

Imperial College Union
President's Report – A note by Ashley Brown

Beit Masterplan

With Phase 2 of the Beit Masterplan mostly out of the way, except for the clearing of the old offices, we are now looking at Phase 3. Over the past couple of weeks we have been looking at reducing the scope of the works, effectively bumping certain refurbishments (such as the Concert Hall) to a future phase. Phase 3 is partly commercial services, with the remodelling of da Vinci's and dB's, so we will have to pay for those bits ourselves. We are currently putting together a business case and funding model.

Beit Quad

The marquee we had up for our freshers' events has now been taken down. The lawn was due for re-turfing in November so we do not feel particularly bad about the slaughter of the grass. At some point a number of paving slabs were broken, so in a feat of health-and-safety gone mad, not only have College fenced off the affected area, they've also fenced off a load of other paving too. They don't appear to have a paving-slab replacement process, so I do not have a date for when the awful orange barriers will be taken away.

External Relations

On the 16th and 17th October I attended a **conference at Aston University** of non-affiliates of the NUS, paid for by the university. We were joined by the President of Durham Students' Union, as Durham are having a referendum on affiliation next month and wanted to be fully informed. We identified areas where we felt we could work more closely, to fill any gaps arising from being outside the NUS. We concluded that we could work more closely on a number of items, providing a support network for each other and sharing resources to avoid duplication. The name "United Students' Unions". It was a very productive couple of days and we have our next meeting in Durham in late November to keep the momentum going.

Of particular interest to us was co-operation in training and sharing best-practice and campaigns information between those in the group. Durham has agreed to take part regardless of their NUS-affiliation status, as the Durham President found it a useful experience. Other unions committed are: Southampton University Students' Union, University of Sunderland Students' Union, Durham Students' Union and Aston Students' Guild.

I have also attended my first meeting of **ULU Senate**. We still have students on University of London degrees, although we only sit on the Senate as an observer. The meeting was not quorate, so no decisions could be made. However, it did provide a good opportunity to meet the ULU President, who seems very keen to turn ULU into a functioning body and work more closely with us for representation in London.

By the time of this meeting I should also be able to give a verbal update on:

- The 3rd Aldwych Group meeting in Manchester, on postgraduate issues.
- A meeting with Heythrop College on working more closely together, similar to the meetings I have held with the RCA and RCM.

Postgraduate Review

We have been invited to submit our comments to the Postgraduate Review, which will cover the following areas:

- to assess the competitiveness of UK institutions in the global market for postgraduate education;
- to assess the benefits of postgraduate study for all relevant stakeholders;
- to assess the evidence about the needs of business and other employers for postgraduates; and,
- to examine levels of participation, in terms of who undertakes postgraduate study, and whether there are barriers affecting the diversity of participation and any associated reduction in the availability of high-quality entrants

If you have any thoughts on these matters, particularly if you are a postgraduate representative or applying/on a postgraduate course, please let me know.

Discipline

Our students and clubs sometimes like to misbehave. I've spent more time than I would like going through incident reports from evenings at the union and reviewing the actions of naughty clubs. The student hardship and opportunities funds will be growing shortly, as a number of fines are due.

Elections

In addition to the main elections, I've also been setting up elections for year reps, dep reps, RWB reps for Exec etc. It is good to see so many people wanting to do proper voting online, but I can't help but think we should co-ordinate these better.

Coming Up

I have some exciting things coming up in the week of this meeting, such as the Knightsbridge Association's Law and Order Committee, the Carbon Management Steering Board and the College Health & Safety Committee.