

**Imperial College Union
Union Council / 10th December 2024
Blackett 741 / 1800 Hours
Agenda**

		Item	Lead	Action	Time	Page(s)
Chair's business	01	Welcome, Apologies, Quoracy, Proxies, Call for AOB	Anthea MacIntosh-LaRocque (Council Chair)	To note/ approve	18:00	/
	02	Approval of minutes of previous meetings		To approve	18:05	2-14
	03	Action tracker		To consider	18:10	15-20
Presentations to Council	04	Officer Trustee Goals	Nico Henry (DP Welfare), Emina Hogas (DP Education)	To consider	18:15	/
Reports	05	Termly Officer Trustee Update	Officer Trustees	To consider	18:30	21-27
	06	Felix Editor Update	Mohammad Majlisi (Felix Editor)	To note	18:50	28-29
	07	Clubs, Societies & Projects Board – Verbal Update to Council	Christian Cooper (DPCS)	To consider	18:55	Verbal
Break					19:00	
Any Other Business	08	Verbal Update on Rent Negotiations	Camille Boutrolle (Union President), Nico Henry (DP Welfare)	To note	19:05	Verbal
Presentations to Council	09	Democracy Review	Alan Roberts (Counterculture)	To consider	19:15	Verbal
End of meeting	<i>Promptly vacate Blackett 741 as the space is in use by a student group from 8pm.</i>				19:55	/

Council Attendance

Role	Name	Initials	Attendance
Officer Trustee - Union President	Camille Boutrolle	CB	Present
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Education)	Emina Hogas	EH	Present
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Welfare)	Nico Henry	NH	Present
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Christian Cooper	CC	Present
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Stephanie Yeung	SY	Present
Council Chair	Anthea MacIntosh-LaRocque	AML	Present
Constituent Union President - ICSMSU	Lilia Evans	LE	Present
Constituent Union President - CGCU	Daniel Zhuo	DZ	Present
Constituent Union President - RSM	Amelia Spindler	AS	Present
Constituent Union President - RCSU	Julia Purrinos De Oliveria	JPDO	Present
Constituent Union President - Silwood	Jana Braun-Wilson	JBW	Present
Management Group Chair - Arts	Nathalie Tedfors Lindell	NTL	Present
Management Group Chair - Community	Shahmir Durrani	SD	Present
Management Group Chair - Culture	Sheshpriya Gadiya	SG	Present
Management Group Chair – Knowledge	William Chen	WC	Absent
Management Group Chair – Recreation	Enzo Amaral	EA	Present
Management Group Chair - Sport	Junior Mbah	JM	Present
LCO - Black & Minority Ethnic Officer	Comfort Oluwakoya	CO	Absent
LCO - LGBTQ+ Officer	Anson To	AT	Present
LCO - Disabilities	Maegan Spitari	MS	Present
LCO - Mental Health	Miriam Foulkes	MF	Present
LCO - Gender Equality Officer	Wendy Song	WS	Absent
LCO - Ethics & Environmental Officer	Hollie Meyers	HM	Present
LCO - Interfaith Officer	Ashay Divekar	AD	Present
LCO - International Officer	Yuanze Xia	YX	Absent
LCO - Working Class Officer	Scarlett Kilford	SK	Present
Welfare Officer of CU - RCSU	Stefaniia Medvetskaia	SM	Present

Welfare Officer of CU - ICSMSU	Ketevani Asatiani-Kalandaze	KAK	Present
Welfare Officer of CU - CGSU	Adrib Ahmed	AA	Absent
Welfare Officer of CU - RSM	Gao Kamalanavin	GK	Absent
Academic Officer of CU - CGCU	Linmo Lin	LL	Present
Academic Officer of CU - RCSU	Jack Swires	JS	Present
Academic Officer of CU - ICSMSU	Yousuf Yaqub	YY	Present
Academic Officer of CU - RSM	Emma Halford	EHa	Present
Postgraduate Research Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering)	Yifeng Mao	YM	Absent
Postgraduate Research Academic & Welfare Officer (Medicine)	Ruksana Begum-Meades	RBM	Present
Postgraduate Research Academic & Welfare Officer (Science)	Hengchang Cao	HCa	Absent
Postgraduate Taught Academic & Welfare Officer (Business School)	Reem Al Saud	RAS	Absent
Postgraduate Taught Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering)	Injeel Syed	IS	Absent
Postgraduate Taught Academic & Welfare Officer (Medicine)	Srimathi Lakshminarasimhan	SL	Absent
PGT Representation Chair	Nakul Maheshwari	NM	Absent
PGR Representation Chair	Jing Xu	JX	Absent
Council Representative (UG Science)	Chloe Huang	CH	Present
Council Representative (UG Science)	Elias Fink	EF	Present
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Salman Khalaf	SK	Present
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Alvaro Vicente Tarrago	AVT	Absent
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Huaihou Yang	HY	Present
Council Representative (UG Business)	Sofia Hueffer	SH	Absent
Council Representative (UG Medicine)	Haider Nazerali	HN	Present
Council Representative (UG Medicine)	Rohan Boyapati	RB	Present
Council Representative (PG Science)	Alex Auyang	AAu	Present
Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Deniz Etit	DE	Present

Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Hanqing Zhang	HZ	Absent
Council Representative (PG Medicine)	Thea Jakobi	TJ	Apologies
Council Representative (PG Business)	Laotan Faji	LF	Present
Council Representative (PG non-faculty)	Jordan Milward	JM	Present
Council Representative (PG Business)	Akanksha Kumari	AK	Present

In attendance [Students/Staff]

Helena Schofield (HS) – ICU Representation Manager [Union Staff]
 Hannah Corsini (HC) – ICU Democracy and Representation Assistant [Union Staff]
 Zahra Butt (ZB) – ICU Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator [Union Staff]
 Mohamed Majlisi (MM) – Felix Editor [Student]
 Alan Roberts (AR) - Partner at Counterculture
 Hamza Mian - [Student]

1. Welcome

AML welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the democracy review.

2. Apologies & Chair’s Business

Apologies

Thea Jakobi.

Noted as above.

Quorum check

Confirmed.

3. Council Seat Reinstatement

None.

4. Proxies

No proxies raised.

5. Approval of Standing Orders

AML noted the following changes to the standing orders.

- i. **SO2** – Online attendance has been added in formally - only under the circumstance where a member cannot attend in person.
- ii. **SO3** – If the publication of voting results could pose a harm to Council members then they will not be published.

- iii. **SO5** – Paper deadline has been changed from 6 to 7 college days before the Council meeting.
- iv. **SO11** – Wording has been changed regarding having a balanced debate rather than affording equal time to those for and against the motion. This is as there is not always someone opposed to motions.
- v. **SO Appendix A** – There has been a proposed change to Constituent Union (CU) reports. Instead of CUs presenting at the end of every council, there will be a joint paper created at the end of each CU forum led by CB to reduce the length of the paper pack.
- vi. AML has consulted with CU presidents on this decision.
- vii. CU executives are able to contribute to these reports alongside the CU President.

The proposed Standing Orders were accepted by a majority voting in favour. The final voting outcome was:

Quorum count	Majority (50%+1)	For	Against	Abstain	Outcome
39	20	38		1	PASS
		JM, JBW, MF, AS, HN, AAu, KAK, AD, EF, SM, CH, SK, RB, SG, EH, SY, CC, DE, HY, EA, LL, LF, MS, HM,AK, SK, RBM, JM, LE, NTL,DZ, YY, NH, CB, JS, EHa, AT,JPDO,		SD	

6. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

- i. Minutes from the last meeting will not be approved yet due to staffing issues. They will instead be brought to the next Council,
- ii. Minutes from November 2023 are presented for approval. The delay in getting these approved is due to collecting major amendments to these minutes from multiple Council members.
- iii. No amendments to November 23 minutes were raised.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by general consensus.

7. Action tracker

- i.
- ii.

Date of creation	Action number	Council reference (if applicable)	Action	Owned by	Status	Update
7/11/23	1.5	Item 10, Resolve 10(1)	Demand that College: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Make a public commitment to exclude all fossil fuel companies from their investment portfolio(s). ii) Introduce a publicly accessible ethical investment policy that explicitly excludes all fossil fuel companies. iii) Fully divest from all fossil fuel companies within 3 years. 	CB	In progress	11/1/24 Reconvening SRI working group within College to tackle this 20/2/24 CB noted she sent a recommendation to the Provost and will give further updates in due time. 19/03/24 CB noted regarding Action 1.5 that a Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) working group has been set up and will hold a meeting on 10 May, and updates will be shared to Council afterwards. 28/5/24 SRI working group met on 10 May to assess whether they need to revisit the policy. CB noted there will be changes to the policy, but they are currently facing pushback on whether they're using the Imperial index to judge investments. CB noted the next meeting will take place in June. 1/11/24 College still disputing how they will roll out the Imperial

						Zero Index and this needs to be decided before it is applied to investments. Currently the College has no investments in fossil fuel companies, and this will not change in the time it takes them to decide on the Index
20/2/24	4.1	Item 8, Resolve 1	The Union will release a statement taking the position that part-time work as part of your studies is now a must for many and not a choice and offering support to students in part-time work.	CB, NH	In progress	<p>1/11/24 CB: No Union-specific statement has been realised, but OTs have been advocating for more support for students working part-time with the College.</p> <p>2/11/24 NH: Following my analysis of the bursary survey, which shows students have increasingly been working whilst at uni, we're working with the university to release this sort of statement.</p>
20/2/24	4.3	Item 8, Resolve 3	To encourage Imperial to facilitate more academic-related employment opportunities within the College for students that will further their career development and align with their academic pursuits by recognising the restrictions on work due to studying needs and their financial needs as these opportunities are often better remunerated.	NH	In progress	<p>30/04/24 The OCs have raised the Item to college stakeholders, but are yet to finalise actions. They are also lobbying the College to create a platform to set up proper advertisements and increase students' awareness of work opportunities.</p> <p>2/11/24 NH: I'm in the process of writing a recommendation document for each of the faculties to work on. This will show that the proportion of students working has been increasing every year for the past 5 years. I've already started the conversation, and everyone has been very open to this, I'm working with the careers service to finalise this and have conversations with each faculty dean on reducing the stigma of students working. This will lead to set recommendations on students working.</p>

