

Imperial College Union

15th May 2017

Imperial College Union Council Report

Nas Andriopoulos, President

Block Grant Negotiation

- At the beginning of *Our Plan 2013-2016* we negotiated a 3-year funding agreement with the College valued ~£1.2-1.4m per annum. There was a 1-year extension agreed for this year.
- I am leading our negotiation with College for a new 3-year block grant agreement to underpin growth in student numbers, defend from inflation rises and most importantly underpin *Our Strategy 2017-20*. We have requested a moderate increase in funding.
- We have provided a proposal to College management and will be meeting with them shortly to negotiate the agreement.

Union Budgeting

- Alongside, Rachel Blythe, I have been scrutinising the Union's internal budgets for next year.
- We are approaching the second viewing of budgets and looking forward to the challenge of balancing different priorities across the organisation and delivering the greatest impact for members.
- Consideration is being taken in order to support the incoming OTs to deliver on their manifesto commitments.

General Election

- I have made the Union's preparations for the General Election which chiefly focus on driving voter registration.
- These will include: social media splashes, space in the Union's email newsletters, a dedicated all-student email this Thursday, a physical presence in the Sherfield Foyer on Wednesday and JCR on Friday at lunch.
- Michael Edwards is in the process of organising a debate between local party representatives and I have been invited to chair.

Design Engineering

- Major changes were proposed to the UG Design Engineering courses following student, staff and industrial feedback.
- I acted as the student academic representative on the Programmes Committee to ensure that proposed changes went ahead, against fairly strong resistance from some areas of College.
- This should improve the experience and readdress workload distribution problems for all Design Engineering students in future years.
- I would like to thank the academic representatives in Design Engineering for their in-depth consultation with me on the final Friday evening of last term.

West Basement

- Nearly finished work – final electronics, window, cable racks and floor being fitted this week.

- Sound testing on Friday 26th May. If successful there will be a celebratory party. If not I will probably cry.
- Looking to come in on budget.
- Continued thanks to the student users, James Targett in particular.

White City

- There is a committee looking at various service provision at the Molecular Science Research Hub in White City, including: nursery space, student-hub, ICU desks, gym provision, social space, bar, café space, and student counselling.
- Hot desk space will be provided in the communal area for Union & College student-facing services, who will be attending in rota.
- There will be permanent ICT support on site.
- Student Counselling will be in a discrete location.
- Other services are being sought to be delivered by local business or in conjunction with other nearby Imperial sites (Hammersmith Hospital, North Acton).

Alumni

- We supported the alumni weekend, with all attendees offered a free drink at our outlets by the Alumni Relations Office.
- Life Membership continues to make progress, with the systems to deliver the new product online being the critical path.
- Life Members will be able to dictate where in the Union the majority of the cost of the product will be distributed. For example, to a CSP of their choice or a department of the Union or any other combination.
- The package of benefits the Life Member receives will be enhanced before the new product is launched in June.

Miscellaneous:

- Alongside Emily-Jane, we have provided feedback and challenged the College's new disciplinary procedure in several different forums.
- **Careers Service** – Following the paper to Council I have met with Eric Suen individually and together with the Careers Service with the intention of addressing the service at high-demand times throughout the year. The careers service pointed out a number of factual inaccuracies in the paper and we discussed various methods/projects that could be used to alleviate demand and free up resources to help students who need assistance the most. We have resolved to meet again to write a new paper in partnership with the service to correct the factual inaccuracies and outline agreed improvements.
- **Trustee Residential** – The outgoing and ingoing trustees met to discuss various strategic challenges faced by the organisation and make progress on scrutinising next year's operating plans. Feedback suggests that the incoming Trustees found the event incredibly valuable.
- **Democracy Review** – no further progress to report since previous meeting. This is now my main priority.
- **Citizens UK** – I have arranged to meet with the representative to discuss the future of the relationship next week.

- **Well-being Representative Network** – I continue to have a very active role in shaping the development of the new roles. We have conducted very useful focus groups and the next step will be to bring draft role descriptions and a network structure to relevant students for consultation. Simultaneously we will now begin detailed conversations at every level in College about the plugin points between the College and well-being reps.
- **What Uni Choice Awards** – One of the largest university awards ceremonies in the UK. Imperial was shortlisted for two awards: **Best City Life** and **Best Clubs & Societies**. I attended along with James Cox (DPCS), but unfortunately we did not win this year.
- **Events:** SACAs, Postgraduate Graduation, College Council, Sports Awards Ceremony,
- I took annual leave either side of Easter and actually didn't use it to work for a change!