

Imperial College Union

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*A Report by John Collins, IC Union President*

### **Beit Building Developments**

I received detailed cost estimates for phase II of the Beit building master plan two weeks ago and I met with the General Manager, architects, cost consultants and M&E consultants on Monday (11<sup>th</sup> December) to discuss these estimates in detail. The original estimate is close to £5M although we are confident that we can bring this down by at least a million before formally submitting this project to the College next year. Eric Lai has been working diligently on a Lottery Grant proposal and this should be ready for submission by Christmas (thank you Eric!). Energy efficiency initiatives have been fully integrated into the master plan although these have been limited to double glazing, insulation and lighting improvements for the time being as the case for renewable energy simply cannot be made until we can demonstrate that basic energy conservation systems are in place.

Several maintenance concerns have arisen over recent weeks; the underwater store has been flooded twice since the start of term and it has taken a great deal of pestering to encourage the College Facilities Management division to look into this. Vandalism has suddenly become a major issue in the Gents' toilets in Beit and we are considering taking radical action to curtail this trend. On a more positive note, the lighting concerns expressed by Council Members at our last meeting have been addressed.

### **Referendum Fallout**

The Executive Committee has established an NUS/ULU Working Group to discuss transitional arrangements as ICU changes its relationship with ULU and integrates more with the NUS. Membership of this group, which will be led by Ben Harris, has been drawn from the ULU, the NUS, the "Yes" campaign team, the "No" campaign team, the RWB and the CSB.

### **Walkway Posters**

I am very sorry for the poor behaviour of certain College staff members who have recently been sighted illegitimately tearing down almost every poster on the walkway in spite of very vocal opposition from the Sabbatical Officers and Union Staff. I will raise this issue with the Rector before the end of term because it is clear that middle management is not listening to us.

### **Future of the Wye Campus**

Robin Pitt, Jayindar Khaneka and I are working closely with the General Manager and President of the Kent Union to ensure that there is a smooth transition of ICU activities at Wye to the Kent Union as all undergraduate

teaching at the Wye Campus is handed over to the University of Kent at Canterbury (UKC). The most logical course of action appears to be that all ICU sponsored activity at Wye should be transferred to the Kent Union in one phase on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2007. ICU will continue to financially support student activity at Wye until all transitional students have moved on. The Wye Campus Union Society (WCUS) will become a semi-autonomous constituent union within the Kent Union and it will work towards building a strong Wye identity, rather than a generic Kent Union identity.

### **Imperial's Centenary**

Around 30 clubs and societies have formally indicated that they wish to be involved in the Imperial College Centenary and we are working with them to support their events and appeals. An insert publicising our clubs' Centenary activities will be published in the next edition of "Imperial Matters" in the New Year (this publication will reach over 90,000 alumni of the College). The Centenary page in Felix was launched a fortnight ago and this will be developed as the Centenary year progresses. I would like to thank Shiv Chopra for his efforts in managing this complex project this term.

The Centenary Ball Working Group has met once to discuss the format of the Centenary Ball and develop the current sponsorship strategy. We have confirmed Trevor Phillips as our guest speaker and we are seeking to find a high profile comedian or magician to entertain dinner guests as well.

### **College Meetings**

I attended a College Council meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup> and presented all of the governance changes passed by the last meeting of the Union Council. All of the governance proposals were all accepted bar the Disciplinary Policy, which due to an administrative fault on my part was submitted one day too late for consideration. I have been advised that we can seek Chairman's action to pass this policy before the next meeting in March should we need to use this policy before then.

Ben and I met with Mary Ritter last week to discuss the implementation of the Bologna agreement at Imperial College. It looks like most Imperial courses will be Bologna compliant but further research and preparation may be required in the maths and physics departments. Ben will discuss this issue with the appropriate faculty and departmental representatives this week.

I met with Martin Knight a fortnight ago and discussed the next planning round and Beit Masterplan proposal. We also discussed the College's proposal to move Clementine from her current home to an alternative location in College and agreed that we need to work with all of ICU's motor clubs to find a long term strategy for managing motor club space in the College.

The Rector and Deputy Rector visited the Union on November 29<sup>th</sup> for the morning to see at first hand how the building refurbishment project has progressed. They both then met with the ICU Executive for an hour and

discussed a range of issues including Imperial's departure from the University of London, the development of the College Fund, and the College's Evacuation procedures. In this meeting the Rector also promised to sponsor the student who runs in the London marathon for the College next year to the tune of £10,000 and appeared to backtrack on his historically held views on top up fees. I was very impressed by the way our Executive Committee members participated in this meeting and I would like to thank all those who attended and helped organise this event for their efforts.

### **Metropolitan Police Event**

Ben and I worked with the College Chaplain, Andrew Wilson, to publicise a fascinating well organised seminar about the police's relationship with student faith groups and the wider student body. This "Question Time" style debate was hosted by Nicholas Owen of ITN and involved a panel of high profile figures from the Metropolitan Police, the Media, Government and Faith Groups.

### **Governance Review**

The online constitution has been updated and you can see it in all its glory at <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/resource/governance/>. The Working Group will meet next week to discuss a proposed new trustee board and thorny issue of the composition of the ICU Council. As always, all Council members are welcome to attend this meeting, which will be held at 18:30 on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

### **ULU Council**

And finally, a Christmas gift from Santa and ULU. Last Monday ULU Council formally approved our request to allow ICU sports teams to compete in ULU cups (as well as leagues). This was not a straight forward vote, particularly as the ICU delegation attendance was extremely poor. However, we won the argument (by just one vote!) and that's what matters.

**JC 10/12/06**