20/2/24	4.4	Item 8, Resolve 4	Lobby the College to acknowledge and address that part-time work is undertaken by many students at Imperial alongside their studies and that these students may require additional support. This acknowledgement should include a statement released to students with the College's stance on part-time working and signposting to support, financial and otherwise, available within and outside of College.	NH	In progress	<p>30/04/24 The OCs have raised the Item to college stakeholders but are yet to finalise actions. AC noted this is a complex conversation, and the College acknowledges part-time work is important for students but restated that the 20-hour cap for home students is merely a recommendation, whereas for international students it is legally set at a national level. They are currently trying to identify their capacity to lobby at a nationwide level.</p> <p>2/11/24 The university has acknowledged this and are working with me. The statement is partially on this website but we're working on making this more public through different channels. The union hasn't made a statement but we will soon. https://www.imperial.ac.uk/careers/jobs-and-experience/part-time-work/</p>
20/2/24	4.5	Item 8, Resolve 5	To collaborate with Student Services to review the indicators of financial hardship, particularly for hardship fund and bursary applications.	NH, JM	In progress	<p>30/04/24 The OTs have raised the Item to college stakeholders but are yet to finalise actions.</p> <p>2/11/24 NH: I'm working with student support services on this and increased communication on the available help at the university.</p>
20/2/24	4.6	Item 8, Resolve 6	To meet with students and College to discuss expectations and impact of part-time work on studies.	NH, JM, NFL	In progress	<p>30/04/24 JM noted regarding Action 4.6 that it was brought up in meetings with the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QUAK) and the Early Career and Research Institute (ECRI), and discussions for expectations and impact of part-time work on students are in progress. JM noted it is an ongoing initiative on</p>

						<p>postgraduate and post-academic support by the university.</p> <p>28/5/24 NFL noted regarding Action 4.6 that some revisions were made on adding some support to help students identify job opportunities within the College. It is now a requirement that the expectations document is discussed at the initial student-supervisor meeting as well as other regular checkpoints such as the Early Stage Assessment or Late Stage Review. NFL also noted they are acknowledging the need for part-time work and ways to recognise opportunities within and outside the college.</p> <p>2/11/24 NH: I just presented data on working students and the trends over the past 5 years to the faculty deans and other stakeholders at APSG (Access and Participation Strategy Group). This was taken very well and we will be meeting starting next week to discuss expectations and impact of working students.</p> <p>12/11/24: Writing recommendations on how to take this project forward</p>
20/2/24	4.7	Item 8,, Resolve 7	To facilitate more accessible employment opportunities for students.	NH, JC, NFL	In progress	<p>2/11/24 NH: I'm working with the university on seeing what jobs we can give to students, some faculties are creating more UG Teaching assistant jobs, there's also more well paid mentorship opportunities (up to £19 p/h), and I'm personally making sure all students are getting paid more than London Living Wage, I successfully</p>

						lobbied the university into increasing the wages of students working for catering (~£3p/h increase). We're pushing the careers service and the university to create even more developmental jobs and opportunities. At the union we are also creating more jobs for students and this should be expanding even further in the next couple of months.
20/2/24	4.8	Item 9, Resolve 2	Lobby the College to support increasing the UKRI London allowance.	CB, NH, DE	In progress	28/5/24 AC noted Action 4.8 was raised in a meeting with college stakeholders, with the review of the funding structure to be completed in due time. NH noted that students that can vote should do so as they can impact student experience in the years to come. CB added regarding Action 4.8 she spoke with College staff who are happy to help with drafting papers moving forward. CB noted they haven't reached out to Unions, but they will be involved with the projects planned in the next year, where student lobbying will likely happen.
20/2/24	4.9	Item 9, Resolve 3	If the College does not support increasing the UKRI London allowance, then to form a student-driven campaign led by the paper author focussed on the issue of the UKRI London allowance, with the support of the Union President and Deputy President (Welfare).	CB, NH, DE	Incomplete	
20/2/24	4.11	Item 9, Resolve 5	To gather data regarding the financial circumstances of PhD students at Imperial.	NH	In progress	30/04/24 AC noted this has been raised in committee meetings but are yet to finalise actions. 2/11/24 NH: Questions around work and financial accessibility will

						<p>be added to the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES).</p> <p>12/11/24 NH: Keeping this action open until there is confirmation that this question will be added to the PRES</p>
	4.12	Item 9, Resolve 6	For the Union President and Deputy President (Welfare), alongside the paper author, to make efforts to form a working group with other London-based universities to lobby the UKRI to increase the UKRI London allowance.	CB, NH, DE	Incomplete	
	4.13	Item 9, Resolve 7	For the Union President and Deputy President (Welfare), to make efforts to form a working group with non-London-based universities to lobby the UKRI to increase the UKRI base rate.	CB, NH	Incomplete	<p>1/11/24 CB: The UKRI has just completed a review of the UKRI base rate so we feel we cannot influence this but have much more scope for London allowance – potential to prioritise the London allowance.</p>

AML noted the update of the action tracker and thanked everyone for sending in updates.

8. Rent

NH and CB presented the item as its authors.

