AF/25-26/04/03
22 January 2026

Activities Forum

3. Chair's Report

Author(s): Tom Gordon — Deputy President (Activities)

Decision(s): To **note**

1. Subcommittee Updates

1.1 New Activities Committee

The New Activities Committee met on December 16 2025, and results were sent out to applicants on December 19. The Committee considered **59 applications**, and provisionally **approved 18** of these. Those which weren't approved were given feedback, and invited to re-apply in the fast track round (deadline **February 22nd**). Notably, two of the approved societies received multiple applications, so we will work with all applicants on a combined idea.

The following groups were provisionally approved:

Darts Society	Habesha Society	Durak Society
93% Club Imperial	Armenian Society	Model United Nations Society
Pickleball Society*	Vietnamese Society	Imperial Floorball
Imperial Wrestling Club	Portuguese Speaking Society	Quantum Technology Society
Wine Appreciation Society	IC Blood Drive	South Asian Dance Collective
Balkan Society*	Wireless Society	Socialist Worker Student Society

**two or more applications were received*

More information on the process here: https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/activities/start-something-new.

1.2 Activities Development Fund Committee

The ADF Committee met on November 21 2025, and results were communicated on December 10. This was later than the outcome deadline of December 5 due to my unexpected medical leave. The committee considered **51 applications**, and **partially or fully funded 29** of these. Common rejections included, as usual, the funding requested not being used for a new or growing activity, or unexplained growth.

Crucially, four applications pertained to a cultural event centred around food. While the committee was supportive of this initiative, it was outside of our power to approve as it was explicitly against policy. **The Activities Forum will therefore be asked to approve these applications, and to consider a change in the ADF Policy to allow for the funding of food** if it is crucial to a cultural event such as this.

The approved allocations were as follows:

Committee	Decision	Allocation	Description of allocation
SPI Cross Country	Fully fund	£200	Entry into an inaugural competition
NAI Touch Rugby	Fully fund	£220	Club affiliation and balls (new society)
SPF Football	Fully fund	£642	Kit, balls and referee fees for a new 7s team
KNE TedX	Fully fund	£445	Venue hire for annual conference. First since 2022-23
REA AnimeSoc	Partially fund	£200	Speaker event with Japanese voice actress
ICSMSU Womens Football	Partially fund	£330	Pitch hire for friendly matches
SPC Cheerleading	Partially fund	£620	Coaching costs for a new team
SPF Womens Football	Partially fund	£2,000	Training, referee and travel costs for futsal team, which could not have been accounted for in annual budgeting
SPC Ice Hockey	Partially fund	£736	Costs for new friendly games
SPF ACC Rugby	Fully fund	£1,075	Coach hire following unbudgeted success (promoted to SE Tier 1)
ICSMSU Netball	Fully fund	£740	Balls and netball dresses for new Development Squad
SPC Squash	Partially fund	£624	External court hire to support their increase in members following a merger with ICSMSU Squash
CTN Australian	Fully fund	£93	Subsidising tickets to bowling social. CSP had not made expenditure since 2017
REE RCC Mountaineering	Partially fund	£1,944	Professional Winter Climbing Training for a number of students, with the idea these students can train up other members in the future.
AEMU A Cappella	Partially fund	£780	Centralised workshops to support their A Cappella groups
AEMU Chamber Choir	Partially fund	£850	Subsidising a singing lesson for each member, with the view this will improve the group's output
ICSMSU Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières	Fully fund	£1,079	Equipment (largely reusable) for new Emergency Surgery Skills Workshop

