

Trustee Board
17th May 2011

ICU Council Chair's Report

A note by Jenny Wilson

Since the last meeting of the Trustee Board, there have been 3 meetings of Council: 17th January, 14th February, and 14th March and reports and a paper were voted upon by email instead of the scheduled meeting of 3rd May.

Over the past meetings I've particularly been working on my action point from last meeting regarding trying to spread an understanding of what Council does and making more people aware of the issues being raised and the outcomes of meetings. I've completed

Membership:

One Ordinary Member resigned through non-attendance, but a replacement was elected in the January meeting.

17th January meeting

This meeting had many reports, including the Sabbatical reports in addition to the FU reports and Felix Editor. The papers were the Fairtrade Policy, which was refined from the feedback of the last meeting. This passed with a few amendments, though there are clearly still some mixed feelings about the balance the Union should be striking between ethical and profitable commercial services. There was a report by the DPE on the status of the proposals for the extended college working day that would affect UG and Masters students. The Visa Reform Submission on the Student Immigration system to the Home Office consultation was also thoroughly discussed to ensure that the answers suggested by the President, DP Welfare, International Officer and Representation co-ordinator were representative of the student body, with vocal interaction from many international students. Much of the discussion revolved around understanding the questions posed, but overall it was passed with minor amendments.

14th February meeting

Attendees to this meeting were thanked with love heart cup cakes and pink lemonade. The only papers for the meeting were the Sabbatical reports. There was discussion surrounding the pricing for entrance to Metric, which came up in the DPFS report. The DPFS also proposed the motion that the Felix Editor should report to every Council instead of just termly, though others felt that the editor's work was displayed weekly in the publication. Overall the motion passed.

14th March meeting

This meeting saw the usual bundle of reports. The Environmental Policy was also brought to it. One of the most noteworthy matters was the bottled water sold by the Union. It was decided that we would only sell ethically endorsed brands but that there could be more than one brand. It also sought to put measurable targets on decreasing the Union's environmental impact, many of which translate to our commercial activities. We also heard from the Returning Officers, Heather Jones and Charlotte Ivison, about the Sabbatical elections. They did an outstanding job of running some very professional elections with a record turnout and no formal complaints. Congratulations also to Scott

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Heath, Monya Zard, Nicolas Massie, Michael Foster, Jason Parmar and Matt Colvin for being elected. The meeting also voted on some key constitutional amendments including the topics of the Union Court Advocate and the clarification of the role and its responsibilities. It also changed some operational wording that was currently being implemented such as the changes to budgeting procedures and the financial authority limit of club officers. The Colours Committee was also evened to represent both members of CSB and RWB evenly (as opposed to the former set up of only CSB). These changes passed with no conceptual changes, but amendments to wording.

The SCC chair also proposed and took on the responsibility of coordinating a campaign to raise awareness of the upcoming AV Referendum, aiming to ensure that our students were registered to vote and then proceeded to do so, whilst presenting evidence from both the Yes and No campaigns.

3rd May Email meeting

Over the Easter holidays I collated whether members of Council would be able to attend the meeting scheduled for 3rd May as for the previous 2 years it had not been quorate. After some RSVP's close to the deadline, the meeting was called off. Being a staunch fan of accountability, I thought it would still be appropriate to have an email vote on those Council reports submitted by Sabbaticals on time. Unfortunately, despite a reminder the week before, 4 out of 7 sabbaticals did not submit reports by the deadline, to allow me to incorporate them into the Pre-Council introduction. The Pre-Council introduction was however warmly received by members at Silwood campus to the extent that they felt informed enough to participate in the email vote (as well as the fact that it was an email vote). Those reports will be under review at the next meeting. The paper that was included in the email vote was updating the former 'Union Colours Policy' to become the 'Union Awards Policy', due to time constraints. Notable changes included removing half colours, but formalising the parity of Management Group awards. There was also the introduction of the President's Award for Representation to have parity with the status of the President's award for Clubs, Societies and newly, Projects. The outcome of the votes are available for perusal.

Other

I chaired a disciplinary panel, regarding the activities of the Imperial College Chinese Society. It was felt that they didn't fully understand the weight of what they had done or how it could be misconstrued so I formulated a lengthy document detailing the feelings of the panel as well as offering remedial advice of what could have been done better in order to try to avoid the situation reoccurring. Thanks to Scott Heath, Ben Moorhouse, Victor du Mesnil du Buisson and Sahil Chugani for being outstanding panel members.