Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 26 February 2025

Officer Trustee Objectives & Updates

Author: Camille Boutrolle (Union President)
Purpose: To update the Board on progress of the OTs' objectives for 2024/25.
Action: To note

1. Officer Objectives

Union President - Camille Boutrolle

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: My project team has drafted a survey to gather data and anecdotes about the finances of PGR students. Along with our lead student representative on this project, Emina and I met with all other London Russell Group sabbatical officers and to pitch the project to them; all were supportive and agreed to circulate the survey drafted. Survey will launch after PRES and NSS (in a few months).
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: The concept of a cross-register is difficult to achieve with other London Russell Group universities as they are all part of University of London where the ability to take modules between universities already exists. As part of the Belonging Plan that Cat Turhan is working on, a recommendation will be made that all Imperial students should be offered at least one inter-departmental module. Beyond this, this project will be discontinued and others prioritised due to time constraints.
3. Green spaces	Description: Advocate for more biodiversity on Imperial campuses. Progress: Plans to transform Beit green space underway with the gardener and landscape architect producing a planting plan in the weeks to come. Plan is to (hopefully) carry out the thinning of the central path over the Easter break to minimise disruption to students. Producing a President's Community Fund bid to support the works in Beit.
4. Study spaces	Description: Increase the amount of study spaces on campus. Progress: The university is prioritising the Sherfield building as the first phase of the redevelopment of South Kensington campus and the addition of ~300 study spaces is being strongly considered – confirmation in the next few months. Emina and I are going to produce a communications piece around external libraries in students' neighbourhoods that are free to use for international students who are unaware of this.

Additional adventures:

- In January, I piloted an Investment Forum where students could ask Imperial's COO and Provost questions around the university's endowment and investments. Good feedback from both students and senior management!
- Went to Belfast with Steph to the termly Russell Group Students' Unions conference and became very jealous of Queen's student union building.
- DZ1 under the Westway at White City has been scrapped so Tom and I have been at the drawing board with the White City team.
- Delivered the closing remarks at Hugh Brady's President's Address early February.

Deputy President (Welfare) – Nico Henry

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Food redistributio n platform	Description: Implementing a platform to redistribute surplus food, reducing both food waste and living costs for students. Progress: The food redistribution program is moving slowly but set for a trial in May, according to the digital media lab, with one caterer still supportive.
2. Mentorship programme s for under-represented students	Description: Expanding student-led mentorship programmes for underrepresented students in line with the APP and the mental health strategy. Progress: Discussing the project with the education office and aiming to implement it by the next academic year. Planning an options appraisal presentation for late February.
3. Cycle to Uni Scheme	Description: Working on increasing the proportion of students active travelling/ cycling into campus. This could reduce costs for students and support carbon auditing. Progress: Developing an active travel website and securing a collaboration with the London Cycling Campaign. They are offering a £10/year membership (normally £55) for Imperial community members under 30, including free legal advice, £5M third-party liability insurance, and discounts. Also discussing their South Kensington campaigns for improved cycling infrastructure.
4. Lobbying the college to become London Living Wage accredited	Description: Lobbying for the College to formally become London Living Wage accredited. While benchmarking against LLW, student staff employed through the university are not paid holiday pay or given proper contracts. Progress: Found at least two more minimum-wage jobs. Focused on raising awareness about living wages and engaging with students to understand their experiences and ensure good working conditions, rather than prioritizing accreditation.

Additional adventures:

- Wrote a union council paper on prayer space availability, calling for temporary solutions for Ramadan and long-term planning for our diverse community.
- Met with the Islamic Society committee with Christian to support them, especially for Ramadan and iftar planning.
- Increased drop-in sessions with Emina to weekly and held in different locations.
- Supporting a student-led campaign on biodiversity and community engagement, organizing 2 weekly gardening sessions in the chaplaincy garden for different cohorts.
- Presented to the university's biodiversity working group on student preferences for greening, after surveying 45 students.

Deputy President (Finance & Services) – Stephanie Yeung

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Delivering the Union Sustainability Strategy	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. Progress: Working with the Union Sustainability Champions on the Green Impact Students' Union submission for 24/25, with a review of the strategy upcoming in the next term. Working with the OTs to prepare for an official student-facing launch of the strategy. To focus on projects under the strategy relating to setting up sustainable education workshops, sustainability fund, and inter-university sustainability network.
2. Delivering student-led, safe & inclusive events	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. Progress: Successful Lunar New Year event series in January with positive student feedback & engagement. Working with Events Team to set up a cultural/international day for next term and 25/26.
3. Ensuring financial accessibility of CSP activities for all our students	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. Progress: Had further discussions with Systems Team & Christian (DPCS) regarding implementation. To be delivered in conjunction with Annual Budgeting review.
4. Ensuring allergen information is easily accessible across Imperial	Description: The aim is to improve the presentation & communication of allergen information at all Imperial catering outlets (i.e., ICU, university & external caterers) Progress: Allergen QR code now in place in 568 Fusion. Nico (DPW) has helped lead conversations with Campus Catering to improve their signposting.

