



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the sixth ordinary meeting of the
Arts and Entertainments Board
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2011/2012 Session

The meeting of the Arts and Entertainments Board was held in room 711c, Huxley Building on 7th March 2012 at 18.06.

Present:

Position

Arts and Entertainments Board Secretary
A Capella Secretary
Big Band and Jazz Chair
Chamber Choir Chair
Choir Chair
Choir Vice-Chair
Dramsoc Chair
Jazz and Rock Chair
Leonardo Fine Arts Chair
Sinfonietta Chair
String Ensemble Chair
Orchestra Chair
Wind Band Chair

Name

Adam Funnell
Ben Chadwick
Chaz Kiederling
Donal Connolly
Aaron Pereira
Laura Simmons
Simon Worthington
Will Jones
Susana Lopes
Ben Phipps
Helena Perez Valle
Helen Pratt
Andrew Hall

Apologies:

Arts and Entertainments Board Chair
Arts and Entertainments Board Treasurer
Chamber Music Chair
Guitar Chair

Chandana Shankar
Henry Whittaker
King Lun Liu
Neil Dhir

Absent:

Calligraphy Representative
Cinema Representative
Fashion Representative
Musical Theatre Representative

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

ACTION:

The minutes of the previous meeting were passed as accurate minutes of that meeting by the committee.

2 APOLOGIES

NOTED:

The clubs listed above sent apologies to the Board. Chandana and Henry are absent due to the Union's Big Elections hustings this evening, leaving the meeting chaired by Adam.

3 SECRETARY'S BUSINESS

3.1 Artsfest

NOTED:

- (a)** Adam thanked everyone for their contributions to this year's Artsfest, and requested feedback from all clubs as to what they thought of this year's events.
- (b)** Simon was not happy with the way that it had been organised. There had been little publicity, and from Dramsoc's point of view it was no more special than a regular workshop held for their members - if anything it was less well attended.
- (c)** Several music clubs taking part in performances in the Business School Foyer felt somewhat isolated and out of place performing there - there was no publicity and no signs advertising Artsfest during the performances, and the performances could have happened at any time in a similarly random way. A lack of support from the Artsfest committee at these events was mentioned, since there were often no representatives present to support the groups taking part.
- (d)** Adam asked for people's thoughts on the Wednesday night party. This was held at an external venue and was poorly attended, but still made a £30 profit. Upwards of 100 people were expected to attend, but far fewer actually made it - so few that the venue was closed early. Susana pointed out that many Leonardo Society members attended the event and had a great time - if we had all shown more enthusiasm towards the night out it would have been even bigger and better. It was questioned why the night was not held in Metric, and this was attributed to difficulties booking rooms, somewhat unreasonably given that a month's notice was given. A majority of the Board agreed that the night should be repeated next year but should be held in Metric to increase attendance.
- (e)** In general the Board felt a lack of their input into Artsfest was not helpful. Helena would have liked more debate in each AEB meeting as to the plans for Artsfest, as everything was decided via email in an impersonal manner, not conducive to constructive debate. It was noted that although the Board should show more enthusiasm, they should also receive more input into the festival, and should be more involved with decision making.
- (f)** Simon said that Felix were completely unaware of Artsfest even occurring until very late in the week, so a lot of publicity was missed there. Adam suggested that in future we should look to be recognised as an official Union campaign week or similar (e.g. RAG Week, Green Week) to increase awareness.
- (g)** The lack of a finale concert was commented on - it was decided that without this focus of the week, it was difficult to have an aim for the week to lead towards. The concert should be free to encourage attendance, but it is difficult for clubs to commit to the concert due to the timings of their own concerts e.g. Choir and Chamber Choir rehearse

large works for specific concerts, and do not have anything “performance-ready” by the time of the Artsfest concert.

- (h) Adam asked what the broader aims of Artsfest should be, and how we can achieve them. The aim to increase publicity and perception of the arts across College was noted and agreed. Music Tech said that clubs should be able to just “do their thing” but bigger and better. Susana would like to see more clubs do out of the ordinary things and work on bold projects that could not normally be attempted. This could be achieved by allowing a small group from each club to work on a separate project for Artsfest, even encouraging more cross-group integration.
- (i) Chaz pointed out the recent Fusion event, loosely linked into Artsfest, and how a similar event could be held in Artsfest, but within College and somewhat scaled back.

3.2 More Conferences fun

NOTED:

- (a) Adam spoke about the fun lunchtime that he spent with Wind Band and String Ensemble learning how to move exam desks and chairs. Training is now available for clubs that wish to be allowed to move the Great hall furniture – this can then allow clubs to be more flexible with their room bookings e.g. allowing them to book concerts in the Great Hall whilst it is set up for exams. Any other clubs wishing to be trained should contact Adam.
- (b) The problems with conferences so often discussed in these meetings were reiterated – mostly regarding late notice cancellations causing loss of rehearsal time and therefore money for the club. The problem has been narrowed down to a lack of communications across the Conferences and Events department, which is well known within College. All clubs with problems are, as ever, urged to provide their concerns in writing to the AEB Exec so that they can be further dealt with.

3.2 Budgeting

NOTED:

- (a) Adam asked if any clubs would like to appeal their budget allocation, as it must be done at this meeting if so. All clubs are satisfied with their allocations.
- (b) Adam explained the whole process of budgeting after clubs had submitted their budgets – the process followed by the AEB Exec in allocating initial amounts, the CSB allocation process, and the subsequent reallocation following CSB. A spreadsheet was shown summarising all of these steps, and was worked through by the Board.
- (c) Helen stated that she wished to see more funding for elite groups at Imperial, since the best groups, such as ICSO are held back from growing even further than their excellent status. She quoted that although a few years ago they won a competition to be the UK’s best university symphony orchestra, they were no longer able to keep that reputation due to a lack of resources.
- (d) The rest of the board, particularly Susana, pointed out that Union grant is supplied to lower the overall direct cost to members of club and society activities, and all clubs should be funded equally – no club should be funded purely based on the competence of their members. Success as a club should be rewarded, but this should not just be measured by a club’s “elitism”.
- (e) It was agreed by all that although it was a fair statement to wish for more money for groups working at a high standard, this would not be the best use of Union grant – other funding sources should be sourced.

4.1 Leonardo Fine Arts Contingency Claim

NOTED:

- (a) Susana presented a contingency claim from Leonardo Fine Arts Society. A member booking flights for their upcoming tour made an error in the booking process causing the flight time to be vastly incorrect. The fee for changing the booking was of the order of £80.
- (b) Adam reminded the Board of the conditions of a contingency claim – an “unexpected, un-budgetable expense”, and that this did indeed fit that description. It was also questioned as to the impact that this finance would have on the club; Susana stated that the club would have to cover this cost out of SGI and this would unfairly penalise all members, rather than just those that are taking part in the trip. Although their SGI can cover this cost, it would be unfair to effectively charge all members for a cost related to tour alone.
- (c) Adam said that assuming this is a valid contingency claim, if the Board wished, less than the full amount could be awarded. The Board was not particularly bothered about the total cost. Susana explained that the exact cost of the fee was not known off the top of her head but would be confirmed to the Board – it would be up to a maximum of £80.

The decision to accept Leonardo’s contingency claim for up to £80 was put to a vote.

RESULT:

For: 15, Against: 0, Abstain: 1.

Leonardo Fine Arts’ contingency claim was accepted.

There was no further business.

The meeting concluded at 19.07.