NH noted the following:

- i. Every 5 years the Union President and Deputy President Welfare meet with the University to discuss accommodation rent prices.
- ii. In 2019-20, the University raised rents by 12% which was then reduced to 5% after discussions with the ICU and a decision made with the Provost.
- iii. The current rent price review is ongoing. At present, the College has divided its accommodation into the following price tiers:
 - a. Affordable – 55% of the maximum maintenance loan provided by the UK government
 - b. Peer – rents which are below London competitors
 - c. Market – rents at a 10% discount to the London rent
- i. Imperial’s proposal for rent changes will have an average rent increase of 30%.
- ii. The highest rent increase of 58% will be for 35% of rooms.

- iii. The ICU has successfully negotiated a £5 per week reduction in rent for rooms with restricted views and low ceilings – these were previously valued at the same price as rooms in the rest of the building.
- iv. Imperial has a net zero target by 2040 for on-campus (including residential) buildings. They plan to pass the cost of this onto the students.
- v. Imperial generates income over summer through renting out accommodation.
- vi. NH introduced the following beliefs:
 - i. That there should be full transparency to students around rents.
 - ii. That those who receive a bursary should get one of their first-choice accommodations.
 - iii. That net zero costs should not be passed on to students.
 - iv. That wardens should pay rent.
 - v. That profits from summer rent should be reflected in lower rents.
 - vi. That Imperial should not make a profit from student rental income.

Council members were asked for their feedback and questions.

- i. AAU asked whether “transparency regarding costs” in Union Resolves 1 was referring to transparency with students or with the Union. NH responded that the University should be transparent regarding the costs of running student halls to the Union and that students should know basic facts about their accommodation before living there, such as how many other students share with you. AAU suggested that this should be two separate points. *NH accepted this amendment, and it was agreed that the drafting of the amendment would be delegated to the Chair.*

Secretary’s postscript: The amendment has been drafted as follows:

Union Resolves 1: To take the stance that the university should be transparent with the Union about the costs associated with student halls.

Union Resolves 2: To take the stance that the university should be transparent with incoming students about the proximity of each hall to campus, the facilities provided, and the number of students sharing amenities like kitchens.

- i. AAU proposed that the desire for an increase in Hall senior remuneration be made more explicit in Union Believes 4 as follows:

*Union Believes 4: Our hall seniors **are not currently receiving** ~~should receive~~ fair compensation for their time and contributions **which should be remedied**, with responsibilities and expectations clearly defined and standardized across different accommodations.*

NH accepted this amendment, and it was agreed that the paper would be amended to reflect the changes.

- ii.

AAU noted that in the previous set of rent negotiations in 2019-20, College justified their costs by saying they were trying to break even. However, they were including the cost of the loans they took out to build the buildings. AAU posited that this implied the building would be worth nothing when the loan was paid off in, say, 20 years time. AAU was unsure of the name but suggested this was called “asset replacement cost”. AAU asked if the College was still using this financial model. HS and NH confirmed that this was still the model being

used. AAU clarified that there was no suggested amendment but asked if the Union believes that it is reasonable for the College to claim that the building will be worth nothing in 20 years time.

HN asked for clarification on which pricing tier is the most expensive. NH said that the market-rate used depends on the location of the halls and that 38% are affordable. CB noted that the average rent in the affordable tier is £193. In peer it is £280 and £400 in the market, but that this is subject to change.

HN asked what Council's stance is on the 30% average increase and whether this is something we are negotiating for or against. NH responded that they would like "affordable" to be the biggest tier for fewer less-affordable rooms to be offered.

EF proposed that the average price in each tier be specified in Union Notes 4 to avoid confusion. NH accepted this amendment. CB noted that the "affordable" rents are 55% of the maintenance loan but "peer" and "market" depend on the area of London. CB said if it was helpful to put a breakdown she could do that for the two different zones and circulate it.

MS suggested that references to "hall wardens" be replaced with "hall wardens and sub-wardens". NH clarified that this was what was meant and accepted this amendment.

DE asked what was included in the decarbonisation costs. NH replied that University contracted a sustainable development company called Arup to make buildings more efficient. NH stated that phase 1 of this decarbonisation would cost £1.5 million.

JM raised the point that the University has based its rent prices off maintenance loans, but does not have a position on the value of the loans. JM asked if there was scope in the paper to lobby the University to take a stance on increasing the maintenance loan to cover accommodation costs. AML noted that in the interest of time, this would need to be a separate paper. NH replied that he would be happy to include it, but it may be outside of the scope of the paper. CB noted that affordable rent is a lot lower than the peer rent and that they should spend more time lobbying for more affordable rent options instead. JM retracted this and AML noted that it could be brought to Council as a future paper.

NH added a comment that the paper will be brought into negotiations with College to represent the stance of the student body.

LF noted that in Union Notes 5 the percentages add up to more than 100%. AML said this would be examined and clarified later.

Secretary's postscript: For fuller clarification of figures regarding rent increases and provost meeting

Clarification: figures confirmed with NH. They add up to more than 100% due to rounding. The provost meeting in 2019/20 resulted in a reduction to 5%, which has been amended above.