Additional adventures:

- Hosted a Veganuary themed Sustainability Forum with a spotlight on the Plant Based Universities campaign
- Joined the Grantham Climate Forum to update students on upcoming ICU plans regarding sustainability and highlighted engagement opportunities

Deputy President (Education) – Emina Hogas

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Assessment and feedback tailoring	Description: Carry out a review of the assessments in the lowest rated departments for A&F (NSS) and meet with Academic Reps to identify pain points and possible solutions before lobbying staff. Progress: In progress - regular meetings with Staff Coordinators for each faculty to coordinate collaboration with student shapers to inform changes on current A&F practices.
2. Masters in-year resits	Description: Lobby staff to make it standard practice for Masters students to resit in the same academic year rather than the year after. Progress: Stalled – Academic policies don't seem to have bandwidth for this in the current academic year given the workload Registry Services are under
3. Mitigating circumstances review	Description: Improve the mitigating circumstances (MC) application process by digitising the process across all depts and review self-certification procedures. Lobby for a waterfall grading system to ease staff workload. Progress: In progress – MC review group is changing approach and will contact staff individually. Changes proposed will be formalised to QAEC. Digital platform will likely be paused until next academic year.
4. Alumni networking event	Description: Connect alumni from unconventional career paths with students at an early point in their degrees to broaden the horizon of available careers. Progress: In progress – Carrying out student outreach to identify alumni fields they would like to hear from.

Additional adventures:

- Have worked on ICU's welcome messaging to translate it into nine different languages with Rep and Comms teams. We currently have 2 live.
- Successfully carried out forums for spring term – looking to make them more compact by combining Forums + Rep social into one event and personally catch up with Department Reps monthly.
- Picking up work on UROP bursaries (increasing the number of them!).
- Weekly drop-in sessions have been a hit and will resume post-leadership elections.

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) – Christian Cooper

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Introduce the CSP Sustainability Framework	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 *want* to engage with the framework, rather than it being an additional burden. Progress: Research period complete. Established a student committee to co-write the first version of the framework over term 2, with the staff working group to have oversight of the process. The first version of the framework will be completed for term 3 and brought to CSPB, with the framework to be followed in the 2025/26 academic year.
2. Strive for high-performing CSPs & improve the volunteer experience	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. Progress: Deprioritised as not time sensitive – due to be picked up in March.
3. Review and improve CSP annual budgeting and funding opportunities	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. Progress: Full report drafted with recommendations as to the future of annual budgeting. Draft report has been circulated to FAR, and the full report will be made public in March following CSPB approval. Changes to annual budgeting are due to come into effect on March 1st, with the biggest changes being renewed, more specific grant allocation principles set by CSPB, and the operational elements of annual grant allocations being completed by a staff/officer committee (the Annual Budgeting Committee) which reports to FAR.
4. Expand and increase the usage of the Student Experience Fund	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. Progress: Fund utilisation is currently on par with last year. Marketing push due to take place in term 2 to increase this. Imperial's Access and Participation Plan (APP) now includes the fund as an intervention, and the APP team have offered to support with data analysis of the fund. A data sharing agreement is being drafted to support this.

2. Officer Trustee (OT) Team Objective

As a team, the OTs have agreed to prioritise communication and transparency with our students to enable us to remain in-touch with the students as we represent them in our full-time roles.

Team Objective: Ensuring clear and direct communication with our students on Union affairs.

- Emina and Nico have been running weekly drop-ins for students to raise issues and discuss current affairs. (This has temporarily been placed on hold due to the pre-election period).
- Camille, Christian & Steph held an open forum for Q&A's regarding a Union Council paper about postponing the election of the DPFS, to help address students' concerns about its implications.
- Christian interviewed with Felix regarding updates to CSP annual budgeting and is set to write/interview further on key updates related to CSPs and funding.
- Camille wrote two blogs updating the students on the rent negotiations, on top of Camille and Nico presenting regular updates to Union Council.
- Camille, Steph and Christian are working with marketing team on promoting Leadership Elections and what sabbatical officers get up to.