Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 27 May 2026

Sabbatical Officer Objectives & Updates

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

1. Officer Objectives

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: We will be hosting a forum on the Imperial Zero Index as students will be presenting a second paper on this at union council and communication on the topic hasn't been ideal.
2. Supporting students finding housing	Description: Reviewing current housing support and exploring improvements. Progress: Advocacy to expand the rent guarantor scheme is ongoing. Progress on increasing affordable rooms for returning students has been slow but positive.
3. Increasing job opportunities	Description: Expanding student job opportunities, ensuring fair pay and working conditions, aligned with temp agency plans. Progress: The temp agency work is being led by the member of staff in charge. We've also been working with PGR reps and the people team at Imperial to get better working conditions for Graduate Teaching Assistants following the employment rights bill.
4. Maximising Metric usage	Description: Repurposing Metric as a daytime breakout space while preserving event and night usage. Progress: A funding application for Imperial's president's community fund was rejected. Progress is slow but Imperial Property team has said they're looking into it and will likely fund it.

Additional adventures:

- I'm involved in interviews and student stakeholder panels for the new Vice Provost for Education and Student Experience.
- Emina and I have been very involved in the AI in education work with the university.
- The UKRI work has developed further into a piece of work that will be looking at PhD candidates' experience across the country, hopefully leading to a research paper that UKRI won't be able to ignore.
- Last month I attended a meeting with London's mayor for transport, where we discussed

transport accessibility and cycle infrastructure. This will be a recurring meeting.

- A good portion of time has been used in university work such as taking part in 2 day departmental reviews, disciplinary procedures, and presidents' awards panels.
- We've been supporting research on neurodivergence assessment accessibility with the aim of publishing a national report on the topic.
- The China trip was successful and has led to a series of recommendations and new perspectives on AI in education, wellbeing provision, green spaces approach, and student voice/advocacy.

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: Complete. There are now £5 dinners at the library cafe from 5-8pm. For continuity, I've sent suggestions to our Working Class Network Officers on ways to keep track of prices and recruit students to join the network.
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: Complete. Computing has been able to use their own departmental funding. No other big requests from other departments. ESE common room now has new furniture.
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: In progress/ Hold: Planning a summer swap shop with Events team for students moving out and reaching out to the University's sustainability team. Waiting on Systems/ Comms to get back on GDPR-related questions.
4. Culturally Sensitive Counselling and Mental Health Advice Service	Description: The University's MH Strategy is to provide culturally sensitive counselling. Progress: Near Complete: The counselling team completes regular "refresher" training. They've now also completed training that ICU has been advocating for. For continuity, I'm in touch with Claire Fox on how we approach future student-led welfare surveys on similar topics.

5. White City Travel	Description: Intercampus travel needs to be improved as the university expands the White City Campus. Progress: Complete: Shuttle bus now runs from 07.30 till 18.35. People will be able to get to 9am lectures in White city and come catch the 18.15 bus after lectures to head back to South ken.

Additional adventures:

- **EDI/ Welfare for CSPs.** Developing EDI/ Inclusivity training for our CSP leaders for June training series, using best practice from ICSMSU. Writing “look-up-able" articles for what student leaders should do in the event of a welfare incident – particularly on “What to do between an incident and formal sanctions being imposed.” I wrote a paper to Activities Forum last week about this.
- **In-person consent training.** With the momentum from the Gender Equity survey, I’m working with the University Student support team on developing in-person consent training for students enrolling Oct 2026.
- **Imperial Zero Index.** Working with our Ethics & Environment Network to support their campaign to challenge 1) the lack of transparency and 2) Imperial’s engagement with TotalEnergies, despite TotalEnergies being ruled by the court that, effectively, they won't be able to reach net zero by 2050.
- **PG Recommends.** PG students can submit a “Google Review” of a club & society to recommend it to others. Expanding Reach Research shows that PG students are less engaged in some Clubs and Societies due to work, childcare, commuting and other systemic barriers. We want to create a guide to help other PG students find societies that work for them, and for societies to share best practice. £15 gift cards as incentive.
- **OT/ Elected students Accountability.** Writing blogs and social media posts to communicate wins and explain what OTs and Liberation and Community networks do.

