

Imperial College London
President's Report
A Report by Scott Heath

Since the last gathering of the Trustee Board there has been the handover over the Sabbatical Team, 3 gatherings of Union Council and 4 gatherings of the Executive Committee.

Below I have highlighted some of the key areas of discussion:

Topics from Council and Exec

Sabbatical Blogs

I restructured the Sabbatical Blog system to make them a more interactive and fun system to use. The result of this has been higher traffic on the blogs and wider reception in College.

White Paper Response

The Union responded to the Governments White Paper entitled Students in the Heart of the System. This document is available on the Sabbatical Blogs and the Union Website. We provided a rather different approach and stance to most Student Unions. Most opinions were supported by data from a survey conducted over the Summer vacation.

Aldwych Meetings

Myself and Jason have attended three meetings of the Aldwych Group and are slowly trying to make it a more forceful lobbying body.

Ordinary Members of Council

We are having issues getting Postgraduate Representatives to join the Council. A third-round of elections is currently underway.

Quad Improvements

Over the summer I secured funding for new bins, pushed Facilities to fix the paving and got the awning opening in the quad. We have also rolled out new, and far safer, benches.

Responsible Retailing of Alcohol

This document will be seen later in the meeting, however a new policy outlining best practice for the bars was passed by the Executive Committee. This policy has been well-received by members of College.

Mayoral Elections

We are currently working with local Unions to try to create a student-centric pledge for the GLA and Mayoral elections in May. It is hoped that through this we can secure more benefits for the student body.

NSS Response

Imperial scored badly in the National Student Survey once again; this time seeing it drop significantly in The Sunday Times league table. Due to this I decided it would be beneficial if the Union produced a document detailing what we believe could, and should, be done to improve the University Experience for all students. The document and recommendations has been well-received and good progress is being made.

Rectors Away Day

For the first time in recent history (and possibly ever) I, along with the Deputy President (Education) and four students, attended the Rectors Away Day. It was focused on the Student Experience and has produced a few rather important initiatives. What was most humbling about the experience was the number of times people commented on the positive benefits of the students' presence as well as the NSS Response.

Associate Members

I have been working hard to engage more with our Associate Institutes, as well as those that neighbour us. Some of the benefits of this work can be seen in the increased participation by the Associate Members as well as the participation of our Imperial Students with the Foundation for International Education's (FIE) upcoming conference.

Post-Qualification Admissions

A UCAS proposal was recently released detailing how PQA may work in the UK. We are currently preparing a response to this.

Student Charter

We are engaged in a Student Charter Working Group as there is significant momentum behind this proposal. I will be asking Council soon whether, in light of disagreements with the concept last year, they wish for me to continue.

Student Hubs

A paper will be seen later in the meeting which will discuss Student Hubs, an organisation which I believe we should form a partnership with. By doing so, we will be able to increase the Volunteering opportunities of our Members. I have been working closely with Sara and her team since August to bring Student Hubs to Imperial College.

Staffing Matters

The new General Manager, Joe Cooper, joined the Union at the start of the month.

The Student Activities Coordinator, Olle Akesson, has tendered his resignation to pursue a position with the Fisheries Agency. In light of this we decided to review the position and will be seeking to hire a Student Activities Manager and a Membership Services Administrator. It is hoped these two positions will begin to provide the necessary support the Clubs and Societies require.