

President's Report

A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

It has been a while since the last Trustee Board – I have selected some of the highlights of my Council Reports from January-May for reporting here.

New Code of Practice & Relationship Agreement

The Union's Code of Practice & Relationship Agreement (passed at last Board) has been approved by the College Council.

Funding discussions

The College have confirmed that they are going to set our subvention level at £1.4M with a 2.5% uplift each year for the next 3 years.

Charing Cross discussions

Space renovation plans at Reynolds Bar are currently going through College Capital Expenditure Boards. We hope that we can have that space revamped, potentially with us contributing some money from the unspent Harlington 'large projects' pot.

Summer Ball

The Summer Ball planning is well underway and ticket sales are looking healthy so far. The theme has been received well and details are currently working out. We are currently on or (just) under budget for all aspects of the event.

Lobbying College

A number of campaigns have been run by the Union:

#AgainstActon

The Union's campaign over the College Accommodation Strategy resulted in a response from the College Management Board that actioned a full review of Evelyn Gardens and Garden Hall's buildings, and gave authority to the COO of the College to engage with third parties over the Evelyn Gardens' lease. A successful campaign that can't be dropped on next year, when the Space Review reports back in October 2013.

#AgainstAuction

The Union ran a very short – but successful – campaign against Westminster School auctioning an internship at Imperial College on their website. It is my fundamental belief that access to education should be based on merit, not ability to pay; and that efforts to widen access to an Imperial education to students from disadvantaged backgrounds are a central part of the College's academic mission.

International Mobility

Based on data collated by Doug, the Union's released a Response to the International Mobility Survey.

Union Alternative Prospectus

Work is continuing on the Alternative Prospectus, which the Union hopes to release by the end of this academic year. It will be the student view on the College and has been condoned by senior College Management.

Interfaith Lunch

I held an interfaith lunch with the leaders of the Union's different faith groups and the Rector. As a result of this – on request of the groups – I have started an interfaith mailinglist for the societies to keep in touch with each other more easily.

Beit Basements

A project to redevelop the Beit East and West basements, as well as parts of the 3rd and 1st floors of the main Union building are in development. If all goes to plan, the Union will have a redeveloped 3rd floor and 1st floor over this Summer. Development of the basements will then be the Summer after, so as to not adversely affect society activities. The new project will create new activity and meeting spaces, as well as new toilets and eventually, a new media centre.

Trustee Interviews

Myself, the Managing Director and the Chair of the Trustee Board, Julia Higgins, interviewed candidates for the role of Alumni and External Trustee. Nominations from the Appointments & Remunerations Committee – myself, Julia and Janet Rogan – are coming to this Council and the next Trustee Board.

Finished Access Agreement

I have provided a letter of support towards the College's Access Agreement 2014-15. This agreement with the Office for Fair Access is what sets the College's Outreach and widening participation work, the College bursaries and allows the University to charge £9k fees. The College has one of the best bursary offerings in the sector:

1st year: £1k cash, £5k service discounts (accommodation)

2nd year+: £6k cash.

The College is looking to increase the range of service discounts in the future (to possibly include union clubs and societies) particularly for people who don't live in College accommodation, or don't spend all £5k on their accommodation. The Union needs to keep pushing for this next year.

Trustee Board Away Day

Three months ago the Trustee Board held an away day, for which I gave a two hour presentation on the College, changes to the College, and the Sector (Higher Education Sector – universities in general). This was to try and induct the new sabbaticals early, and for the Board to brainstorm

strategy and risks for the next few years. I have included the slides from my presentation here and am happy to explain in more detail should anyone wish (Appendix 1).

James Stirling Paper/Meeting

The new Provost, James Stirling, is starting in August, and so I wrote a introductory paper to the Union and met with him and Doug to discuss the Union and College.

Postgraduate Graduation

Over 2,600 graduands and 5,000 guests attended the 3 services in the Royal Albert Hall, at which I gave the Student Orator speech and announced the role caller names.

BIS & MPs on PGT Funding

Further to Council's paper on PGT funding received and approved last session, I wrote to our two local MPs and David Willetts presenting Council's ideas.

Union Budgeting

The Union's budgeting process is currently underway with presentations from budget holders going to myself and Stefan. A range of options and decisions will go to Exec soon before the budget moves to the Trustee Board.

PRES Consultation

The DPE and myself held a number of consultations with the GSA and PGR students on recommendations to make as part of a PRES response. The PRES broad results have now been released, but we are awaiting raw data before turning this into a full-blown response.

Ideas Day

The Union held an Idea's Day at which we captured students' responses to feed into the last part of our strategic plan, that will go to the Trustee Board this Summer.

Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs)

The Union's inaugural SACAs were successfully awarded at a ceremony last week. The Awards are the Union's Teaching Awards whereby nominations are submitted and selected by students.

Accommodation Fee Setting

I have started discussions with senior College management about having College Accommodation Fees set by a committee with student representation on.