

Council
19th May 2008

Deputy President (Finance & Services) Report
A Report by Chris Larvin

Firstly, sorry this is late; the deadline for the report conveniently coincided with the Summer Ball price rise.

Clubs and Societies

On top of the weekly Clubs and Societies Group meetings, in the last fortnight there have been over four hours of discussions on club and societies finance between staff and sabbaticals. We are looking at how the current procedures fit in with best practice as well as delivering a high level of service to clubs and societies. Additionally, I have spent some time looking at debtors from last year, and this year, with consideration to the current credit control procedure and how it might be improved. There have been a number of short-term and long-term proposals which sound promising.

There have been lots of discussions regarding training which should begin in a matter of weeks with work increasing in the coming week.

A clubs and societies ticketing system is currently being tested which should improve service to clubs and societies and help manage the workload on staff and sabbaticals.

The Capital Expenditure Plans procedure is currently being reviewed which should improve understanding and transparency with the system. I am currently devising a CEPs template and documentation for all levels which includes the DPFS, CSB and clubs and societies. The last meeting of CSB saw a lengthy paper on the subject alongside a note outlining changes in the minibus system and a review of incidents this year.

Summer Ball

This has dominated a large amount of my time in the last month with the price rise on May 16th and there is far too much going on to describe in this report. I've had a number of meetings within College including Commercial Services and the Office of Alumni and Development. At the most recent meeting of the Trustee Board I reported the current risk management plan which helped defer the Trustees concerns about the event. Also, anyone who hasn't got a ticket by now is just not cool.

Commercial Services

I have been monitoring feedback which on the whole is positive, apart from the time it takes for food to be delivered. Hopefully this problem should be relieved with training and customers are now advised if the wait will be excessive. Feedback surveys will be conducted in the near future which will be associated with the rebranding of YourSay.

Minibuses

Following the approval of the new business plan by the Executive Committee, purchase orders for our 4 new minibuses have been delivered to the garage. This means we should have our shiny new buses ready for the start of the new academic term when they are needed. We are now in the process of selling the older buses in the fleet.

Bursaries

An interesting situation with College payroll arose relating to the working hour limits for casual staff. This was reported to the Representation and Welfare Board last month. After starting an argument in College, we should hopefully have a resolution shortly. Thanks to Kirsty for taking a lead on this one.

Cinema

I've spent more time looking into the business case for upgrading the cinema which may be potential income stream for the Union.

Other meetings and faffery

I attended College Senate with the President and the DPEW which was typically uninteresting. I have discussed the situation of the Guilds finances with the CGCU Hon. Sec. which proved reassured and saw a chance for the CGCU to move forward.

Also I attended a residences tribunal the other week which highlighted the need for alcohol awareness on campus which I raised at the last Representation and Welfare Board. Also raised was a method of monitoring the impact of campaign weeks which was queried during the subvention bid as currently there is no formal procedure.

Finally, on Wednesday 14th I took part in the Postgraduates Award Ceremony in the Royal Albert Hall with my fellow Sabbs; congratulations to all those who graduated.