

Clubs, Societies and Projects Board

6. Chair's Report

Author(s): Christian Cooper — Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Purpose: To update on the progress of relevant projects and of the CSPB sub-committees.

Decision(s): To **note**

1. Objectives

This year my key objectives are as follows:

Objective	Description/Progress
Introduce the CSP Sustainability Framework	<u>Description:</u> 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.
Strive for high-performing CSPs & improve the volunteer experience	<u>Description:</u> 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.
Review and improve CSP annual budgeting and funding opportunities	<u>Description:</u> 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.
Expand and increase the usage of the Student Experience Fund	<u>Description:</u> 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.

1.1 Sustainability Framework

Discussion groups will be held at CSPB on 17th October 2024 as an exercise to identify student priorities about CSP sustainability. Off the back of these discussions, work is set to begin to outline a draft CSP Sustainability Framework, with student and staff input, to be presented at November CSPB.

1.2 Volunteer Experience

Initial meetings have been held with Union staff regarding the approach to this project. The key piece of work to be undertaken is gathering data around student priorities regarding CSPs and volunteering.

A survey and focus groups, along with in-person sessions gathering data, will be held where students are asked about their priorities and what they see as key issues and opportunities. CSPB will be consulted as part of this process.

1.3 Annual Budgeting

The annual budgeting process is undergoing a full review. Discussion groups will be held at CSPB on 17th October to discuss the key issues with annual budgeting and to identify the best ways to measure a good budgeting process.

This will be followed by in-depth focus groups which members of CSPB will be encouraged to join. A report on annual budgeting, with recommendations, will be presented to CSPB in November.

1.4 Student Experience Fund

The Student Experience Fund (SEF) was released to bursary students on 9th October. This year, all bands were increased by £5, with the highest amounts received increased to £70 and the lowest to £20.

As of 9th October, the fund has not been released to non-bursary recipients, but funding has been ring-fenced for this and this will likely be in place by the time CSPB meets on 17th October.

2. Updates to the new activities process

This year, we have re-vamped the new activities process for students wishing to start a CSP. The new process focuses on developing ideas with active support from the activities team throughout the ideation process, with an aim to ensure that all proposals receive support and feedback and that new CSPs survive the incubation process and are set to thrive.

Details of the new process have been [published on the website](#).

3. CSPB sub-committees

As it is the start of term, the CSPB sub-committees are yet to meet. Appointments to the sub-committees are due to be made at CSPB on the 17th October 2024.