REE RCC Mountaineering	Fully fund	£800	Correcting a clerical error which meant the group did not receive their ADF funding from last year
CGCU Space Society	Partially fund	£1,400	Entry fee for rocket engine testing event, and Helium gas for three high altitude balloon launches
SPC Padel	Partially fund	£1,866	Court bookings at a new venue following unpredecented growth
AEMU Gospel Choir	Partially fund	£300	Sound engineer for Easter showcase
SPM Tae Kwon Do	Fully fund	£960	Subsidy for accommodation and travel for competitions. Not in scope of ADF but were mistakenly told during Annual Budgeting it would be eligible
ICSMSU Football	Partially fund	£890	Competition transport following unbudgeted success
ICSMSU Cricket	Partially fund	£175	Equipment for women's team, which has seen unprecedented growth
SPI Pole & Aerial	Partially fund	£850	Additional aerial classes following unexpected surge in members
ICSMSU Surgical Soc	Partially fund	£500	Assorted equipment to support a large expansion of a conference
REE Caving	Partially fund	£1,000	New headtorches, as current inventory not sufficient for new members
REE Outdoor Club	Partially fund	£1,560	Glenmore Lodge Winter Mountaineering and Climbing Instructor course to train members to run winter climbing trips for the first time since COVID pandemic
REG Mahjong	Fully fund	£763	More sets and materials following unprecedented growth, as well as Cantonese, Japanese, Vietnamese and Singaporean-style sets to diversify their offering
		£23,642	

Following this ADF round, **£46,358 remains** in the fund to be allocated in Terms 2 and 3.

More information on the process here: https://imperialcollegeunion.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/101000533687-activity-development-fund.

1.3 Trips Fund Committee

The Trips Fund Committee met on November 21 2025, and results were communicated on December 10. This was later than the outcome deadline of December 9 due to my unexpected medical leave. The committee considered **21 applications**, and **partially or fully funded 11** of these. Common rejections included lack of clarity in the budget, and minimal student impact for the cost.

The approved allocations were as follows:

Committee	Decision	Allocation	Attendees	Description of allocation
ICSMSU Womens Hockey	Partially fund	£480	24	Accommodation, coach transport and pitch hire for Bristol tour
ICSMSU Water Polo	Partially fund	£670	30	Accomodation and coach transport for Bath tour
SPC Handball	Partially fund	£750	15	Accomodation for the World Inter-University Championships in Barcelona
CGCU Racing	Partially fund	£800	16	Accommodation and car/van rental for the Shell Eco-Marathon in Poland
CGCU Chem Eng	Partially fund	£300	30	Flight subsidy for exchange programme with ETH Zurich (10% cap)
AEMU Chamber Choir	Partially fund	£750	25	Accommodation, minibus hire and fuel for Suffolk trip
REE RCC Mountaineering	Fully fund	£570	12	Accommodation subsidy for winter climbing in the Highlands
SPC Basketball	Fully fund	£1,080	30	Tournament fee for Les Parisiennes Tournament in Paris
REE Outdoor Club	Partially fund	£750	15	Guides for Winter Tour in Aberdeenshire *Separate to their ADF application for training members, negating a need for guides in the future*
REE Caving	Fully fund	£877	15	Train travel, fuel, accommodation and training for Yorkshire trip
RSM Motor Club	Fully fund	£400	100	Union minibus and fuel for vintage vehicle. Event in Gaydon to celebrate the centenary of Clementine (RSM mascot)
		£7,427	**312**	

Following this Trips Funding round, **£17,573 remains** in the fund to be allocated in Terms 2 and 3. More information on the process:

https://imperialcollegeunion.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/101000533688-trips-fund

1.4 Harlington Committee

The Harlington Trust was established in 1989 to manage money received from the gravel extraction operation at the Harlington playing fields, for the benefit of Imperial students. The Harlington Grants Fund Committee oversees the allocations of grants on behalf of the trust.

The membership of the Committee is as follows:

- Vice-Provost (Education and Student Experience)
- ICU President
- ICU Deputy President (Activities)
- Two former ICU Presidents

Initial screening is carried out by the Deputy President (Activities) before being passed onto the Committee. In Round 1, there were **21 applications, 20 of which were forwarded to the Committee**.

The Harlington Grants Fund Committee met on December 5, though the outcomes are yet to be circulated to student groups. I have reached out to those who applied to apologise, and I will reach out again as soon as I receive an update from the College.

2 Student Experience Fund Update

For 2025-26, SEF launched on 23rd October. This was two weeks later than the launch of last year's fund, which opened on 9th October 2024.

