

Council  
17<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Council Report  
A paper by the DPCS

It has only been a little over a month since the last Council and since much of that has been College closure this is likely to be a shorter than usual report – especially as I took some holiday over the Christmas break.

The end of last term was very busy attending Concerts etc. produced by clubs all of which were very enjoyable as well as trying to figure out a fair way to do room bookings. It was disappointing to see some clubs trying to book all spaces at all times in the Union building, clearly there is a need to be reasonable in requests as we have to balance the needs of almost 300 groups. In the future it may be necessary to include a wider range of spaces in the facilities allocation meeting in June. However, I shall consult on this point with CSB before making any decisions.

The student-led projects working group has had another meeting where it was resolved that projects/expeditions/trips that are too complex to have their risks assessed by the Union should be passed to the Exploration Board who have more expertise. This will only happen in a tiny minority of cases and the hope is that with their help the trip will have a greater chance of success and the project will be considered a representative activity gaining insurance coverage from the College. This should be a great help for a small proportion of our groups.

As the Windpower concert approaches I have been helping College to find volunteers for the evening as well as promoting the event. I have also been discussing the agreement we have with College regarding booking Conference spaces, including a new booking form. This also ties into some work I've done with Security on tightening up the room booking approval process to ensure EVERY booking gets adequate scrutiny. There were previously some gaps in the system.

I volunteered to be returning officer for the Sabbatical elections and am happy to have DPW Charlotte Ivison as my Deputy Returning Officer. We are hoping that with targeted advertising we will be able further increase the number of votes this year – getting even more people involved in democracy in their Union.

DPFS, Ravi Pall, and I have been working with staff on writing a specification for online claim forms, hoping for it to be online for the next academic year. The proposal has been sent to CSB for consultation but any Council member is welcome to offer us their thoughts or suggestions by e-mail.

I will be rechecking store areas in the coming weeks. A lot of time was spent rearranging stores at the beginning of last term but sadly some of them seem to have returned to their original state. The gym store has already been rearranged and clear areas have been marked for different clubs.