



Imperial College Union Board of Trustees

Date: 16.10.2018

AGENDA ITEM NO.	
TITLE	Union President Board Report
AUTHOR	Rob Tomkies
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Report on progress as Union President over the period since last Board
PURPOSE	Update board on work
DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED	None

Imperial College Union Board Report

Rob Tomkies, President

Introduction

This report falls at a point where we are nearly a quarter of the way through the year – settling in is well and truly over and all OT's have now fully got our teeth into projects. For my part operations have been frustratingly granular through certain aspects of the role.

Report on Progress

Club, Society, Projects (CSPs) and Constituent Union (CU) Support

- Meetings have been held with the College Alumni Relations service to see how we can create platforms for our current members to connect with alumni. We have successfully agreed that our CSP's and CU's will have platforms on Imperial Plexus, the online forum for alumni. This will give our current members access to communicate with alumni, organise joint events and the potential to look at online donations. Research into similar, well established schemes such as at LSE show income of over £1 million a year through this forum.

Next steps: I will be completing a scouting exercise to see which of our student groups have strong, pre-existing alumni networks and then working closely with college to set up these preliminary forums before expanding out later in the year.

- The Union successfully recruited a new Sales and Sponsorship Manager – Daz Martin – as part of trying to diversify our income away from college. Daz's focus has predominantly been on welcome events and income - however now this is over initial conversations around creating centralised support for sponsorship have begun.

Next steps: We will start compiling the advice material that currently exists in various locations around the Union, clubs, college etc before evaluating if any is any good. We will then look at consulting on what type of support student groups want.

Governance – Process Development

- The Graduate Student Union working group has examined and modelled one new restructure that highlighted we in fact need to address the root of all the problems rather than the surface level issues. Four key pillars have been identified moving forward to examine. Communication (outwards), receiving communication, Funding/resource allocation and Identity. Formalised connections between union staff, OTs and GSU committee have also been established.

Next steps: The timeline will be set at the next GSU working group in which we plan to tackle these problems and reported back to council.

- I have been working closely with Alex (Council Chair) and Harriet (Democracy Coordinator) to develop both online training material and then shape changes to council such as providing training and implementing a seating plan. Feedback from the first council has been

incorporated and adjusted into the second training. Issues in the logistics of running the day have also been ironed out (hopefully).

Next steps: Once the first councils have been conducted there will be a review process of the training and changes made to see how effective they have been in addressing previously identified issues.

- I have been spending time researching different formats of disciplinary policy including looking at colleges and other external Unions. I have also talked closely with Paul Beaumont (Chair of Governance Committee and the last person to review the disciplinary procedures) on areas that he has seen fail in the past five years.

Next steps: Following a review of this information I will identify the key target areas – bring them to council – before starting to review and construct the new procedures.

Support for the Deputy Presidents

- Worked closely with James on tackling concerns and confusion around ethos ranging from the alteration of fees to securing funding for the renovation and expansion of ethos.
- Worked with Becky to challenge college and secure subsidy for students with disabilities that need to live in South Kensington halls.
- Worked with Claudia to initialise conversations in college around 24 hour food offerings on campus which she will report on.
- Union process efficiency and project management has been a key area highlighted to be currently weak – James, Alex and myself have started looking at ways that this can be addressed.

Next steps: As detailed in each of their reports.

Operational Highlights

- Relationships with key college figures established – real push on Liberation, Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (LEDI) from college this year due to OfS report which is really exciting for myself and Becky.
- Strong stance taken against the mitigating circumstances policy passed by college senate – as a result Becky and I are now involved in all future work surrounding the policy – student facing documents, guidance and review process.
- All Constituent Presidents met with now and looking at legacy projects and goals for the year.
- Battling with College to change the “Union Presidents Welcome” at graduation which in my view does not align with our values and hasn’t changed since 1949.
- A frustrating amount of time has been taken up with Union and College investigations – hopefully this will be addressed in the disciplinary review.