

Imperial College Union

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A note by Stephen Brown

Handover

Over the summer I have attended countless meetings with people from College, NUS and other Students' Unions during the handover period. There has been a lot of changes in the Colleges SMT over the past few months, the most notable being the departure of the Deputy Rector to take up his new post as Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council. College have decided not to appoint a replacement and a lot of his responsibilities for education will transfer to Prof. Julia Buckingham who is the new Pro-Rector (Educational Quality). The most important changes are summarised in the following table

Departures	New appointments
Prof. Borysiewicz (Deputy Rector)	Prof. Buckingham
Prof. Rees Rawlings	
Tony Mitcheson (College Secretary)	Rodney Eastwood (College Secretary)

Prof. Mary Ritter has also moved from the position of Director of the Graduate School of Life Sciences and Medicine (GSLSM) to her new post as Pro-Rector for Postgraduate and International Affairs.

Building redevelopment

Unfortunately the Beit redevelopment is on hold and it is unlikely that work will start on the second phase before 2008. This is because College have indicated they are unwilling to support any ICU capital expenditure plan until they have confidence in our financial systems. The General Manager and I are currently having weekly meetings with Hameed Khan from Imperial College Finance Division so please take this as an indication that this is one of my main priorities for the coming term.

Service level agreements

I have been working with the Secretariat to draw up SLA's between ICU and HR, ICT and Estates. This process would be most charitably described as time consuming and I aim to have the final agreements signed by the end of November.

Trustee Board update

The Trustee Board has met thrice over the summer and will meet again on Monday 17 September. As it is still an interim body, most of the discussions have been structural. The next big step is to find suitable external trustees and Hamish Common and Danny McGuinness have agreed to sit on the nominations committee. Mandy Hurford has been appointed by the Executive and the remaining 2 positions have been advertised. So far the response has been good and I intend to close applications at the end of this week. Due to work commitments Adele Peel resigned her position as a trustee. If anyone knows of an individual who would like to take her place then please encourage them to get in touch as Council will be appointing a replacement on 29 October. The next meeting of the Trustee Board is scheduled for Thursday 8 November.

NUS/Aldwych

I have attended two meetings of The Aldwych Group in Belfast and Leeds during which the incoming sabbaticals conducted a mini "governance review" and came to an agreement over the aims and structures of the group for the coming year. If you do not believe this to be particularly impressive I suggest you ask John Collins or Ben Harris the trouble the group had with this relatively simple task last year. Following the Leeds meeting I am working with my counterparts at UCL, LSE, Oxford and Warwick to produce a policy document on International Student Provision within the Russell Group for consideration by the group.

I also attended the NUS Campaigns Convention at which their sabbaticals delivered a refreshingly realistic framework for a debate on the future of higher education funding. If anyone is interested in reading a report written by the Institute of Fiscal studies on the economics of free education drop me an email.

Freshers Week

So far (*as of Thursday*) freshers week has been a huge success and I would like to thank the Deputy Presidents for all the hard work they put in during this very important week.

Elections

Nominations are now open for elections to the Council and Trustee Board. For elections to the Council and Trustee Board, nominations are now open for and close on the 14th October; voting opens the 26th October and closes the 30th (day after next Council) and result will be announced on the 1st November. This means by third Council we will be fully up and running so if you know of anyone who would be interested then please encourage them to stand.

Council is also required to appoint a member from each faculty union to the Union Court. The appointment of the Court members will be done at the next meeting so if you know of anyone who would be interested then please encourage them to stand.

Wye

I have also spent a lot of time dealing with the Wye Degree classification controversy. I also attended a meeting with the UKCU President and their General Manager to discuss arrangements regarding the transfer of Wye to UKC and the impact that it will have on both Kent and Imperial students.

Beit redevelopment funding correction

I have been mandated by the Executive Committee to report to Council that we clarified in the minutes of the sixth ordinary meeting of Council in the 2005/06 year that the money Council authorised to be spent on the first stage of the Beit Redevelopment was to come from the Union General Reserve and not the Executive Committee Reserve. This might seem like a fairly trivial point but I am sure that you will agree that it is important that all Union committees have an audit trail for all expenditure that they authorise.