

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the ninth ordinary meeting of the
Council
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2006-2007 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall at 6.43pm on the 21st May 2007

Present:

Council Chair	Daniel McGuinness
President	John Collins
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Eric Lai
Deputy President (Education & Welfare)	Ben Harris
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Jon Matthews
Deputy President (Graduate Students)	Shama Rahman
ICSMSU President	Shiv Chopra
RCSU President	Jad Marrouche
ACC Chair	Luke Taylor
A&E Chair	Margaret Holme
Media Group Chair	James Yearsley
RCC Chair	Mark Flower
RAG Chair	Stephen Brown
SCC Chair	James Millen
Welfare Campaigns Officer	Kirsty Patterson
C&GU Welfare Officer	Emma Persky
RCSU Welfare Officer	Jennifer Morgan
ICSMSU Education Rep	123 Eleanor Barry
C&GU Research Representative	Eirini Spentza
RCSU Research Representative	Daniel Sauder
C&GCU Representatives (Undergraduate)	Edo Abraham
	Steven King
	Nick Simpson
C&GCU Representatives (Postgraduate)	Ashley Brown
RSCU Representatives (Undergraduate)	Simon Nance
	Adi Misra-Godwin
RCSU Representative (Postgraduate)	Alex Guite
ICSMSU Rep (Undergraduate)	Anojan Arulanathan
	Jitin Verma
Permanent observers	
Finance Manager	Dave Parry
Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Mark Mearing- Smith, Andreas Esau , Inger Eriksson

Apologies: C & G CU President James Fok, OSC Chair Sabena Mughal, Silwood Park Chair Michael Garrett, WCUS President Jay Khaneka, ICSMSU Welfare Officer Mohammedadbbas Khaki, ICSMSU Education Rep 456 Zacharia Silk, RCSU Academic Affairs Rep (Taught) Matthew Hartfield
RSCU Representatives (Undergraduate) Arik Funke, C&GCU Representatives (Undergraduate) Yanyan Huang, Non Faculty Rep Andrew Sykes, ICSMSU Rep (Undergraduate) Zain Sikafi, Union Manager Peter Haldane

Not present: RSM President Sebastian Turner, Equal Opportunities Officer Thomas Brodrick
CAG Chair Radha Gadhok, C&GU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught) Alexandra Martinsson Dorff

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) 4 ordinary members of Council have been removed as per the Constitution, Regulation 4, point 37 'Ordinary members of the Council who do not attend two consecutive ordinary meetings (irrespective of apologies) shall be deemed to have resigned and their post vacated.'
 - i. These members are:
 - CGCU Undergraduate – Nick Simpson
 - CGCU Undergraduate – Yanyan Huang
 - CGCU Postgraduate – Viktor Vojnovski
 - RCSU Undergraduate – Arik Funke
- b) Nick Simpson sought Council's permission to be reinstated.
 - i. Mr Simpson is unable to attend the next meeting of Council.
 - ii. It was suggested that as Mr Simpson was unable to make the next meeting, to not affect quorum, he should be allowed to be reinstated for tonight's meeting on the proviso that he will withdraw before the next meeting. There was no objection to this.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To reinstate Nick Simpson as CGCU Ordinary Member on the proviso that he stands down from this position before the next meeting of Council.

2. MINUTES – 13.03.07

RESOLVED:

- 1) To pass the minutes

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) The Faculty Union Presidents have implored and reminded their members to attend Council.

4. PRESIDENTS REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President asked for support in sponsorship in his cycle ride.
 - i. The RCSU President stated that he will pledge £50 for this event.

ACTION:

1. The RCSU President to give £50 to the President's Masterplan fundraising fund.
- b) Her Majesty the Queen is visiting Imperial College on the 9th of July to celebrate the Centenary of Imperial College.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

5. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) The timetable has been completed for Officer training.
 - i. Some training will be taking place at Charing Cross.
- b) The ICSMSU President and ACC Chair are being invited to help develop a strategy for BUSA.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

6. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) The Library will be closed in the week after term ends for a week.
 - i. It is anticipated that lending time will be extended to reflect this clouser.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NOTED:

- a) It was questioned as to whether or not there had been a 'rush' or a 'handful' of new clubs applications as conflicting information has been given within the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and the Deputy President (Finance & Services) reports
 - i. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that he had been approached by approximately 15 clubs seeking advice to set up a new club.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he had received 1 application this term and 2 last term.
 - iii. The procedures for setting up new clubs will be looked at at the next Clubs and Societies Board.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (GRADUATE STUDENTS) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Graduate Students)

NOTED:

- a) GSA Colours are currently open for nominations.
- b) Merit awards, if agreed to, will be implemented in 2009-10.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

9. FELIX REPORT

RECEIVED: A verbal report was given by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) Some financial difficulties are currently being experienced by Felix.
 - i. Outstanding invoices owed to Felix are currently being pursued.
 - ii. There will be 1 more issue of Felix before the end of term.

