Union system. However, I still need to provide an updated committee list and add additional roles. Luckily, I should have time for this, as Silwood elections are run in October. I will also need to prepare publicity for the election and ensure that it is distributed next year.

### **Investigate options for union management of the Silwood bar**

I have spoken to the Union President and DPFS and am awaiting information from both. There was an inquiry a few years back about the Union taking over management of the bar, so based on that information we can decide how to move forward.

### **Obtain additional grant during budgeting**

We are working on our budget now. It is particularly difficult for us, given that many of our societies shift each year. However, the DPFS mentioned that there was a presentation three years ago regarding Silwood funding, which recommended that we should receive ~1000 pounds in additional funding over the next three years. This was accepted by the DPCS and CSPB at the time but was forgotten over the past few years.

The students at Silwood cannot easily benefit from the many thousands of pounds distributed to societies at Imperial, so its essential that we have what we need to provide a sense of community, fulfil the Union’s aims, and ensure that no student is disadvantaged simply because of their campus. I am waiting to hear back from the DPFS or CS on whether they can find the presentation.

### **Set up lines of communication with the department**

Our meeting with the department was mixed. They are unwilling to give us any additional funding, even for things that were promised previously. When the manor house was sold, the land surrounding it featured the Silwood basketball and tennis courts. Because of that, students who participate in these sports now need to find alternative places to play. This is costing the Union money, even though the faculty specifically promised to cover anything lost during the purchase. While new sports facilities are being constructed, we requested that the Union be provided funds to rent out spaces off campus. This has not been followed up on by the department despite several emails by myself and my treasurer. Despite this, we have since formed relationships with several members of staff, and they are usually very responsive when we need their help.

### **Events and engagement**

We’ve maintained our level of events from the previous term, hosting approximately one a week. Because of covid, these events have shifted to small scale socials, such as movie nights or board games sessions. In the coming weeks, we have a set of Lunar New Year events planned, so hopefully these will go well. Because we have a large committee, with several subcommittees organizing events, we now have a unified calendar for all Silwood events to prevent timetabling clashes

Also, our international officers have created a language learning pair scheme at Silwood, matching people who want to improve their skills in a specific language to native speakers.



## Issues

### **Lack of communication from the Union**

In November, several emails were sent to sort financial issues at Silwood. Since we want to sell several printers (worth >£100) that were purchased in previous years, we need approval from the DPFS. Despite requests via email and in person, we still do not have permission to sell these items. Also, several external claims forms for ChickenSoc that were sent in November are yet to be processed, despite multiple emails.

This lack of communication is also a recurring theme in the objective updates.

### **Silwood students are not members of the Silwood Union society**

We need to manually ask for students to be given eactivities access from the Union, which is a pain for everyone. I've sent an email asking for all students in Silwood to be added as members of the Silwood Park Union society, which should hopefully circumvent this silly process.

### **Committee structure**

The Silwood Park Union lacks lower-level executive members. For instance, the Ents Committee has no specific person in charge. The events officers are all technically equal, which might work under ideal conditions, but does not lead to a productive committee. I think that they have all been doing a fantastic job this year, but I want to make sure that there are more executives next year, so that decision making can be more rapid and diffuse.

## Final thoughts

Overall, things at Silwood are going well. Our events and societies are developing, and the changes to the structures of the Union are setting us up for an even better new year. However, there is a long way to go before things are where I want them to be. This will require cooperation with the college and central Union, which I hope will only improve in the coming year.

Thank you for reading. Feel free to email any questions to [silpres@ic.ac.uk](mailto:silpres@ic.ac.uk).

