

**ICU Council Chair's Report**

*A note by David Smith*

Council has met three times since the last Trustee Board. I have been extremely pleased with attendance, with almost a full house on two occasions. The major issues discussed have been summarised below.

**FOURTH MEETING – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

This was an extremely short meeting in which Council was informed of Court's decision not to run an inquiry into the 2011 Summer Ball. Sabbatical reports took up the majority of proceedings, all of which were passed unanimously. There was discussion on the format of Sabbatical reports, and whether they should follow guidelines and templates (with requests from some members for Sabbatical Officers to provide details of their calendar), as it was felt that some were more informative than others. However, it was decided that such a move could be restrictive and was unnecessary. A paper brought by the President on Post-Qualification Admissions was passed, with Council deciding that they do not support a potential upheaval of the UCAS admissions scheme.

**FIFTH MEETING – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

This was another short meeting, with there being only two papers further to the Sabbatical reports. The first related to the proposal of BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) to merge medical school sports teams with the central University teams. The paper, brought to Council by the DPCS, described possible compromises were such a move to go ahead, but Council voted to lobby against these changes occurring in the first place.

The President presented a paper suggesting amendments to the elections section of the constitution, with the aim of reducing the required number of seconders for a candidate to be able to stand in the upcoming Union elections. Despite the suggestion to reduce the number of seconders required receiving the support of the majority of voters, it did not meet the two-thirds requirement to make an amendment to the constitution, so candidates still need a minimum of 20 seconders.

**SIXTH MEETING – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

Faculty Union and Felix reports were received as well as the usual Sabbatical reports and were of an extremely high quality. All reports were passed. The DPFS presented a paper on the general plan for the Summer Ball, which after some discussion was accepted. Council would like to continue to be consulted with regards to this event. A paper suggesting that all Faculty Union Presidents be automatically considered for Honorary Life Membership fell after it was agreed that it would be unfair to exclude CSC Chairs, and members were reminded that anyone is eligible for Union awards or an HLM.

The President brought a paper on a London Student Manifesto, with the aim of collaborating with other London Student Unions to produce 'a document of pledges' to London Mayoral candidates. This was passed. Council also agreed to lobby Westminster Council regarding concerns to student safety following the completion of roadworks on Exhibition Road, and supported the DPE's paper on a 'Blended Learning Policy', involving a video podcasting service for lecture courses and further e-learning developments.