

Imperial College Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A note by John Collins, IC Union President

Pedalling for Imperial Students

I am cycling 1000 miles from Land's End to John o'Groats at the end of June to raise money for the Beit Masterplan. This involves intensive training (sponsored by Sport Imperial) and cycling up to 100 miles a week.

Why am I doing this? Because it is clear from my time as a champion of the Beit Masterplan project that whilst people are happy to support us financially, many people (including key decision makers in the College) are very keen to see students take the lead in fundraising. We cannot expect College just to hand us millions of pounds, we need to do some of the work ourselves.

So, if you care about the Beit redevelopment project, then please sponsor me and encourage your friends (particularly those in clubs and societies) to do the same! To sponsor me goto: <http://www.justgiving.com/pedalingforimperial>

Yes, £3000 is not a large amount of money, but it's a start and, more importantly, it shows that we are trying, and that is what is important.

Centenary Ball

The ball is going extremely well, smashing all known records into smithereens. Congratulations are in order for everybody involved.

Beit Masterplan Update

We are waiting to hear from the College whether the next phase of the Beit redevelopment project makes the cut this year. At the time of writing, I really can't say which way this is going to go.

As soon as we get the green (or amber) light, I intend to take this proposal to the masses and organise a stall in the JCR. I will also organise a workshop with our architects to examine the modifications suggested by Union Council last term.

Wye Developments

I met with the President of the students' union at the University of Kent (UKC) two weeks ago to draft an agreement that would ensure that the needs of both UKC and Imperial students will be met next year when the University of Kent launches a new undergraduate management course at Wye next year. I intend to bring a copy of this draft agreement to next Council.

Governance Update

Last week I met with Ram Gidoomal CBE, who is an alumnus of the College, an experienced charity trustee, businessman and politician, and invited him to help ICU launch the Trustee Board if and when Council votes for it this term. Ram very kindly agreed to volunteer to help us with this project for the first year of the Trustee Board's existence. He intends to attend the next Council meeting and is happy to speak and be invited to answer questions if invited.

No less than six papers are being presented to Council tonight on this subject so I shall divulge no more details in this report. I would, however, beg Council to support these proposals (whilst discussing concerns where necessary) and vote for them, simply because of the amount of time volunteers, lawyers and Sabbatical Officers have put into this project and to date I have not met a student who disagrees with the broad aims of these proposals.

Staffing matters

I have spent a considerable amount of time dealing with staffing issues over recent weeks. Under the SSP I can't comment further but I want Council to understand that these matters have dominated my workload lately and have raised important issues that need to be dealt with in the long term.

Estates news

Peter and I met with Nick Roalfe, director of facilities management, and discussed a range of estates related issues. Council members will, I hope, have noticed recent redevelopment of the walkway and when this project is completed we look forward to reviewing our poster policy with the College. Nick also revealed plans to organise a forum to discuss the College's policy on environmental matters and when he advises me of a date I will invite some students to join me at this event.

External relations matters

I spent a day at the European Students Information Bureau conference at ULU where over 40 student unions from across Europe met to discuss European matters.

I have spent several days of the past month attending London Student Assembly meetings where matters such as housing, transport and the environment have been discussed. The aim is to present a report to the Mayor that summarises the issues that students are concerned about the most. Whether or not I actually get to meet Ken this year, I'm not sure.

Following the storm of National Conference, news from NUS has been much sober lately with painful reforms being implemented by their management team. Last week's regional London conference was held here in the Union Dining Hall on May 15th and delegates were very complimentary about our hospitality.

Environmental Policy Update

There have been some small steps forward since the introduction of our new environmental policy:

- New reusable skiffs will be made available very soon,
- Recycled paper is now being used in the Beit offices,
- Almost all of our light bulbs have been switched to low energy light bulbs,
- Our environmental consultant's report is due next week,
- Food is now being served on crockery in the union's catering outlets.

The next step is to ensure that all our plastic skiffs and cups can be recycled. Watch this space.

JC 16/05/07