Table 1: SEF usage summary as of 05/01/2026

Eligible students	Students having spent	Eligible students accessing the fund	Total allocation	Total spend	Proportion of pot spent
2,269	765	33.7%	£123,390.00	£22,009.53	17.8%

By January 5, there were 2,269 eligible accounts, and over a third of eligible students used at least some of their allocation. The average spend per transaction was £15.62, compared to £14.39 at this point last year. Like last year, the proportion of the pot spent remains low at 17.8%. This indicates that students, on average, are not using their full allocation. We believe that this is because part payments are currently not possible on our system. For example, for a £30 product, a student is unable to pay £20 of this using their SEF balance and the remainder by card, making it impossible to use the full allocation unless the cost of the product is the same as their SEF balance.

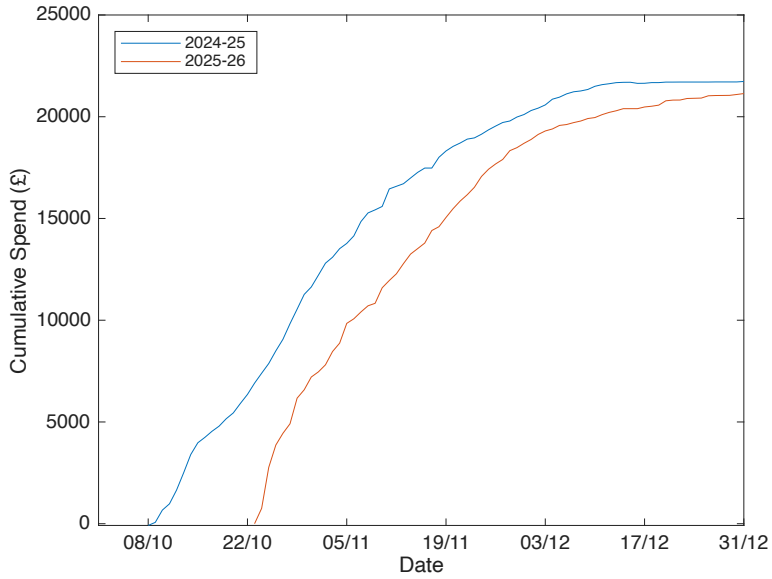


Figure 1: Autumn Term SEF spend for 2024-25 and 2025-26

The two plots compare SEF spending and transaction numbers for Autumn 2024-25 and Autumn 2025-26. Despite the fund's delayed launch this year, we have reached a point where spending has almost caught up with last year.

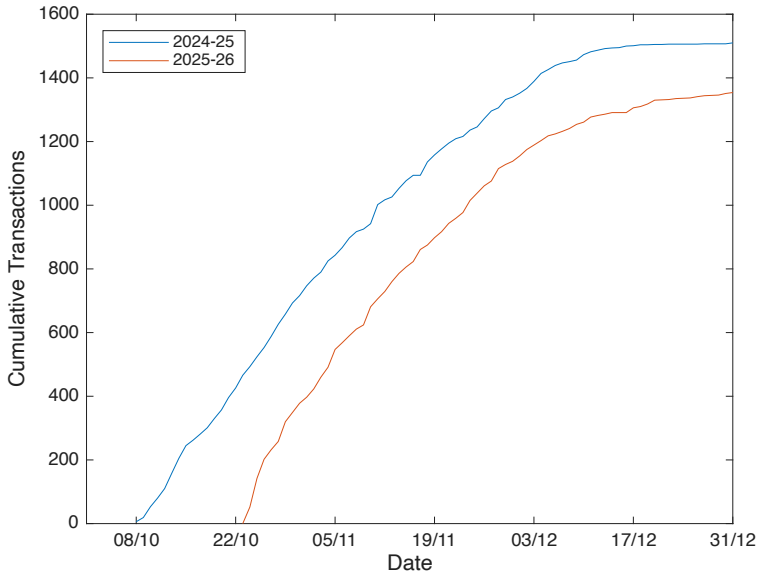


Figure 2: Number of SEF transactions in Autumn 2024-25 and 2025-26

We plan to move to a new system for our web shop in the next month, and we believe that this will allow for partial payments using SEF. This functionality will be analogous to applying a gift card credit to an account on a conventional web shop.

As senior student volunteers, please continue to spread awareness of the fund to your club and society leaders. To strengthen the case of expanding eligibility for the fund, it will really help if I can show that the fund is being well utilized.