

DPCS Council Report

A report by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Heather Jones

Due to the short gap between this and the last Council I have relatively little to report. The formal ArtsPartnership is held up due to bureaucratic wrangling but following the Music and Visual Arts Committee meeting on 10 November the committee is now called the ArtsImperial Board and has a formal strategy for both the long and short term. The level of student representation on the board has also increased substantially and in the coming weeks we will have to elect the new representatives to sit on this board.

On a less positive note we have discovered that College have shut down the volunteer centre. Though this is primarily due to a government funding cut I would have hoped to see some protection of the Centre for at least a year so that it could investigate being self-sufficient within the Outreach department. I'm also disappointed that College did not choose to consult the Union before this closure took place. We are currently investigating volunteering opportunities provision at the Union and whether or not there are the resources here to operate a reduced but similar type of service in the future.

Projects policy continues to progress well as I help DPW Charlotte Ivison develop the resources we need to run them. Alison Ahearn is also providing invaluable advice to a number of groups and is great to have on-side, directing students to the Union whilst also sharing her expertise with them. The College student-led projects working group is also throwing up a lot of interesting material relating to how departments within College manage their extra-curricular activities and trips. It seems that the Union has a lot of good-practice to share in this area.

I am excited to be involved in the writing of the Strategic plan, details of which President Alex Kendall will present to Council this week. I'm sure that it will be a great way to focus on what students really want from their Union and how the staff and sabbaticals can deliver it.

I have also been continuing to train the remaining Principal Officers as well as assisting the clubs set up by New Clubs Committee which were:

Fives

A Capella

Energy

Self-Defence and Fitness.

Congratulations to all of them and I hope they go from strength to strength.

Finally, I have been assisting in the running of University Challenge which seems to be progressing well. I'm looking forward to having a fantastic team to send to the competition as well as an interesting final event where we crown the best Faculty at Imperial. Many thanks to all the Faculty presidents who have taken the time to select the best teams and well done to those who have been selected.