Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 17 September 2025

Officer Trustees' Objectives & Updates

Author: Nico Henry (Union President)
Purpose: To update the Board on the Sabbatical Officers' objectives for 2025/26.
Action: To note

1. Union President – Nico Henry

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Facilitating student-facing forums on key institutional topics	Description: Hosting Q&A forums with senior university staff on topics such as sustainability, investments, research impact, and science for humanity. Progress: On hold until next term due to busy period. Relevant stakeholders are keen, and sustainability team put this in their new strategy draft.
2. Supporting students finding housing	Description: Reviewing current housing support and exploring improvements. Progress: The relevant stakeholder is on medical leave, but they seem keen for ICU to consider housing support within the advice service. I'm still advocating for an extended rent guarantor scheme for all full-time students.
3. Increasing job opportunities	Description: Expanding student job opportunities, ensuring fair pay and working conditions, aligned with temp agency plans. Progress: Good progress. I've been contributing to the temp agency work by engaging with students. I'm keen for us to facilitate developmental opportunities such as tutoring which would otherwise count as freelance and wouldn't be allowed by visas.
4. Maximising Metric usage	Description: Repurposing Metric as a daytime breakout space while preserving event and night usage. Progress: The commercial team and I have been preparing a business case for this to be officially open in January. We'll be requesting funding from the presidents' community fund and creating new student jobs to run the space/cafe.

Additional adventures:

- The proposal for UKRI to increase the London stipend has been prioritised in order to align with UKRI budgetting rounds. This will be made public on the 19th of November. We have good media interest from Times HE, Research Professional Fortnight, and I'll be writing for WonkHE. Emina, Eleanor (Research and Policy Coordinator), and I have been working on getting the Russell Group Students' Unions in London onboard and signing the proposal.
- Tom Newman and I met the Business School Dean and their student life team to discuss strategic alignment and shared work opportunities. They were very supportive. I've drafted a union council paper for elected department representatives to nominate a student to have voting rights at union council as every other faculty has 1 more representative than the Business School.

- I've set up our first trial of "Breakfast with the Provost" for senior student representatives and OTs.
- Following a request from Spanish society I wrote a paper to merge Spanish and the inactive Latin American society. There isn't enough Latin American students for their own society to have continuity and a good sense of community. The paper passed unanimously at Activities Forum.

2. Deputy President (Welfare) – Anson To

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Food Prices on campus	Description Lobby the university to provide food options at student-friendly prices. Review their opening hours for exam seasons to make sure students staying late on campus can still buy hot meals. Progress: Met with Taste Imperial to suggest meal plans and a under £5 option at every eatery. We will meet them again 25th Nov. On opening hours, Pizza Pi is opening late 4-8PM
2. Review of common room provision across departments	Description: Provision on/quality of Common Rooms is inconsistent across departments. Reps can give us feedback on their common rooms and work on rooms for improvement. Progress: Soft services team is happy to support repurposing furniture. A poll is being sent to the departmental reps on their common room provisions.
3. Second Hand Swap Shop	Description: Volunteer groups across campus, have launched their own item swap/ donation events. These efforts are often sporadic and irregular. We want to launch a swap shop that students can easily access and rely on. We will work with student groups on this. Progress: Events team hosted an October Swap shop at Metric for Halloween. Waiting on SUMS to get back to us on the online platform.
4. Culturally Sensitive Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service	Description: The University's MH Strategy is to provide culturally sensitive counselling. Progress: Senior Counsellor at the university has started a staff analysis of training needs and so far there is a training need for trans+ specific care. Speaking with ISoc and the Chaplain about having a Muslim Faith-based advisor.
5. White City Travel	Description: Intercampus travel (both cycle route and shuttle bus) needs to be improved as the university expands the White City Campus. Progress: I've gathered some feedback from Council and from reps on shuttle bus schedules. The property team said they are also keeping tally of the queues and have put out QR codes to survey shuttle bus usage. I will be meeting Jane to review survey data.

Additional adventures:

- Presented the bursary survey report to APSG. The group is supportive of setting up a commuter fund
- Supporting Liberation and Community network. I will be starting an action tracker for the officers.
- Preparing for the Liberation and Welfare Forum, which will address topics such as international students levy/ experience and Imperial's role in access to medicines.
- Working with the LGBTQ+ network on ICU's stance on Imperial's membership with Stonewall