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: Stalled due to conflicting priorities across University and teams. Incoming DPE will pick up where left off given the limited time frame until handover.
2. PG engagement	Description: Collaborate with Rep Team to embed PG coordinator position in PG student community and establish PG spaces. Progress: PhD dialogues allows for closer collaboration between Representation and Advice teams to identify trends and better support PGR students.

	Additionally, faculties have agreed to controbute to rep merchandise for senior roles – PG students have received this extremely well.
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: AI Vision has been developed in collaboration with AI futurists. Recently took part in workshop that identified priorities and timelines for implementing the pillars of the vision.
4. NSS key areas for improvement	Description: Carry on guiding work on Assessment and Feedback (AF), Mitigating Circumstances (MC) and study space development based on last year's progress. Progress: MC streamlined platform is looking favourable with switch to Imperial 2.0. Changes to the policy have been minimal, but should make it more accessible - to be implemented from 26/27. Study spaces – the library study space project has expanded to include both basement and ground floor, as well as floor 2 for the redesign!

Additional adventures:

- Exploring additional rep features that can be added to our volunteer dashboards that would help digitise handover for senior and year reps (lack of handover has been an issue for PGT reps specifically).
- Departmental reviews galore! Covered Civil Engineering in May with Brain sciences coming up in June.
- Been doing a lot of consultation work for various University groups – Academic and Professional support resources has taken up a good amount of time.
- Penultimate Education Forum happened 5th of May, with good turnout given exams. Hybrid format suits well, padlet with issue topics facilitates discussion without compromising note taking.

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. <u>Progress:</u> • For the first time, students are now be able to "partially pay" for a product using their Student Experience Fund. For instance, if a student has £10 left in their pot, they can put these funds towards a £20 product. This should improve the proportion of the pot spent. • We do not have a way to easily track the expenditure of the SEF pot with the new system, which is why I haven't included an update on the uptake. The new system does seem more user-friendly, and I have only received two queries from students asking how to use their fund since the change in February.
2. Improve training quality for student volunteers	<u>Description:</u> 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. <u>Progress:</u> A period of committee training is now planned for the end of the 2025-26 academic year, to supplement training in October 2026. An "offboarding conference" is taking place on June 24, supported Imperial's Careers Service. This will focus on helping current committees best present the skills and experience they have gained during their time in a role, to help them to succeed in their future careers.
3. Improve the fundraising and funding provision for clubs and societies	<u>Description:</u> Our official donation process requires a donor to write a letter to the Union stating that they are happy to donate funds to a society, and a sales invoice is raised. An objective is to streamline this process to accept instant donations online. Additionally, I will explore how the Union can support societies to fundraise through other means such as crowdfunding. I will also tailor our funding pots to the current day so they are utilised more often. <u>Progress:</u> Nothing so far in terms of donation processes / crowdfunding. Updates on funding: • Allocated £42,383 so far under ADF, compared to £21,235 in the entire 2024-25 academic year. £27,617 remains in the fund, with £29,011 of applications in round 3 — many of which are from new societies, which I made a conscious choice to advertise the fund to. • Exactly 2/3 of the Trips Funding pot has been allocated in rounds 1 and 2, with the committee making a conscious decision to hold 1/3 for round 3. We expect to fully allocate this. • The Activities Team's new "Expanding Reach Fund" has received 9

	applications, of which 5 have been approved (totalling £982).
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: • May: tickets (excl. Activity Proposals) receiving a first response in 16hr (on average), fully resolved in 3d17hr. • March: Activity Proposals approved in an average of 4d18hr, with a 2025-26 peak of 6d2hr. • Activities Team "Service Level Agreement" taken to Activities Forum in January, solidifying a baseline standard for response times.

Additional adventures:

- Two new Activities Coordinators have settled in well!
- 48 new societies approved this academic year, bringing our total to 410. All were given £100 start-up funding, and most are engaging with our processes well.
- Met with College ICT to discuss the potential use of their Customer Relationship Management to help clubs and societies keep records of their alumni in a safe and legal manner.
- Annual Budgeting allocations have been taking place over May, for review in the June FAR.
- ExecEd complete! Thank you to Dot and all the supporting staff involved.