

Imperial College Union

MORE CONSTITUTIONAL TIDY UPS – ERRATUM

A note by the President

Suggestion

I have thought long and hard about this short set of amendments which are sensible but do raise one question in light of the reasoning behind the establishment of the Union Court.

The section does read:

The President of the Faculty Union shall make preliminary interpretations of their constitution, which shall be reported to and reviewed by the Faculty Union Executive Committee. Where an interpretation involves a Union rule, the matter shall be referred to the Union President or Court.

Suggested amendment:

The President of the Faculty Union shall make preliminary interpretations of their constitution, which shall be reported to the Faculty Union Executive Committee. Appeals against preliminary interpretations can first be made to the President and ultimately to the Union Court whose decision is final.

What this means

Again, this is another pedantic change. The reason for this is that one of the reasons that the Union Court was established was to remove the possibility of Union Committee's getting bogged down in pointless arguments about interpretations. The President is empowered by the constitution to make interpretations required during meetings and to avoid an academic debate in future it would be best to clarify this at this opportunity. If in future there was a situation where the President disagreed with the interpretation of the Faculty Union Executive it is not clear where the authority lies. I do not enjoy raising these points but my aim is to minimise the amount of time that Union Committees spend discussing procedure so that members of Council and other committees can full focus their discussions on the things that really matter to students.

Whilst I agree with the main thrust of the paper that says it would be beneficial to have a consistent procedure across all committees I would also like to suggest the above change. If no consensus can be reached this evening I will request a ruling from the Union Court to clarify the issue I have highlighted.

Decision Required

1. To accept the alternative text proposed above to replace the suggested text in Regulation 5, Paragraphs 39, 46 and 77 to ensure consistency across all Faculty Unions, CSC's and the GSA Executive.