The paper was accepted by a majority voting in favour. The final voting outcome was:

Quorum count	Majority (50%+1)	For	Against	Abstain	Outcome
39	20	37	1	1	PASS

For	Against	Abstain
JM, JBW, MF, AS, KAK, AD, EF, SM, CH, SK, RB, SG, EH, SY, CC, DE, HY, EA, LL, LF, MS, HM, AK, SK, RBM, JM, LE, NTL, DZ, YY, NH, CB, JS, EHa, AT, JPDO, SD	HN	AAu

9. CSPB Report

CC noted that CSPB met in October and there is another meeting scheduled for this week. The previous meeting involved discussions on sustainability and targeting sustainability frameworks. In next session annual budgeting will be discussed more in greater depth.

The paper was noted by Council.

10. Democracy Review

HS introduced the democracy review for new Council members. HS stated it aimed to make the Union’s democratic functions and structures as accessible as possible, for example through higher voter turnout, knowledge of Council and OTs. AR has been contracted to do conduct the review, including doing research with students to assess what students want from the Union and how they should have their voices heard, which would be the focus of the rest of today’s Council meeting

End of Union Council

AML thanked everyone for attending Union Council.

**Imperial College Union
Union Council
Action Tracker**

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20/2/24	4.8	Item 9, Resolve 2	Lobby the College to support increasing the UKRI London allowance.	CB, NH, DE	In progress	<p>28/5/24 AC noted Action 4.8 was raised in a meeting with college stakeholders, with the review of the funding structure to be completed in due time.</p>

						NH noted that students that can vote should do so as they can impact student experience in the years to come. CB added regarding Action 4.8 she spoke with College staff who are happy to help with drafting papers moving forward. CB noted they haven't reached out to Unions, but they will be involved with the projects planned in the next year, where student lobbying will likely happen.
20/2/24	4.9	Item 9, Resolve 3	If the College does not support increasing the UKRI London allowance, then to form a student-driven campaign led by the paper author focussed on the issue of the UKRI London allowance, with the support of the Union President and Deputy President (Welfare).	CB, NH, DE	Incomplete	
20/2/24	4.11	Item 9, Resolve 5	To gather data regarding the financial circumstances of PhD students at Imperial.	NH	In progress	30/04/24 AC noted this has been raised in committee meetings but are yet to finalise actions. 2/11/24 NH: Questions around work and financial accessibility will be added to the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES). 12/11/24 NH: Keeping this action open until there is confirmation that this question will be added to the PRES
	4.12	Item 9, Resolve 6	For the Union President and Deputy President (Welfare), alongside the paper author, to make efforts to form a working group with other London-based universities to lobby the UKRI to	CB, NH, DE	Incomplete	

			increase the UKRI London allowance.			
	4.13	Item 9, Resolve 7	For the Union President and Deputy President (Welfare), to make efforts to form a working group with non-London-based universities to lobby the UKRI to increase the UKRI base rate.	CB, NH	Incomplete	1/11/24 CB: The UKRI has just completed a review of the UKRI base rate so we feel we cannot influence this but have much more scope for London allowance – potential to prioritise the London allowance.

Change Graduate School to ECRE

Officer Trustee Updates Report

Author(s): Camille Boutrolle – Union President
 Nico Henry – Deputy President (Welfare)
 Emina Hogas – Deputy President (Education)
 Christian Cooper – Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)
 Stephanie Yeung – Deputy President (Finance & Services)

Decision(s): To consider.

1. Introduction

If you have any questions or feedback for the Officer Trustees after reading this report, you are able to submit them to this anonymous Mentimeter poll: <https://www.menti.com/al5jizpdcn79>. The Officer Trustees will respond to the questions and feedback during the upcoming Council meeting. You can also “upvote” any questions that you would like to hear answered, to ensure the most pressing questions are answered during the meeting.

2. Camille Boutrolle – Union President

What does the Union President do?

- Lead, and be ultimately responsible for, Imperial College Union.
- Represent the Union and our members to the University.
- Facilitate the work of the other Officer Trustees and lead the officer team.
- Deliver the Union’s strategic aims.

Goal-related progress

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Increase UKRI stipend	Description: Work with PGR representatives and sector networks to lobby UKRI to increase London allowance for PGR students in London, to account for the fact the absolute value has not increased since 1994. Progress: Established relationship with Imperial’s Public Affairs’ team, who have recommended reaching out to Research Office. Imperial’s Early Career Research Institute (ECRI) and new Postgraduate Widening Participation Manager have reached out to support the project and initial conversations are in progress.
2. Expanding cross-module learning opportunities	Description: Develop more inter-departmental modules for undergraduates, where students can take modules from different courses. Work to potentially develop a cross-register with LSE of exchange modules between the two universities. Progress: No progress made yet due to prioritisation of other projects.
3. Green spaces	Description: Advocate for more biodiversity on Imperial campuses. Progress: Imperial has contracted the Natural History Museum new garden’s landscape architect to reimagine the outdoor spaces around campus and I asked to have Beit in scope. The architect has produced renders (super exciting) and Beit Quad has been prioritised with hopes to produce something in Easter break... Nico and I tasked with running a student consultation and involving them in the transformation.

