

**Imperial College Union Trustee Board**

**COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**

*A note by Mark Mearing-Smith*

**First Council 8<sup>th</sup> October**

This was a short and sharp first Council of the year. With the usual sabbatical reports there were also the Faculty Union reports and the Felix report. I set out my expectation for the year of Council and details on how it ran. There was a question about mascotry to the C&G President, which sadly Council isn't the forum for. There was substantial questioning to the GSA Chair about his report. There was confusion about a £2000 honorarium paid. The report was rejected.

**Second Council 29<sup>th</sup> October**

A much longer Council this time. Matters decided: appointments to Exec, Omar Hashmi as an Interim Student Trustee, Court appointment, Lewis Hands as a Lay Trustee, an accommodation request, a green roof Policy and a paper about NUS governance. The (Deputy) President's reports were accepted. The GSA chair resubmitted his report to Council and it was rejected (more of below).

**Disciplinary Hearings**

I've been involved with a Disciplinary Hearing, which due to a complaint had to be referred to the Union Court, which has given its remarks, along with the usual Constitutional clarification.

**Council Make-Up**

This year's Council has so far been filled with an interesting mix of new and experienced members. None of the new ordinary members have been to a Council yet, but looking at who has been elected there are a few familiar names. I fear that Council's role, purpose and expectations are slightly unclear to a few members on Council. I shall, at the next Council give a presentation of some sorts too clarify this to Council, which will include the new ordinary members.

One issue that does concern me is the very high number of abstention on contentious issues, I slightly fear that the importance of Paragraph 93 in Regulation Six of the Constitution, "Members must think before voting," as not been fully stressed.

**Council Elections**

Elections for the ordinary members of Council have been taken place. Results have been released and nearly all the fields RON (Re-Open Nominations) was elected, so there will be a new set of elections. There have been questions about the lack of votes cast at this election, and whether this has been down to the Union's lack of advertisement and/or lack of campaigning from the Union and candidates.

Results are as follows:

Trustee  
Ali Al-Hussaini  
RON

Postgraduate Engineers  
Ashley Brown  
RON

Undergraduate Engineer  
John James  
John O'Neil  
RON

Undergraduate Natural Sciences  
Jose Videria  
Shray Amar  
RON

### **GSA Resignation**

At the first Council, Council first moved to refer the GSA Chair's report back to the GSA. The GSA Chair challenged this saying there was no constitutional bases for this. Therefore Council then voted to reject the paper. The issues that Council members had with the report where that the report did not "do him justice" and that there was no explanation about the slightly controversial honorarium paid to the GSA Chair given that he has only worked for half of the expected 2 months over the summer.

At the second Council the GSA Chair resubmitted his report with some new parts. Council was generally unimpressed with the new report, saying that it hadn't changed enough. Council voted to reject it. I then had to move to a motion of censure, at which time the GSA Chair told Council that he was handing in his resignation.

There have been complaints that this is Undergraduates ruining Postgraduate representation, which I hope is not the case.

### **Upcoming Matters**

The only issues that I foresee in the future are the Higher education funding policy and possible constitutional changes.