

**Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 27 November 2024**

Officer Trustee Objectives & Updates

Author: Camille Boutrolle (Union President)
 Purpose: To update the Board on progress of the OTs' objectives for 2024/25.
 Action: To note

1. Officer Objectives

Union President - Camille Boutrolle

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Increase UKRI stipend	<p><u>Description:</u> Work with PGR representatives and sector networks to lobby UKRI to increase London allowance for PGR students in London, to account for the fact the absolute value has not increased since 1994.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Established relationship with Imperial's Public Affairs' team, who have recommended reaching out to Research Office. Imperial's Early Career Research Institute (ECRI) and new Postgraduate Widening Participation Manager have reached out to support the project and initial conversations are in progress.</p>
2. Expanding cross-module learning opportunities	<p><u>Description:</u> Develop more inter-departmental modules for undergraduates, where students can take modules from different courses. Work to potentially develop a cross-register with LSE of exchange modules between the two universities.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> No progress made yet due to prioritisation of other projects.</p>
3. Green spaces	<p><u>Description:</u> Advocate for more biodiversity on Imperial campuses.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Imperial has contracted the Natural History Museum new garden's landscape architect to reimagine the outdoor spaces around campus and I asked to have Beit in scope. The architect has produced renders (super exciting) and Beit Quad has been prioritised with hopes to produce something in Easter break... Nico and I tasked with running a student consultation and involving them in the transformation.</p>
4. Study spaces	<p><u>Description:</u> Increase the amount of study spaces on campus.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Have begun looking at external study space available, mainly libraries, around our campus so we have a database to share with students looking to study off campus. For South Kensington, I have liaised with the Director of Library Services on her feasibility study done to transform the current library's basement into 200 additional study spaces and am pushing this via the new Wider South Kensington Campus Redevelopment Programme Board.</p>

Additional adventures:

- Eleanor (Policy & Research Coordinator) and I met Adam Hug (Leader of Westminster Council), and some of his team.
- Nico and I engaged in first-year student hall rent negotiations with the university.

- Organising an Investment Forum where students can ask Imperial's COO questions around the university's endowment and investments.

Deputy President (Welfare) – Nico Henry

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Food redistribution platform	<p><u>Description:</u> Implementing a platform to redistribute surplus food, reducing both food waste and living costs for students.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> The Digital Media Lab team has agreed to go ahead with my idea on redistributing surplus food. They are working on a minimum viable product to be able to present to Jane Neary. Fusion (the Union's food vendor) is on board to take part once a platform is set up.</p>
2. Mentorship programmes for under-represented students	<p><u>Description:</u> Expanding student-led mentorship programmes for underrepresented BAME/LGBTQ+/Women students.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> In conversation and collaborating with Strategic Planning who have this initiative as part of the university's Access and Participation Plan to incorporate this university-wide.</p>
3. Cycle to Uni Scheme	<p><u>Description:</u> Investigating the potential for college-owned bikes to encourage more students to cycle, targeting those who use rental services. This could reduce costs for students and support carbon auditing.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> I have started work on a cycle buddy scheme to improve cycling accessibility. I've been speaking with other SUs on how to lobby for safer London-wide cycle infrastructure. Henry (Advice Manager) and I have joined a cross-university cycle safety network of researchers and politicians to help influence.</p>
4. Lobbying the college to become London Living Wage accredited	<p><u>Description:</u> Lobbying for the College to formally become London Living Wage accredited. While they claim to be LLW compliant, student staff employed through the College are not paid holiday pay or given proper contracts.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Reports were made to me about Imperial students working for outsourced Imperial catering being paid less than London Living Wage. I raised this to university leadership and actions were taken to fix this! Big win. In contact with the London Living Wage Foundation.</p>

Additional adventures:

- Camille and I have been working on rent setting.
- Emina and I started fortnightly drop-in sessions for students. Two done so far with great engagement!
- Camille and I are part of a biodiversity working group and have taken on the community engagement aspect.

Deputy President (Finance & Services) – Stephanie Yeung

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Delivering the Union Sustainability Strategy	<p><u>Description:</u> Building upon my objective from last year to develop the sustainability strategy, this year's focus is on its implementation and setting it up for long-term success. The aim is ensuring a smooth delivery of the strategy in its first year, and ensuring student input is accounted for during the strategy's annual review cycle.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Regular meetings of Sustainability Strategy group to update on progress. Student-facing Sustainability Forums scheduled for this term and working with comms team to launch a webpage on sustainability.</p>
2. Delivering student-led, safe & inclusive events	<p><u>Description:</u> Continue improving the inclusivity of our events for even more students, with a specific focus on our international & postgraduate (PG) students, as well as continuing our non-drinking focus on events. The aim is to work with our student groups to deliver inclusive events for different communities of students, for example through cultural celebration.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> A wide variety of Term 2 events planned, including various postgraduate focused & cultural community events. Ongoing conversation with university subgroup re: international student experience to deliver a cultural day/week at Imperial.</p>
3. Ensuring financial accessibility of CSP activities for all our students	<p><u>Description:</u> The cost of participating in our CSPs is often measured by their membership costs, but there are often additional hidden costs that students may not be aware of that may affect their ability to fully engage with their activities. The aim is to work with CSPs to communicate their cost of participation to students transparently.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Discussions with our Systems Specialist to scope implementation within current Annual Budgeting platform. Embedded within discussions of Christian's Annual Budgeting project, as my project implementation is dependent on his implementation</p>
4. Ensuring allergen information is easily accessible across Imperial	<p><u>Description:</u> The aim is to improve the presentation & communication of allergen information at all Imperial catering outlets (i.e., ICU, university & external caterers)</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Initial conversations had with Campus Operations and Venues Team working with Fusion568 to improve allergen information display at Union</p>