4. Study spaces
- Description:
Increase the amount of study spaces on campus.
- Progress:
Have begun looking at external study space available, mainly libraries, around our campus so we have a database to share with students looking to study off campus. For South Kensington, I have liaised with the Director of Library Services on her feasibility study done to transform the current library's basement into 200 additional study spaces and am pushing this via the new Wider South Kensington Campus Redevelopment Programme Board.

Key committees attended since last report

- College Council
- Wider South Kensington Campus Redevelopment Programme Board
- White City and Old Oak Programme Board
- Student Experience Forum
- White City Student Engagement

Calls for actions

Rent strike?

3. Nico Henry – Deputy President (Welfare)

What does the Deputy President (Welfare) do?

- Represent the welfare interests of all Imperial students.
- Lead and manage the wellbeing representation networks.
- Report student opinion on wellbeing affairs to Imperial.
- Collaborate with ICU staff on training and support of wellbeing representatives.
- Support wellbeing innovation and projects in the university.

Goal-related progress

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Description/Progress</u>
1. Food redistribution platform	<p>Description: Implementing a platform to redistribute surplus food, reducing both food waste and living costs for students.</p> <p>Progress: The Digital Media Lab team has agreed to go ahead with my idea on redistributing surplus food. They are working on a minimum viable product to be able to present to Jane Neary. Fusion (the Union's food vendor) is on board to take part once a platform is set up. Have met up with the Digital Media Lab Team to propose the food app idea for discounted surplus food but presented it around the topic of an increasing student population with allergens.</p>
2. Mentorship programmes for under-represented students	<p>Description: Expanding student-led mentorship programmes for underrepresented BAME/LGBTQ+/Women students.</p> <p>Progress: In conversation and collaborating with Strategic Planning who have this initiative as part of the university's Access and Participation Plan to incorporate this university-wide.</p>
3. Cycle to Uni Scheme	<p>Description: Investigating the potential for college-owned bikes to encourage more students to cycle, targeting those who use rental services. This could reduce costs for students and support carbon auditing.</p> <p>Progress: I have started work on a cycle buddy scheme to improve cycling accessibility. I've been speaking with other SUs on how to lobby for safer London-wide cycle infrastructure. Henry (Advice Manager) and I have joined a cross-university cycle safety network of researchers and politicians to help influence. Engaging</p>

with other student unions on good practice around active travel strategies and cycle accessibility.

	Description:
4. Lobbying the college to become London Living Wage accredited	Lobbying for the College to formally become London Living Wage accredited. While they claim to be LLW compliant, student staff employed through the College are not paid holiday pay or given proper contracts. Progress: Reports were made to me about Imperial students working for outsourced Imperial catering being paid less than London Living Wage. I raised this to university leadership and actions were taken to fix this! Big win. In contact with the London Living Wage Foundation. Have had meetings with HR and other stakeholders on London Living Wage accreditation. Found students who weren't getting paid LLW and managed to get them a raise and reimbursement.

Other progress

- Supporting student-driven sustainability initiatives such as Re:Gen, a new campaign on greening the campuses.
- Have been engaging with students on what good consent education should look like to meet the OfS condition for registration.

Key committees attended since last report

- Access and Participation Strategy Group
- Biodiversity Working Group
- Residential life Committee
- Stonewall Committee
- Campus and security operations

Calls for actions

- Let me know if you're not getting paid London Living Wage by the university.
- Let me know what biodiversity projects you'd like to see.
- Let me know if your cohorts are being affected by the lack of prayer spaces.
- Let me know of any accessibility or neurodiversity issues your cohorts are experiencing.

4. Emina Hogas – Deputy President (Education)

What does the Deputy President (Education) do?

- Represent the educational interests of all Imperial students.
- Lead and manage the academic representation networks.
- Report student opinion on academic affairs to Imperial.
- Collaborate with ICU staff on training and support of academic representatives.
- Support educational innovation and projects in the university.

Goal-related progress

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Description/Progress</u>
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- Description:
1. Delivering the Union Sustainability Strategy
 Building upon my objective from last year to develop the sustainability strategy, this year's focus is on its implementation and setting it up for long-term success. The aim is ensuring a smooth delivery of the strategy in its first year, and ensuring student input is accounted for during the strategy's annual review cycle.
 Progress:
 Regular meetings of Sustainability Strategy group to update on progress. Student-facing Sustainability Forums scheduled for this term and working with comms team to launch a webpage on sustainability.
 Description:
 2. Delivering student-led, safe & inclusive events
 Continue improving the inclusivity of our events for even more students, with a specific focus on our international & postgraduate (PG) students, as well as continuing our non-drinking focus on events. The aim is to work with our student groups to deliver inclusive events for different communities of students, for example through cultural celebration.
 Progress:
 A wide variety of Term 2 events planned, including various postgraduate focused & cultural community events. Ongoing conversation with university subgroup re: international student experience to deliver a cultural day/week at Imperial.
 Description:
 3. Ensuring financial accessibility of CSP activities for all our students
 The cost of participating in our CSPs is often measured by their membership costs, but there are often additional hidden costs that students may not be aware of that may affect their ability to fully engage with their activities. The aim is to work with CSPs to communicate their cost of participation to students transparently.
 Progress:
 Discussions with our Systems Specialist to scope implementation within current Annual Budgeting platform. Embedded within discussions of Christian's Annual Budgeting project, as my project implementation is dependent on his implementation
 Description:
 4. Ensuring allergen information is easily accessible across Imperial
 The aim is to improve the presentation & communication of allergen information at all Imperial catering outlets (i.e., ICU, university & external caterers)
 Progress:
 Initial conversations had with Campus Operations and Venues Team working with Fusion568 to improve allergen information display at Union

Other progress:

UROP and UKRI funding

- Discussions in progress to increase funding Undergraduate Research Opportunities with relevant stakeholders.
- Collaborating with Camille and Deniz to produce a paper with other London Universities to lobby UKRI for increased London PGR allowance.

