

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Finance & Services) Report
A Note by Christian Carter
Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Clubs and Societies

Systems

The server which hosted the online finance pages decided to take its own life the week before last. Since then I have managed to replace the server with a more modern and up-to-date one. If the worst should happen and this new server fails then it should be fixable at the click on a button without the need for a full reinstall.

My thanks to the *Business Systems Manager* and the *Web and Database Systems Consultant* for reinstalling the new finance server in such a short time.

Events

I have continued to meet with the organisers of the bigger events; East Meets West, Mega Maali and the Bahngra Showdown.

Budgeting 09/10

The online budget pages have been properly tried and tested by the Arts and Ents board and has led to a new system being written. The new system will be rolled out on the first day of term. CSB have met and approved the timeline for budgeting and have also approved the minimum allocations at 80% less the previous years underspend.

Dead Clubs

The DPCS and I have reviewed a long list of dead clubs and have decided to remove them from the system in order to reutilise their codes. The balance left on the accounts will be moved to the general reserve at the end of the year.

Club Debts

The DPCS and I have also been reviewing those clubs who are in severe debt. I have already met with several of them and have arrived at solutions for repayment or the like.

Catch up Meetings

For those CSC Chairs and Treasurers who don't bug me every hour of my life, I have arranged to have one to one catch up meetings which have proved useful thus far.

VAT

As most of you now know, the Chancellor decided to instigate a temporary VAT rate of 15% for standard rated supplies. This is now in operation and will last till the end of 2009. As you can imagine this took up most of my time for a good week. This is how the relevant areas of the Union will be affected:

Retail

The reduction will be passed onto customers (however small it is). The Epos Systems have been successfully updated to reflect to new rate. The staff are manually changing the shelf labelling and are most of the way there.

Bars

The EPOS system has been changed to reflect the new rate although the prices will not be affected as the increase in alcohol duty has gone up to offset the reduction in VAT.

Catering

The Union has a special arrangement with HMRC to the affect that we only pay VAT on 6.6% of sales during the term time. The catering prices will not be changed as the reduction would be less than 0.1%

Business & Finance Systems

New VAT codes have been created for the standard rates and all those partial rates derived from the standard rates. The other databases have been updated to handle the new VAT rates.

Summer Ball

I have had several meetings with Conferencing to discuss arrangements for this years Summer Ball. We are currently reviewing sponsorship opportunities.

Planning continues, with deadlines being discussed currently between the project manager and I.

The College have offered us an extra £2000 donation for the Summer Ball with regard to their not passing on the VAT discount on staff catering purchases.

The working group met and was somewhat depleted on numbers, if anyone has any comments or feedback to make, do send it to me by email.

Feedback

The trading forum has been postponed to this Wednesday at 13.00 where there will be refreshments provided.

We have also sent out a Trading Survey on surveymonkey which you can find by visiting our website at imperialcollegeunion.org (Chance to win a free ipod)

Union Webserver

The "heeps" replacement has been bought and is currently in the server room in college – Some of the larger sites (Felix and Live!) will be transferred over in early January and then the sysads will be contacting some of the other club sites to ask if they want to be moved. It would be nice to close down the old server by Easter.

Meetings

I have attended the first half of the ICT Advisory Panel before leaving after the first hour for the Information Security and Systems Group as the representative for the Students Union. Here we discuss any pressing issues with College Systems – I'm pleased to say there was nothing of great reflection for the students.

I also sat on a four hour disciplinary hearing for College on Friday and am due to meet for another hour deliberation this afternoon.

Myself and most of the Sabbs attended the Eastside Topping Out ceremony which isn't really a meeting but I thought I'd pop it in here anyhow.

Accounts

I continue to review the management accounts and am pleased to say that most of our commercial services are doing very well; in fact they are all up on last year to date. Areas of weakness are being worked on by the relevant managers.

Business Systems Changes

There have been proposed changes to the finance system by our staff which will reflect heavily on our Business Systems. I am currently investigating these changes and the effect they would have on student activities should they be implemented.

CLC – 15 December 2008