Additional adventures:

- Reached out to RCM & RCA to rebuild relationships and potential collaborations on events
- Joined the Grantham Climate Forum & Student Entrepreneurship Forum with students to discuss and share resources & show support from ICU

Deputy President (Education) – Emina Hogas

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Assessment and feedback tailoring	<p><u>Description:</u> Carry out a review of the assessments in the lowest rated departments for A&F (NSS) and meet with Academic Reps to identify pain points and possible solutions before lobbying staff.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> In progress - will attend meetings with Staff Coordinators for each faculty and collaborate with student shapers to gather information on pain points.</p>
2. Masters in-year resits	<p><u>Description:</u> Lobby staff to make it standard practice for Masters students to resit in the same academic year rather than the year after.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> In progress - speaking with relevant stakeholders, no formal actions taken yet.</p>
3. Mitigating circumstances review	<p><u>Description:</u> Improve the mitigating circumstances (MC) application process by digitising the process across all depts and review self-certification procedures. Lobby for a waterfall grading system to ease staff workload.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Put forward initial paper on evidence free extension policy - further amendments required. Exploring different avenues for centralised platform for MC submission with relevant stakeholders.</p>
4. Alumni networking event	<p><u>Description:</u> Connect alumni from unconventional career paths with students at an early point in their degrees to broaden the horizon of available careers.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> In progress - sorting out budget for Mid-term 2 networking event and recruiting alumni. Collaborating with alumni and careers service.</p>

Additional adventures:

- Have worked on ICU's welcome messaging to translate it into nine different languages with Rep and Comms teams.
- Jointly with rep team have delivered our rep training to our academic and wellbeing representatives.
- Picking up work on UROP bursaries (increasing the number of them!).
- Nico and I have begun fortnightly in person drop in sessions for student feedback.

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) – Christian Cooper

Objective	Description/Progress
<p>1. Introduce the CSP Sustainability Framework</p>	<p><u>Description:</u> Co-design a long-lasting framework with students to ensure that all CSPs can strive towards environmental and financial sustainability. The aim of the project would be to ensure that the framework is mutually beneficial to ICU and students, to ensure that student priorities underpin the framework, and that students <i>want</i> to engage with the framework, rather than it being an additional burden.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Focus groups have been held with CSPB and 1:1 meetings with some student volunteers, to establish key priorities for the first year of implementation and sharing ideas to encourage student buy-in in the project. Currently, research into sector, and wider, best practice is being carried out by the representation team, with a project meeting collating the research and focus group feedback to be conducted at the end of the year.</p>
<p>2. Strive for high-performing CSPs & improve the volunteer experience</p>	<p><u>Description:</u> Explore the policies and processes around CSPs, the successes, issues with the current volunteer experience, and the way students interact with CSPs, to inform what it means to be a “high-performing CSP”. Develop a series of changes which aim to improve the volunteer experience and ensure that CSPs can be/remain high-performing.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Deprioritised as not time sensitive – will pick up in Term 2.</p>
<p>3. Review and improve CSP annual budgeting and funding opportunities</p>	<p><u>Description:</u> Conduct a full review of the CSP annual budgeting process, and other funding opportunities, with the aim of improving the equity, transparency, and ease of annual budgeting.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Focus groups and interviews conducted (CSPB, senior volunteers and Imperial CFO) alongside sector analysis to produce initial options appraisal. Working being conducted currently to explore ideas which have been identified as key positive changes to annual budgeting. A full report is currently being prepared in order to recommend changes to the annual budgeting process for this academic year.</p>
<p>4. Expand and increase the usage of the Student Experience Fund</p>	<p><u>Description:</u> The Student Experience Fund aims to ensure that students, who would not normally be able to due to financial constraints, are able to engage with ICU CSPs and events through the provision of credit on their Union accounts. The fund is currently only available to home undergraduates in receipt of a bursary. This project aims to expand who can access funding and to increase total usage of funding for year two of its implementation.</p> <p><u>Progress:</u> Fund was released to all bursary students in early October. Despite being released slightly later than last year, fund utilisation has overtaken last years position and is continuing to rise (likely due to increased comms).</p>

2. Officer Trustee (OT) Team Objective

As a team, the OTs have agreed to prioritise communication and transparency with our students to enable us to remain in-touch with the students as we represent them in our full-time roles.

Team Objective: Ensuring clear and direct communication with our students on Union affairs.

- All officers presented a welcome from ICU to each department for all undergraduates and most postgraduate courses. Big thanks to Rep Team for facilitating this.
- Steph gave a keynote on her experience as an international undergraduate experience at the International Welcome event at the start of term.
- All officers were galloping around Welcome Fair on the South Kensington campus despite the rain. Camille and Rep Team held a stall and the first ever White City Welcome Fair organised by the university.
- All officers did their Instagram takeovers where they answered students' questions for a day each.
- Emina filmed 'A Day in the Life' for College Comms on her role at Graduation and Nico is featuring in a People Profile by College Comms raising awareness during Disability History Month.
- Emina and Nico have piloted fortnightly drop-in sessions in person on Fridays. Potential to make these weekly as so popular!
- Camille, Emina & Steph featured on various ICU comms promoting Autumn Elections – record turnout of 80% of positions filed.
- Christian wrote a blog on the Student Experience Fund to help promote its existence.