3. Deputy President (Education) – Emina Hogas

Objective	Description/Progress
1. Personal tutor reframing	Description: Personal tutoring at Imperial lacks parity of experience across different departments. This project aims to clarify the roles and responsibilities of a Personal tutor, as well as standardise role nomenclature at university level. Progress: Professional and academic staff are supportive of the initiative. Student engagement will take place before the 18th Dec (survey) and via focus groups in the spring term. Findings will be consolidated in a paper taken to ESEC/SEF.
2. PG engagement	Description: Embed PG coordinator position in PG student community and establish PG spaces both digitally and physically. Progress: - PhDialogues, an informal forum chaired by the DPE, open to all PhD students to share best practice and raise concerns. First session was 12th Nov. - Created WhatsApp Community for all the reps – split PGs by Research (50 members) and Taught (72 members) - 50% PGT turnout at the Education Forum 11th Nov (130 sign ups)
3. AI literacy	Description: Generative AI usage should be productive and safe for both students and staff. Raise awareness and encourage usage of existing resources available to both communities Progress: - In discussion with AI working group around university guideline development. - Promoting dAIsy with Nico and via Felix – video to come out Nov 17th.
4. NSS key areas for improvement	Description: Carry on guiding work on Assessment and Feedback (AF) and Mitigating Circumstances (MC) based on last year's progress. Progress: - MC policy redraft + explore impact of new LMS acquisition - AF – coordinate with Education Office on communicating progress achieved to students.

Additional adventures:

- Reviewing Rep team communications and training content for student representatives
- Motor Club Give it a Go campaign, filming and editing content for our social media.
- Reward and recognition work with Rep team – closer to finalising Student Rep Merchandise.
- Creating repository of materials for student reps to use (survey, handover templates, etc)
- Speaking to stakeholder to explore the addition of a sustainability section to programme proposal paperwork.

4. Deputy President (Activities) – Tom Gordon

Objective	Description/Progress

1. Expand and increase the usage of the Student Experience Fund	Description:
	The Student Experience Fund aims to ensure that students, who may otherwise be unable to due to financial constraints, are able to engage with clubs and societies and ICU events through the provision of credit on their Union accounts. The fund is currently only available to home undergraduate students in receipt of the Imperial Bursary, and only 34% of the allocated funds were spent last year. This objective includes improving the usage among currently eligible students, and an expansion of who can access funding.
	
	Progress:
	• SEF launched on 23rd October this year. This is two weeks later than the launch of last year's fund, as we were a bit later securing funding this year
	• In the first 17 days of the fund being launched:
	  ○ 9.5% of the allocation has been spent (8.2% in 24-25)
	  ○ 20.4% of eligible students have made at least one transaction
	• Next steps are to solidify governance to guarantee the fund will continue to exist when I'm gone, and then to open negotiations to see if we can expand the pot and introduce the fund to more students

2. Improve training quality for student volunteers	Description: Training is currently provided to student volunteers via a range of online training articles, as well as two days of in-person sessions prior to the start of term. Last year, a new platform – Freshdesk – was introduced to host online articles, and many legacy articles on eActivities were unpublished as a result. Gaps have been identified in our online training provision, so an objective is to fill these in. Progress: Highlighted various gaps through questions I have received by email, as well as through common ticket submissions.
3. Grow and further utilise our alumni community	Description: ICU doesn't currently have an alumni strategy. Our current offering is life membership for a one-time fee of £40, which grants access to our venues and clubs and societies. What we and Imperial offer, as well as how we connect with and benefit from our alumni community, has become more of a shared OT objective. We greatly appreciate the support of our alumni community who help us with funding, careers talks, coaching, tankards, and of course those who kindly support us as Trustees! Progress:

	Reached out to a few stakeholders. A presentation at Activities Forum on Nov 13 also led to a very productive discussion about the issue. The members were very supportive and have helped fill in some gaps in who to contact.
4. Improve our response times and feedback to students	Description: The Union reviews documentation for clubs and societies such as core risk assessments, activity proposals and financial approvals over £1,000. The Union also respond to ad-hoc questions via an online ticketing system (Freshdesk). A frequent complaint last year was that it was common to wait extended periods of time for these – occasionally months. Progress: A "Customer Experience Charter and Service Commitment" is being drafted by myself, our Director of Membership Services, and our two activities managers. This is due to be discussed by students at the December 4th Activities Forum.

Additional adventures:

- Hosted two well-attended "Activities Forums" — a sub-committee of council which is responsible for the funding of clubs and societies, as well as their management.
    - We have additionally, rather extraordinarily, considered two Motions of No Confidence, against a total of seven committee positions. Six of the seven have passed, and the committee handled these very well.
- A "Committee Member of the Month" scheme has now launched. In October we received 16 nominations and gave out the award (a £50 voucher) to two committee members. The scheme will continue throughout the year.
    - Congratulations to Alina from Dodgeball who offered women-only sessions for the first time, and Aisling from DoCSoc, who ordered merchandise on a commercial scale which was outside her usual remit.