Key committees attended since last report

- Senate
- QAEC
- RPRC
- PC
- ESEC
- Digital Education Platforms Project
- Learning & Teaching Strategy Group

Calls for actions

- Come to the rep social on 9th December!
- Please help us define "Educational gain" by [filling out this survey](#)

5. Christian Cooper – Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

What does the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) do?

- Represent the extracurricular interests of students at Imperial.
- Responsible for the provision and support of extracurricular activity within the Union.
- Work with the DPFS to deliver CSP budgeting & finance.
- Collaborate with ICU staff on training and support for clubs, societies & projects.
- Report on student opinion extracurricular activities to Imperial.

Goal-related progress

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Description/Progress</u>
1. Introduce the CSP Sustainability Framework	<p>Description: Co-design a long-lasting framework with students to ensure that all CSPs can strive towards environmental and financial sustainability. The aim of the project would be to ensure that the framework is mutually beneficial to ICU and students, to ensure that student priorities underpin the framework, and that students <i>want</i> to engage with the framework, rather than it being an additional burden.</p> <p>Progress: Focus groups have been held with CSPB and 1:1 meetings with some student volunteers, to establish key priorities for the first year of implementation and sharing ideas to encourage student buy-in in the project. Currently, research into sector, and wider, best practice is being carried out by the representation team, with a project meeting collating the research and focus group feedback to be conducted at the end of the year.</p>
2. Strive for high-performing CSPs & improve the volunteer experience	<p>Description: Explore the policies and processes around CSPs, the successes, issues with the current volunteer experience, and the way students interact with CSPs, to inform what it means to be a “high-performing CSP”. Develop a series of changes which aim to improve the volunteer experience and ensure that CSPs can be/remain high-performing.</p> <p>Progress: Project group met in October to outline key research and stakeholder groups. On hold until term 2 to prioritise annual budgeting.</p>
3. Review and improve CSP annual budgeting and funding opportunities	<p>Description: Conduct a full review of the CSP annual budgeting process, and other funding opportunities, with the aim of improving the equity, transparency, and ease of annual budgeting.</p> <p>Progress: Stakeholder focus groups and interviews conducted (including CSPB, Senior Volunteers, and Imperial CFO) alongside sector analysis to produce initial options appraisal. A full report is currently being prepared, in collaboration with CSPB/student volunteers) in order to recommend changes to the annual budgeting process for this academic year. CSPB will receive a full draft of recommendations in December.</p>
4. Expand and increase the usage of the Student Experience Fund	<p>Description: The Student Experience Fund aims to ensure that students, who would not normally be able to due to financial constraints, are able to engage with ICU CSPs and events through the provision of credit on their Union accounts. The fund is currently only available to home undergraduates in receipt of a bursary. This project aims to expand who can access funding and to increase total usage of funding for year two of its implementation.</p> <p>Progress: Fund was released to all bursary students in early October. Despite being released slightly later than last year, fund utilisation has overtaken last years position and is continuing to rise. This is likely due to increased communication, including all student newsletter and a blog post which I have written. Additionally, work is almost complete on the expansion of the fund to non-bursary students.</p>

Key committees attended since last report

- Clubs, Societies & Projects Board
 - Discussed sustainability framework, annual budgeting, and welcome feedback

- Received regular updates from MGs and CUs
- Discussed ad-hoc issues raised by MG/CUs
- Student Activities Board
 - Discussed White City engagement, Great Hall re-development, and prayer space.
- Student Experience Forum
- Imperial Council
- Exploration Board
 - Imperial funding board for expeditions.

Calls for actions

- I will be circulating my initial annual budgeting report in December – I would love feedback on this, especially from those who won't have the opportunity to scrutinise this at CSPB. Please email me at dpcs@imperial.ac.uk if you would like a copy, or have feedback.
- I am looking for student co-creation on a CSP Sustainability Framework in January – if you're interested in getting actively involved, let me know!

6. Stephanie Yeung – Deputy President (Finance & Services)

What does the Deputy President (Finance & Services) do?

- Responsible for representing students' interests with regards to sustainability to Imperial.
- Work with the DPCS to deliver CSP budgeting & finance.
- Responsible for representing students' interests with regards to the Union's commercial services and events.

