

Imperial College Union
President's Report
A Note by the President

Strategic Plan

The company Red Brick was chosen to facilitate the creation of the 5 year Strategic Plan after three companies put out a tender to do so. The tenders were examined by the Executive and the Trustee Board. The creation of the Plan will last from now until June and will involve several phases getting student and staff input and then collating the results and forming the plan. The first phase, a series of focus groups, happened last week and we received over 200 applications for 80 places in the groups.

Finance

I am happy to say that after two rounds of interviews we have appointed Mayuri Patel from the Faculty of Medicine Finance Department to the role of Union Finance Manager. She will start fully in late May / early June due to her notice period.

The documentation of the Union's financial procedures is also currently underway and is expected to be complete before the end of term

Life Sciences

I was disappointed to learn that the teaching review in Life Sciences is not designed to tackle the aftermath of the restructure and instead is taking a more long term view of teaching in the whole department. Though any review is welcome, I am concerned as to what is happening to the content of the Undergraduate degree in the near future, the Masters Programmes and PhD students. In the last meeting of Senate, Ian Owens was present and revealed that Masters project tutors would be staying on until September, allowing this year's intake to complete their projects. He also maintained that despite the cut in teaching hours, there would be no significant change to the courses. We are awaiting the release of the Biology and Biochemistry second year and final year options to see if this is the case. We are also waiting for the release of the teaching review consultation paper so that we can make a submission.

Bursaries Survey

The week before last we launched a bursaries survey to find out how students who get bursaries use them, what they think of the current system and how they think it can be improved in the future. The survey has now closed and I hope to have a summary by the time we get to Council.

Budgeting

By the time we get to Council, the budgeting process for Clubs & Societies, Representation & Welfare and Executives will have finished. The figure allocated in direct grants did not change this year except for the Clubs & Societies grant which went up by 5% to help them combat VAT increases, the increase in fuel prices and inflation.

Hall Rent Survey

The Hall Rent Survey has begun after contributions from Commercial Services and the Wardens. It will close on Friday 18 March and the results communicated to students and Commercial Services.

Commercial Services

As of 15 March, Francesco Atanasio, Commercial Services Manager, is leaving the Union. His interim replacement will run the Commercial outlets (apart from the shop) while we advertise for a replacement.

Trustee Drinks

On Tuesday 8 March we had a short drinks evening where the Trustees met members of Senior College Staff. It went very well, and since this is the only time when they currently meet, I hope we can make it an annual event. The Trustees are ultimately responsible for the finances of the Union.