

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Finance & Services) Report
A Note by Daniel Hill

Clubs and Societies

- Two meetings of CSB have been held since the last Council. Attendance has been very good and the meetings are very productive. At the last meeting I presented the timetable for club budgeting which starts early next term.
- Last month I presented two papers to Exec which directly affects the running of clubs and societies. These were titled 'C&S Debt Collection' and 'Reissuing of Cheques'.
- Events and sponsorship: I have received many budgets for Christmas dinners and events over the past month and a few sponsorship contracts... Keep sending them in.
- I am receiving fewer annoying emails now which is great! My thanks to the CSC and SAC people who are answering the many clubs queries.

Commercial Services & Entertainments

- The Christmas Ball line-up has been announced and I hope you have all seen advertisements for it (ICU website, Felix, posters up in the union and the walkway). Tickets are just £5 if bought online.
- 'A Christmas Present from the Union' - We have recently introduced promotions to our evening catering menu. For the rest of the term you are able to get a drink and burger meal for just £5 or a drink and fish + chips meal for just £4.25 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. And on Wednesdays we have a drink and pasta meal for £4. We will introduce further promotions next term in the 'January Sale.'
- Since the last Council the Union has held a RAG Bar Night, ACC Bar Night, RCSU Big Tickle and Stop That Urban Noise in addition to the standard Wednesday and Friday night events.
- Christmas Lunches have been available in da vinci's on Tuesdays and Thursdays over the past few weeks. These have been very popular and are great value at just £3.50 for two courses. Tomorrow (Tuesday) is the last day we will be serving them so don't miss out!

Finance

- I am meeting regularly with the Union Head of Finance to discuss Union finance procedures for ICU staff. We have also been reviewing the Union's finance regulations along with the Membership Services Manager. The plan is to draft changes in January and present these to council next term.
- I attend the weekly finance meeting where the finance department meet to discuss issues. Each week an update on the SAP Project (changes/upgrade to the Union's finance system) is presented by the Union Head of Finance. The project is on schedule and changes to finance procedures will be seen next term.
- Management Accounts: I continue to review the management accounts and am pleased to say the majority of our commercial services are doing well compared to the budget. Areas of weakness are being worked on by the relevant managers.

Summer Ball

- The first Summer Ball meeting was held earlier this month. Currently I am working on a budget with the Operations manager. The aim for this year is to make the Ball more entertainments driven, with popular live/DJ acts spread across three music venues, (Great Hall, Queens Lawn, and Beit Quad). The idea is to get a very well known headliner act for the Queens Lawn.
- There will be no marquee on Queen's Lawn this year so the dinner will be held in the Queens Tower Rooms. Only 350 Dinner tickets are available and these will go on sale in early January so buy early to avoid disappointment.

Freshers Trading Forum

- Instead of the standard trading forum advertised to all students, we decided to hold one specifically aimed at first year students. The forum was held on the 17/11/09 in the Union Bar. The forum was advertised on the ICU Freshers' Facebook group with a message sent out to all 1543 members as well as appearing as the front news article on the ICU website. The adverts promised a free drink to all students who offered advice so I decided not to repeatedly spam the facebook group. However the attendance figures were much lower than I had expected. Approximately 25 students attended and only 2 of these were freshers. So looking forward to next terms trading forum - the event needs a lot more advertising.
- With the phase 3 go-ahead confirmed on the 17/11/09 it was decided to include this topic in the trading forum. Many students were enthusiastic about the project and offered some great ideas.
- The findings of the forum were presented to Exec last week.

Meetings

- I attended the ICT Advisory Panel (ICTAp) meeting last week. Issues such as the download limit in halls and student surveys were discussed.
- I attended an ACC and CGCU meeting this month. I aim to attend one meeting for each CSC/FU next term.

Phase 3

- Since the last meeting of Council Phase 3 has progressed well. The go-ahead was confirmed on 17/11/09. Phase 3 building work is looking to start in June, with the venue open for freshers' week. This does mean it will interfere with the Summer Ball; however the Operations Manager and I are looking at ways to prevent disruption to the smooth running of the ball.
- The Phase 3 working group was set-up this month and we met on 2/12/09. Twelve students attended and we talked about ideas for both new nightclub and sports/catered bar. If you are interested in becoming part of the working group and you are able to commit to regular meetings next term please email me at dpfs@imperial.ac.uk.
- The Operations Manager, Phase 3 Architect, Entertainments and Promotions Manager and I visited 5 nightclubs around London including Fabric and Matter, to get some ideas for the new nightclub venue. It proved very useful and we hope to visit other students' unions in the coming weeks.
- I will be setting up a technical working group and casual staff working group (bars, entertainment and stewarding staff) next term.
- Last week in the JCR and Union Bars the DPW, DPE and I handed out floor plans for the two new venues asking students to draw on bar/nightclub facilities and annotate the plans. The majority of the plans are 'unrealistic' however many of them agree with the outcomes of the first Phase 3 working group.
- The Communications and Sponsorship Coordinator and I are setting up a survey for students to gauge their opinions on what they want from Phase 3. This should be sent out early this week.
- Phase 3 has been advertised heavily in Felix and on the Union website asking for students to send in their ideas, comments, suggestions and improvements. I am happy to say we have received a few though we would like to see more.

DLH – 14 December 2009