



RSMU Report

Union Council
28/06/2022

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Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Royal School of Mines Union's activities in Spring and Summer Term. I have detailed included the summaries of my officers below and an annual reflection.

The second term was much busier than 2021 after the return to in-person activities. We are proud to have delivered a successful Beat the Blues Week, Bottle Match(es), Bar Nights, inter-CU event and careers event to name a few highlights.

As explained last year and by previous presidents, the RSM in third term is always relatively still. Officers and members go through months of exams, coursework and fieldwork so much so that the CU activities are relatively minimal.

Goals As President for this term

1. Deliver the extraordinary June Bottle Match in London between the RSM and Camborne School of Mines.
2. Encourage participation in the summer 2022 Leadership by-elections and ensure productive handovers.
3. Support committee officers in 'rounding up' their year in a role and completing any outstanding tasks.



RSMU Academics

The latter part of this academic year has been a positive ending for both departments within the RSM. The students within both departments have been busy tackling their end of year exams, and lots of field trips have been taking place within Earth Science Engineering. Moreover, there has been very little queries related to academic issues within the RSM, so it has been a quiet term for the VPE!

RSMU Welfare

The summer term has generally been quiet due to field work in Earth Science and Engineering, and examinations in Materials. The RSM VP (Welfare) has been available to offer both departmental rep teams with assistance where needed, and signposting students to relevant college and external services.

In ESE, a therapy dog, Molly, has been welcomed into the community with 15-minute sessions available to book for stress relief and general mental health support. A working group has also been put together to discuss new artworks to display around the department to better reflect the diversity of the community.

In Materials, the department have run exam technique and stress management workshops in preparation for summer term's fully in-person exams. Attendance was high and students found them effective, with most students feeling well-adjusted to the "new" exam format. To boost morale, an end-of-year rounders event was ran successfully with staff and students of all cohorts participating in the sunny Hyde Park. The VPW has also worked closely with year reps to recommend actionable goals for the department to implement within the next few years to encourage an inclusive community, with no tolerance for racism, bullying, harassment, discrimination or sexual misconduct. Suggestions included compulsory training during Freshers' week, anonymous report and support tools within the department, and wider discussion of such topics between students of different backgrounds within the student body.

RSMU Events

Spring Term events

The RSMU President and Vice President (Clubs & Societies) made a great effort to take 160 students to Cornwall for the annual Bottle Match Varsity against Camborne School of Mines in February. The event was nominated for Student-led activity of the year as it was a great success and saw the highest amount of participation from the Materials department than ever before. Unfortunately, the 'Bottle' remained in Cornwall as the RSM Rugby team missed out on the win, but we are truly proud of everyone who attended and showed true RSM spirit over the weekend. RSM sports clubs who played matches were: Tennis, Badminton, Hockey, Netball, Football and Rugby. As per tradition, two bar nights were held before and after the varsity weekend. We hope to return hosting these bar nights in the Union Bar instead of Metric as we return to post-covid 'normality'.





Secret Cupid received moderate levels of interest. It turned out to be quite a difficult event to carry out in terms of arranging logistics and trying to maintain rose quality when pick up was delayed. Sourcing roses cheaply enough to offer the service for £2 a rose also proved challenging due to inflated rose prices because of Valentine's day.

Sweetheart's hangout did not receive the interest levels expected. This may be due to the last-minute location change due to inclement weather or the event's coincidence with the Department of Materials Valentine's wishes. In future, greater communication will be sought with the RSM departments in order to coordinate our events.

The RSMU Hustings event went ahead prior to the 2021 Leadership Elections voting window and had a much smaller turn out compared to the same event held online last year. Approximately 20 RSMU students attended to listen to the candidates answer questions about their manifestos. There was an equal turn out between both the Materials and Earth Science departments which hasn't been seen in the last few years. Prior to this event however, a successful 'Meet the Committee' informal networking session for all sports, DepSocS and RSMU volunteers took place in the Union Bar.