Goal-related progress

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Description/Progress</u>
1. Delivering the Union Sustainability Strategy	<p>Description: Building upon my objective from last year to develop the sustainability strategy, this year's focus is on its implementation and setting it up for long-term success. The aim is ensuring a smooth delivery of the strategy in its first year, and ensuring student input is accounted for during the strategy's annual review cycle.</p> <p>Progress: Regular meetings of Sustainability Strategy group to update on progress. Student-facing Sustainability Forums scheduled for this term and working with comms team to launch a webpage on sustainability.</p>
2. Delivering student-led, safe & inclusive events	<p>Description: Continue improving the inclusivity of our events for even more students, with a specific focus on our international & postgraduate (PG) students, as well as continuing our non-drinking focus on events. The aim is to work with our student groups to deliver inclusive events for different communities of students, for example through cultural celebration.</p> <p>Progress: A wide variety of Term 2 events planned, including various postgraduate focused & cultural community events. Ongoing conversation with university subgroup re: international student experience to deliver a cultural day/week at Imperial.</p>
3. Ensuring financial accessibility of CSP activities for all our students	<p>Description: The cost of participating in our CSPs is often measured by their membership costs, but there are often additional hidden costs that students may not be aware of that may affect their ability to fully engage with their activities. The aim is to work with CSPs to communicate their cost of participation to students transparently.</p> <p>Progress: Discussions with our Systems Specialist to scope implementation within current Annual Budgeting platform. Embedded within discussions of Christian's Annual Budgeting project, as my project implementation is dependent on his implementation</p>

4. Ensuring allergen information is easily accessible across Imperial	<p>Description: The aim is to improve the presentation & communication of allergen information at all Imperial catering outlets (i.e., ICU, university & external caterers)</p> <p>Progress: Initial conversations had with Campus Operations and Venues Team working with Fusion568 to improve allergen information display at Union</p>
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Key committees attended since last report

- Clubs, Societies & Projects Board (Union Council Board) [October, November, December]
 - Discussed sustainability framework, annual budgeting, and welcome feedback
 - Received regular updates from MGs and CUs
 - Discussed ad-hoc issues raised by MG/CUs
- Sustainability Forum [November, December]
 - November: Discussed topics like biodiversity, food waste, plant-based catering, and how to reach audiences & campaign for change (and a post-forum social!)
 - December: Discussed and received feedback from students on topics related to the Grantham Advisory Board & College Sustainability Strategy Committee
- Grantham Advisory Board [December]
 - Yet to happen at time of writing paper
- College Sustainability Strategy [September, December]
 - September: General updates from committee about Imperial's Sustainability Strategy progress, and White City development
 - December: Yet to happen at time of writing paper

Calls for actions

- Reach out if you're interested to be a sustainability champions for the student community, or if you're interested to take part in future Sustainability Forums
- If you have any ideas for events please do share.



Felix Editor Report

10TH DECEMBER 2024

I, Mohammad Majlisi, in accordance with Union policy, am presenting a termly report on my actions.

Aims for the year:

- Increase the number of contributors and retaining our current staff.
- Improving the culture of *Felix* to be more inclusive and friendly so more contributors join in.
- More website and social media engagement.
- Increasing the number of features, improving the quality of non-news sections of the paper.

Actions:

- Recruitment drive: Starting from an editorial team of nine we have increased to an editorial team of 15, meaning all our sections have at least one editor, and approximately 30 regular copyeditors, illustrators, graphic designers, and writers. On some weeks we have had up to 10 copyeditors in on a Wednesday.
- I've rebuilt my own news team to have four contributors who I am training.
- I've also managed to retain our old webmaster– this led to our new website, which has been well received. It's also made it easier for us to upload all our articles to the website.
- Social Media: our Instagram has grown by approximately 300 new followers, and a slight uptick in engagement. Last year we grew by roughly 900 followers, so I believe we are on track to achieve similar growth to last year. Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) are no longer used by Gen Z, which is *Felix's* primary demographic now. We may be launching a TikTok.
- Three features this term: "US Election Special", "The Felix Guide to West London Coffee Shops", and 75th Anniversary.
- Regular Socials: "Pints after submission", Ice Skating, and a Christmas Dinner planned. We are seeing lots of our regular contributors coming in and meeting senior members of the editorial team, building rapport.
- Editorial Meetings: I have been hosting regular editorial meetings in order to receive and give feedback to my team, and also to socialise partly.
- Sex Survey: Launched earlier this year in order for it to be easier for us to analyse, and present. We've received lots of constructive feedback, and I will pass this onto my successor/ next year's team.

Actions for next term:

- Improving News: I feel there has been a slight drop in quality compared to last year. I will move from supporting the team as much to focusing on the news output to ensure the remaining 13

issues are of a quality I am happy with.

- Improving Copyediting: almost an entirely new team, so there have been slip-ups. I want to make a style guide document to ensure consistency.
- Improving Analytics: Webmaster team are working on it.
- Ensuring the newsletter is consistent.

Special Thanks to:

- Charlotte Probstel (Chair) who has been the most dedicated member of the team this term, and has supported me a lot.
- Ruby Lydford (Publicity Officer and Catnip Editor) for her work across the paper- she has drawn most of the illustrations this year.
- Juliette Flatau (Graphic Designer) who has helped in ensuring our features are of a consistently high quality.
- Timothy Langer (Senior Webmaster) for his commitment to Felix- he plans to digitise all our issues so that you can use our website to find articles, rather than the archive which has a bad search feature.