10. TRUSTEE BOARD CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

RECEIVED: The following documents were presented by the President:

- i. Summary
- ii. Drafting notes
- iii. Court Chair
- iv. Amendments
- v. Details
- vi. Code of Practice
- vii. Staff Student Protocol

NOTED:

- a) This is the first reading of the revised Constitution.
- b) The trail of consultation and approval will go through 9 separate bodies.
 - i. The document that is being presented at this meeting will have minor changes inserted due to the nature of this consultation period.
 - ii. The ICSMSU President expressed concern that Council will not see the documents after the 'tweeks', however the President assured that the amendments will be reported to the next Council and the President elect has been involved heavily in the process so far.
- c) In regards to the Disciplinary policy, it needs to be clarified how to discipline a Sabbatical Officer under gross misconduct or political misconduct.
- d) In regards to the first draft of the MOU, College have delayed sending back to the Union thus holding up timelines.
 - i. The annexes do not required 2 readings and will come to the next meeting of Council.
 - ii. The President stated that he will stand strong on the Staff Student Protocol as an interpretation may include not being able to comment on College Staff and therefore the Rector.
- e) In regards to the Disciplinary Policy, it was clarified that the ICSMSU President would be considered as a Sabbatical Officer as they are paid, however, those officer receiving an honorarium be treated differently.
- f) The Charity Commission have the power to remove all trustees and this needs to be reflected in the MOU.
- g) An interim trustee board will be to be set up, however Executive Committee members may have to take some of positions until filled.
- h) The following discussion took place in regards to the Court Chair having a vote on the Trustee Board.
 - i. The RAG Chair stated that they should have a vote as it acts as a safeguard against politicising.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that the Court Chair is not the voice of the 'student' and that theoretically the lay trustees are removed from the politics of the Union.
 - iii. College have not commented on this matter.
 - iv. The SCC stated that Court is part of the tripartite structure and as such the Chair should have equal rights.
 - v. Council moved to vote in favour of the Court Chair possessing a vote on the Trustee Board.

FOR	16
AGAINST	10
ABSTAIN	1

Passes

RESOLVED:

1) The Court Chair to be a voting member of the Trustee Board.

- i) In regards to the changes to the Constitution, the following was raised:
 - i. The A&E Chair asked that the ampersand be retained in the title when referring to the Arts & Ents Board and not the Arts and Ents Board as she preferred this as such.
 - ii. The President accepted this suggestion.

RESOLVED:

2) That the Arts & Ents Board be referred to as the 'Arts & Ents Board' in the Union Constitution

j) Council moved to vote on accepting the amended Constitution.

FOR	27
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	0

Passes

RESOLVED:

3) To accept the suggested amendments to the Union Constitution.

k) In regards to the Memorandum of Understanding the following was discussed:

- i. The President is trying to obtain a 'tracked changes' copy from College.
- ii. This document has not been revised for 7 years.
- iii. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) questioned page 7, point 40, Health and Safety ultimately having the President responsible; should this not be the Trustee Board. The President stated that he will seek advice on this matter.

ACTION:

1. The President to investigate if the President or Trustee Board will be responsible for the overall Health and Safety of the Union.

- iv. The RCC Chair suggested that paragraph 68, English translations on posters, should mirror the Unions poster policy.
- v. There were various grammatical and typographical errors pointed out.
- vi. It was pointed that page 11, point 70c, Union Media, complaints should be put though Court, not Executive Committee.

RESOLVED:

4) That the document be amended to reflect media complaints and discipline to go though the Union Court.

vii. Council moved to vote on the amended document.

FOR	22
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	1

Passes

RESOLVED:

5) To accept the amended Code of Practice

l) In regards to the Staff Student Protocol, the President stated that the document will be extended out to bring it in line with regulation 7.

- i. It was suggested that the definition of casual staff/student staff needs to be clarified
- ii. Council moved to a vote on accepting the document.

FOR	25
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	1

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 6) To accept the Staff Student Protocol document.**

11. FUTURE OF THE DPGS POSITION – second reading

RECEIVED: The proposal was presented by the Deputy President (Graduate Students)

NOTED:

- a) Elections for the various GSA positions will commence the following day providing the paper is accepting at this meeting.
- b) It was pointed that the presented Constitution does not reflect the change to the role of Deputy President (Graduate Students)/GSA.
 - i. The President stated that this oversight will be amended and assured that the paper presented, agenda item 11 is the correct version and what was agreed at the last meeting of Council.
- c) Council moved to a vote on accepting the second reading of the proposal.