Spring Dinner occurred on the evening of the 2022 Leadership Elections results with a great turnout from undergraduate students. A 3 course meal and drinks reception at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel was delivered between speeches and announcing the recipients of the RSMU Awards. The RSMU Awards (based on 130 nominations) presented this year are as follows:

- 13 Half Colours
- 6 Full Colours
- 2 Student Lecturer of the Year
- Mick Moore Pot (1st Year Engagement) - Tommy Simmons
- Prof. Pryor Award (Outstanding Service by a non-final year student) - Not awarded this year
- Union General Awards (Outstanding Service by a final year student) - Jasmine Crocker, George Morgan, Teigan Collins and Jessica Dring-Morris



Triunion club night was well received with good participant feedback however it did not receive as high levels of participation as estimated due to the aforementioned reasons.

Spring Term Events

As third term for the two departments of the RSMU is full of exams, coursework and fieldtrips there won't be any usual large events. The two departments keep in touch with the student body by hosting events to celebrate work completed over the past week and continue to offer pastoral support.

Events planned for summer term (April - June) did not go ahead. This was generally to be expected due to the increased number of exams and deadlines spread throughout the term making timing quite difficult.

Third term in the RSMU is usually quiet due to both departments' timetables overcome with exams, coursework and fieldtrips which sees the majority of ESE students traveling away from London. However, the extraordinary Bottle Match went ahead successfully on the 10th-11th June. The results are elaborated on in the 'Sports' section of the report. The RSMU President successfully found 3 sponsors for the event (Pensana PLC Ltd, CGG and Northern Star Resources Ltd) with a focus on the mining industry to help boost the profile of companies to students looking for a career in this field - something the President believes needs to be improved upon in upcoming years. There will be a professional video made to showcase the sports teams who took part and overall, players and spectators truly enjoyed the weekend long varsity plus afterparty.

Summer elections information was sent to all members of the RSMU in the hope that there was interest in our vacant roles and we are pleased to report that candidates ran successfully for a handful of positions.



Future Focus

Next year, we aim to continue re-introducing traditional RSM events: Mastermines, Hill Cup and RSM hackathon, as well as initiate new events: History of the RSM exhibition, RSM fashion show and an ESE vs Materials water fight.

RSMU Clubs and Societies

Both clubs and societies have remained engaged within the RSMU community throughout the past term. All have worked well with the VPCS and President to ensure annual budgeting was completed on time and have continued with their development plans to ensure the longevity of the clubs within the RSMU community.

DepSocs

All three societies have remained an integral part of the RSMU community this term.

- The Material's Society continued with their successful Lunch Time Lecture Series and have an industrial trip to Liverpool planned for the Summer.
- In Summer term, the Geophysics Society have given a virtual academic talk on the InSight Mission to Mars. It has also received two sponsorships and are currently discussing with the newly elected committee members where the money can be of best usage. Last term, the society has planned a Summer Tour to Naples, Italy in September and is currently in the process of selling tickets and doing logistics.
- This term has been quiet for the Geology Society with many students busy with exams or away for prolonged periods of time on fieldwork. Despite little in person events, we have had a very successful sale of new branded merchandise to both students and alumni. The committee for the upcoming academic year looks strong, with all major positions filled and the only unfilled positions being Symposium Officers which can very likely be filled in the Autumn. A busy Spring Term elsewhere in the departmental and RSMU calendar meant a final year students trip didn't run, however we do hope to open up a Geology Society Day Trip in the early Summer. Overall, the Geology Society has had a successful year running its usual events and incorporating a few new ones too, we hope to bring back missed events such as Hill Cup in the next academic year which we will go into in a strong financial position.

Sports

This term the focus for teams has been on the June Bottle Match. Success was seen in the Badminton match, with both men's and women's teams winning. Unfortunately, none of the other teams had success. Notable mentions go to the Netball team who had their best result in four years and to the Lacrosse team who, although were short on members, only lost by 2 goals. Other than Bottle Match, clubs this term have been involved in various activities:

- RSMU Football, Badminton and Netball have been having weekly trainings and matches. All three clubs have had large involvement from students this year and success in the LUSL leagues.



