

Council
8 October 2012

Imperial College Union
Council Report
By Henry Whittaker, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Handover

Over the whole of handover most of my time was spent learning how to complete the different tasks assigned to the DPCS and meeting key people in College who have proved to be important for me to know in the following months. It was also good to spend time getting to know the permanent staff members at the Union.

During Handover I also attended the BUCS Conference with ICSMSU President Shiv Vohra. This was 4 days, located at the scenic Exeter University 13-16 July. Shiv attended to find out information on the medic/non-medic merger. After the conference however it became clear that the decision had already been made and we need to decide which option to take.

I went to some very interesting, and some not so interesting talks whilst I was there. The highlight was a somewhat farcical AGM in which BUCS proposed a raise in fees but promised to cover the raise for one year with last year's surplus. This move confused most of the members causing the majority to abstain. As BUCS as consistently made a large surplus we voted against the rise in fees, sadly the rise was past.

NCC

A new NCC process is being trialled using the New Club Incubator created last year. The new system will involve most clubs going through the New Club Incubator to provide more support to a club in the initial stages and ascertain interest levels among students. The goal is to avoid the creation of clubs which are not capable of sustaining the required minimum number of members. We currently have three clubs in the new club incubator Hillsong Connect, Design and Economics. I plan to make the process more transparent will a NCI logo and a webpage explaining the process and situation on the website.

The NCC form has also been updated to include extra relevant details. It now also contains all the details needed to create

Fuel Cards

All of the minibuses now have a new type of fuel card provided by AllStar. This card works in all branded fuel stations. It replaces the previous fuel card which only worked in shell fuel stations. This caused the issue whereby students would often have to pay for fuel themselves or travel out of their way to get to a Shell.

Storage Space

A new storage room is being made available for club storage. This room is on level 1 on the west side of the building. I am currently still looking for funding for racking and lockers to go in this new storeroom and other locations.

Application forms are currently being received from clubs requesting space these will be looked through and then the space allocated. I am still waiting on the commercial services department to empty the room. As soon as it is emptied a deadline will be set for space requests with the space being allocated shortly.

There will be a waste and WEE (waste electrical) amnesty in the next couple of weeks. This is to address an issue where we believe student groups are holding a large amount of what is effectively

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rubbish in their storerooms. Stefan and I are working on a process whereby clubs will easily be able to dispose of things.

August & September

I have had several meetings with Richard Dickens about a new art studio which has been constructed in Garden hall. We are working with Arts Imperial and LeoSoc to ensure that LeoSoc have access to the studio and their members receive a reduced fee to access the room.

I held one NCC meeting in September where two clubs were added into the New Club Incubator, Design and Economics. Both of these proposed clubs now need to run a test event before they become a fully-fledged club. I have struggled to hold an NPC meeting due to the resignation of the CAG chair. There have been issues from the NPC and CAG standing orders which do not seem to have been updated from last year and still indicate that they are under RWB, whilst the constitution states that CAG is part of RWB. Both of these policies will be updated to correctly reflect the change.

The new website was released successfully which involved some frantic creating on content for the Activities section. This was not helped by a mistake in the development causing several of the pages to be lost and have to be recreated. There are plans for some extra content to be added in the Activities section mainly to add a Arts & Ents and media page etc as sports have a page.

The Imperial Hub has been developing well, they have also promised to support projects and advise any students looking to create one. I hope that they will be involved in the process of creating projects in a similar way to the NCI.

Welcome Week and Freshers' Fair

The organization of Freshers' Fair was often challenging but though it is still soon after the event it appears to have been well received. I modified the plans slightly from last year and tried to put similar groups together. The long run success of previous Freshers' Fairs means that the whole process runs fairly smoothly. I have got positive reviews from students and College staff alike who felt that it seemed well run.

Before the plans were finalised, Security, the Fire Officer, Facilities and Soft Services were consulted to check the activities. This year I tried to address the issue of large numbers in the main entrance and reduce the numbers in the Union by not using the Concert Hall. Proper scaled plans were produced for approval by the fire office which allowed me to double the number of table in the great hall. The final plans were created and sent out to new students. At the time of writing the weather forecast looked sketchy, but the rain mainly held off so no gazebos were required. The plan this year was applicable for both wet and dry weather, to avoid any confusion with table locations.

Some challenging circumstances during the day were dealt with superbly by the Student volunteers and did not affect the ethos of the day. Arriving at 07:30 was a good time as setup was easily completed by 9, having ample time for breakfast. During the day I felt that all clubs conducted themselves in a way both they and the College should be incredibly proud of. However, club promoters and other special interest groups wanting to illicitly approach students were a significant problem which seems to be a recurring problem. This year there were only two major problems the lack of stewards meaning that student volunteers ended up doing jobs that they should not have had to do for example controlling the flow into and out of the QTR. The second issue was the lack of students who had copies of the plans. In future I believe that the plans should no longer go out in Felix and should instead be separate with a large number available for during the day.

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I would like to formally thank anybody who helped with Freshers' Fair, whether this was before the event, behind the scenes on the day, on the ground on the day. Thanks go to all of the Clubs, Societies and Projects, but special thanks to the Management Groups who all did an amazing job on the day.

Use of Metric

I have been working with the Commercial services department to get better club access to Metric. This involved the modification of the Use of Metric Policy and now means that clubs can use the main P.A to play music e.g for dance. There is now a defined system which clubs can follow to allow their members to use the full P.A. Hopefully this will increase student involvement in tech in We are Metric nights and other entertainment nights.

Metric is now available through the online booking system. It has been fitted with flood lights courtesy of Dramsoc allowing student groups to use the room and see at the same time.