FOR	26
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	1

Passes

12. PERMISSION TO LIVE OUT OF HALLS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to vote on accepting the paper and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To allow the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) to live in private accommodation and to receive the appropriate honorarium.**

13. OFFICERS USE OF HALLS ROOM

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he wished to update the policy to extend the halls that may be lived in.
- b) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) raised the following points:
 - i. It is rare that officers get called in and they should have the choice to live where they desired.
 - ii. Point 8 provides a loophole for those officers who have no rental expenses and still receive money such as subwardens.
- c) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Deputy President (Finance & Services) have frequently been called in to deal with Union matters out of hours.
- d) The President stated that the Court Chair 'raised eyebrows' when the 05/06 Council approved the payment to the current Deputy President (Finance & Services) even though he is receiving rent free accommodation due to being a subwarden and suggested that point 8 be amended.
- e) The RAG Chair suggested that 4. e & f (The GSA Chair and CSC Chairs should be considered as the same).
 - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that the GSA is considered a submissive Faculty Union.

- f) At this point the Council Chair asked the CG Welfare Officer to leave the meeting due to her constant disturbance to the meeting.
 - i. The CG Welfare Officer proposed that Council had no confidence in the Chair.
 - ii. Council moved to a vote on no confidence in the Chair and it was unanimously rejected.
 - iii. The Chair reiterated his request for the CG Welfare Officer to leave the meeting; she did not leave.
- g) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) proposed an amendment to point 8, to delete , or any sabbatical officer who has resided in halls without paying rent' and add 'should rent not be payable to college' and add 'or any sabbatical who has resided in halls without paying rent.
 - i. Council moved to vote on this amendment.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) declared his conflict and abstained from voting.

FOR	23
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	0

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Imperial College Union strongly supports the use of rooms in halls of residence by senior officers of the Union as vital to maintaining the connection between officers and the student body, and allowing officers to work effectively for the Union and their degrees if they are non-sabbatical.
- 2) That not all allocated rooms must necessarily be filled by officers and in the event that this is the case, these rooms will be returned to Residences for re-allocation.
- 3) That rooms will only be allocated to officers prior to the start of the academic year. If a position is filled during the academic year, the Union shall make every effort to secure a room but that this cannot be guaranteed.
- 4) That there will be the following irrevocable order of priority for use of rooms in halls:
 - a. The President
 - b. The Deputy Presidents
 - c. The Felix Editor
 - d. The Faculty Union Presidents
 - e. The Chair of the Graduate Students Association
 - f. The Clubs and Societies Committee Chairs
 - g. That the Executive Committee shall determine the order of priority among Union officers for remaining rooms.
- 5) That should an officer not take up their offer of a room, the room shall revert to the next officer down on the list. The room shall not revert to the officer's deputy or nominee.
- 6) Holders of sabbatical office and Faculty Union Presidents are to live in non-outlying halls¹. Should these officers wish to live in an outlying hall or not take up their offer of a hall room, they may only do so with the prior permission of Council.
- 7) That as details of officers taking up rooms are required by Residences considerably prior to the start of the academic year, rooms will be allocated to officers during the summer term. If an officer-elect does not accept their offer of a room or is out of contact every effort having been made to contact them by the time details are needed by residences, they will be deemed to have rejected their offer.
- 8) That the Union shall pay the full rent for holders of sabbatical office living in halls or shall pay an honorarium equal to the average rent paid, should rent not be payable to College, on behalf of sabbatical officers. No payment shall be made to or on behalf of non-sabbatical officers or any sabbatical officer who has resided in halls without paying rent.
- 9) Holders of sabbatical office are required to live in halls except with the prior permission of Council. If they wish to live in other than their designated halls room and receive their honorarium, they may only do so on the resolution of Council. The

honarium shall not normally be backdated if permission to live other than in the designated room is granted after the start of the term of office.

- 10) The President is responsible for running and enforcing this policy and will rule in the event of a dispute. As such decisions can take place over the summer vacation and hand-over period, it is the policy of the Union that the President in office at the time is responsible for taking any such decision.

¹ *For the purposes of this policy, the non-outlying halls are defined as Beit, those in Prince's Gardens and those in Evelyn Gardens. All other halls shall be considered as outlying halls.*

Meeting closed 8.10pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Council

on _____ 2006/07

_____ Chair of the Meeting