- RSMU Cricket and Lacrosse made their debut at Bottle Match this June, with large interest from RSMU members across both sports. We hope these sports continue to grow next year.
- RSMU Hockey and Rugby have not arranged additional training, but many have been training with IC teams in preparation for the Autumn season.



RSMA Collaboration

The relationship between the RSMU and RSMA remains strong, off the back of continued sponsorship of the June Bottle Match, Spring Dinner and Careers Night.

Members of the RSMA sponsored student tickets for the Spring Dinner, and students were able to meet their sponsors at the venue to thank them and network with other members. Some of these relationships were strengthened at the Careers Night in March. This was hosted by Chris Webborn and funded by the RSMA. Members of the RSMA were invited to come back to the RSM and give talks, and this event was attended by around 50 undergraduates under our Union. 8 alumni came back to give talks and Q&As about their careers and advertise company internships and graduate schemes directly to our students. The speakers represented an array of professions, from mining, data science and finance, to a FemTech Start-Up.

We look forward to the RSMA BBQ in Summer, where the RSMA will provide details on how to join the association, and we expect many graduating Royal Miners to sign up off the back of a positive, collaborative year between our two groups.





Careers Night, March 16 2022.

RSMU Finances

The RSMU finances are currently in a healthy position once all money from sponsors and donors has been processed. Our clubs will need help redistributing some money between funding codes, particular due to changes in funding from ICTrust and Imperial Athletes, but this is being communicated with the clubs currently.

After hosting the June Bottle Varsity Match last week, the finances are currently underway and will be complete before the end of the academic year for the RSM Exec committee. Lower numbers than expected meant a smaller revenue, with a current SGI contribution of £1200, however, this was within our planning as the committee was looking to use up more SGI as we had a large sum accumulated. Currently, our SGI sits below £0, however, we will have revenue from sponsors worth £2150 and department donations worth £1100 within the following weeks as well as up to £2000 from the Camborne School of Mines. Before the end of the term, we will be ensuring all monies are in the correct funding codes as the majority of transactions have been made from the SGI code rather than College or Grant due to overlaps in funding sources for particularly expenditures.

RSMU Retrospective

Reflecting upon how I ended this report 12 months ago, I can truly say that the RSMU's 2021-2022 has been an entirely different experience to 2020-2021:

'I won't sugar coat the goings on of the past year ... it has been really difficult coming into a leadership role and having to learn my own responsibilities as well as re-learn and support the rest of the officers and guide our CSP's in this unknown covid environment. As I'm sure every volunteer or staff member will agree with.'

Now that we have returned to in-person activities the RSMU has bounced back to life and we continue to revive old traditions and pave the way for a more inclusive and diverse



constituent union. I am really proud of the committees I have been a part of over the past two years and have taken inspiration from my predecessor, Chris Carter who I believe was a fundamental player in kickstarting this development. Challenges remain however, and there is a lot of work yet to be done in the RSMU which I hope will be supported by the incoming volunteers. It is difficult to achieve everything we'd hope as volunteers at Imperial with such busy schedules and a mountain of commitments, but I believe I am one of many who have done the best they could given the circumstances.

Once again, I repeat much of the closing statements I made in 2021. Thank you to everyone who has supported myself and the RSMU this year, it's been such a valuable experience. I can now say good luck to my fellow graduates and to those lucky enough to spend more time at Imperial. I may be known for teary sentimentality and this goodbye will be no different. I am leaving with many happy memories thanks to the RSM and ICU, life-changing experiences, friends for life and something I didn't expect to leave with when I joined 4 years ago... a tattoo as a permanent reminder of the RSM.

As always, if you have any other comments or would like to discuss RSMU activities to a greater depth, you can contact me at rsm.chair@imperial.ac.uk.

RSM Love,
Jasmine

