

# Imperial College Union Council Report

Rob Tomkies, President

## Introduction

Welcome back after the break all – hope exams or projects went well if you had them. Bit of an odd time period for me since last council. The week of last council was incredibly busy with interviewing or college meetings as everyone tried to squeeze things in before the Christmas break (hence all the time in meetings this time round). It then become really quiet as soon as students left as well as large proportions of staff disappearing on holiday. Since coming back governance deadlines have tightened before this council and so things have been frantic again building into the Board of Trustee work and Project work.

14/01/2019				
College Meetings	Project Work	Student + Union Meetings	Board of Trustee meetings + work	Operational
36.5 hours	26.5 hours	42 hours	26.5 hours	10 hours

## Report on Progress

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

- Links between the College alumni service and Union staff have been started to have been set up so we can strengthen these ties. This is the starting point of examining our alumni offering which currently has a lot that could be improved. Work on Plexus is slow with staff changeover but this is heading back on track.

**Next steps:** Consolidate relationships and look at offer duplication

### Governance – Process Development

It's been a busy couple of weeks for Governance so I'll keep this fairly swift. Some has come through project work, some has come through direction from Board and some has come through us simply not having things in place. This section has taken a huge amount of the time with the role.

- GSU Governance work – this is coming through in a separate paper (GSU Constitution). Through meeting with the GSU, mapping workloads and modelling the work flow through different structures as well as the actual governance change. Important to note that the current structure has also been designed so that if the nature of the GSU President role changes in future there is room to shift the work load to it or away from it depending on the nature of the change.

**Next steps:** Council scrutiny and continued work on the other three streams of the working group.

- OT Role Review – This is something that has been grumbled about for many years and no substantial changes have been made or if they have they were made after elections and then the following year the OTs switched it back. This year I was mandated to complete the review process. The results of this are in a separate paper as well.

**Next steps:** Council scrutiny and then acting on whatever the result of that is.

- Policy Review – At the last council we technically had three active policies as a Union. This obviously should not be the case. Alongside the work of student staff and the democracy coordinator - we've started collating policies and evaluating what actually needs to be renewed or re written. The immediate ones that are required by charity law etc have been the priority however now I'm creating a framework/work split so that we can start bringing these through to be updated as soon as possible.

**Next steps:** This process isn't exactly going to be quick as it hasn't been done for around 10 years now – once the framework is made it will be on going until next year.

- The Disciplinary review has made real head way – annoyingly this means that the work breadth may have grown considerably including both student and then staff facing documents as well as looking at the support framework for students and training provided to staff.

**Next steps:** This will be brought to council for a first look this term and then hopefully finalised by the end of the year.

### Support for the Deputy Presidents

- Worked with Becky and secured £250k funding for 2015 bursary cohort. Big win this – the money won't be directly available to spend on mozzarella sticks rather will have directions around it e.g. medics will be able to put it towards an overseas electives.
- All the OT's have been working alongside James to finalise the details of the higher level Sports Hub work. This is also in a paper coming through today.
- The first programs from the curriculum review have started coming through college's programmes committee – these have been through many layers of critique before this however Alejandro and I are now having the final word on things and putting recommendations though.

**Next steps:** As detailed in relevant reports.

### Operational Highlights

- People keep doing things wrong so there have been several disciplinarians and investigations – both Union and College.
- There have been a lot of staff roles that have been going through interviews – interviewing takes time but can be exciting to see new staff coming through. Also hugely important for some of the senior roles that the student perspective is included when selecting.

### Competition

Council being aware of the work that the OTs do is hugely important so you can direct what we do and shape the Unions priorities and hold us to account for what we do. Concerns have been raised that engagement and scrutiny has been lower this year and so to test whether this report is ever read I'm holding a competition – email [pres@ic.ac.uk](mailto:pres@ic.ac.uk) before 17:00 on January the 22<sup>nd</sup> with the subject "Prize" and grab a prize at council.

### 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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