

Imperial College Union Council Report

Rob Tomkies, President

Introduction

With this being written only a week after the last Union Council it seems so be becoming all too familiar. Over the past week and a bit I've been operationally busy with work predominantly falling under team goals.

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. The alumni service have been very busy around graduation and so progress has been minimal over the past week – this shall progress again at our next meeting (next week). One fun note has been helping to get in touch with Brian May (Queen) for a potential CSP event – waiting to finalise the details but hopefully you'll all hear soon!

Next steps: The scouting exercise continues – we'll also be looking to set up the first platforms for student groups on Plexus.

- Sponsorship material that already exists is being compiled from different sources – this is ongoing.

Next steps: We will continue compiling the advice material that currently exists in.

- Working closely with College and the Times – who are forming a partnership – on a student ambassador offering and events. There will be a big comms piece on this later on (only confirmed three days ago) but could be a really great for people obtaining experience and tutoring in journalism. Andy (Felix) is also working closely with this.

Governance – Process Development

- The Graduate Student Union working group is ongoing – we have started work on creating a reformed “Refreshers week” targeted at post grad students. This will include events such as a black tie dinner but also events building into it to raise the awareness of the GSU and raise engagement. We have also started to formalise the timeline to tackle the four pillars previously identified to tackle other aspects of the reform.

Next steps: Formalise the timelines and project plans. Start implementing.

- Council training has been completed and initial redesign done – we're now entering the re-evaluation phase to see what further changes should be made and if we are happy with the ones that have currently been made.

Next steps: Consolidate the data that we have and look at further improvements ranging from minor tweaks to a wider piece of reform work.

- Disciplinary research is ongoing – the Office of the Independent Adjudicators have just released an in depth document on best practice in Union disciplinary procedures which I am currently working through.

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.

- The Constitution and Byelaws have been formatted and tracked changes etc constructed – these shall be presented at council (hopefully today).
- There are ongoing issues in the Union on the prioritisation of work when things are brought in from all areas eg. Union Council, Board, campaigns, college, OT's and so on – I'm beginning to scout and look at formalising a process as for now potentially key work can fall to the side and people simply don't know where it fits into the order of what to tackle.

Next steps: Scout all areas that work streams can come in from and create different models to tackle this problem before looking at further work.

Support for the Deputy Presidents

- Worked with Becky to tackle colleges approach to widening participation. Real progress is beginning to be made but not formalised yet so watch this space.
- Worked with all DP's on the Student Experience Survey and what we want it to do at the end of the project. This has largely taken shape now.
- Worked with Alejandro on the Union Vision and Mission – expanded in the team report – consultation will be going out soon.

Next steps: As detailed in relevant reports.

Operational Highlights

- Review process of "Presidents Speeches" at graduation events confirmed – slow progress but good to finally be getting somewhere.
- College Disciplinary work took up a day in total – not a highlight but important that the student view point is heard in these cases.
- Involved in the Race Equality Charter self-assessment group – very early days but (first meeting last week) hopefully shall be more productive in future.

Closing Comments

As always, I am available in person and via email for any questions you may have on my report or the Union's work.

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