



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the ninth ordinary meeting of the
Council
of the Imperial College Union
in the 2012/13 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on 11 June 2013 at 6.30pm.

Present:

Council Chair	Michael Foster
President	Paul Beaumont
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Henry Whittaker
Deputy President (Education)	Doug Hunt
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Stefan Nubert
Deputy President (Welfare)	Becky Lane
ACC Chair	Jake Woods
A & E Chair	Adam Funnell
OSC Chair	Wasim Khouri
RCC Chair	Joe Rumer
Gender Equalities Officer	Marisa Lewis
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Steve Tran
CGCU Welfare Officer	Carol-Ann Cheah
ICSMSU Education Rep 12 & GEP	Ken Wu
GSA Physical Sciences Academic and Welfare Officer	Ross Webster
GSA Life Sciences Academic and Welfare Officer	Helen Pennington
GSA Business Academic and Welfare	Officer Simon Schillebeeckx
Disabilities Officer	Moeko Maiguma – Wilson
Non Faculty Ordinary Member	Jasper Montana
CGCU Ordinary Member PG	Richard Simons
RCSU Ordinary Member	Mariza de Souza
RCSU Ordinary Member PG	James Bannock
RCSU Ordinary Member PG	Xiaoran Lai
ICSMSU Ordinary Member PG	Maia Kavanagh Williamson
RCSU Ordinary Member UG	Stuart Haylock
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Felix Editor Tim Arbabzadah, Matt Allison, Yasmin Edwards

Apologies: ICSMSU President Shiv Vohra, GSA Chair Maryam Habibzay, RSM President Lewis Ryan, RCC Chair CGCU President Temiloluwa Ladega, UG, CGCU Ordinary Member UG, Joseph Gibbs, Member UG Jason Parmar, ICSMSU Ordinary Member UG Tagore Nakornchai, Interfaith Officer Aemun Reza, RAG Chair David Goldsmith, , CGCU Ordinary Member International Officer Jialin Li Silwood Park Chair Isabel Fenton CAG Chair Alihusein Kapasi Media Group Chair Joe Letts ICSMSU Education rep 4, Biomed and Pharm Matthew Hutchins CGCU Ordinary Member UG Thomas Lim ICSMSU Ordinary Member UG Shrawan Patel

Not present:

BME Officer Bilal Khan, RCSU Academic Affairs Academic Affairs Cecile Borkhataria, Campaigns Officer Chinemelu Ezech, LGBT Portfolio Officer Elizabeth Campbell, CGCU Academic Affairs Officer Leonardo Paoli, , GSA Medicine Academic and Welfare Officer Natalie Kempston, GSA Engineering Academic and Welfare Officer Nicholas Ng, , ICSMSU Education Rep 359 Sybghat Rahim, CGCU Ordinary Member PG Tianyun Ye, Ethics and Environment Officer Laura Johnston RCSU President James Tsim RCSU Welfare Officer Fredrick Barker CGCU Ordinary Member PG Marianne Kordab

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The following points were made in regards to polices that are about to expire:
 - i. Health and Safety and Sabbatical Accommodation are being referred to the Trustee Board.
 - ii. Felix is currently being reassessed and will either be circulated to Council by email for approval or will be approved by Executive Committee.

2. MINUTES – 30 May 2013

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To pass the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.**

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) In regards to the follow up of PH Healthcare, the Deputy President (Welfare) stated that the Dean of Students will be seen at the Health Centre for any minor incident if it is line with their Departments procedures.

4. CHANGE TO UNION BYE LAWS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The survey that was circulated after the last meeting of Council indicated that members were in favour of the changes to roles.
- b) The current rule to ban someone for 7 days is impractical.
- c) Council moved to a vote on point 1 and it was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To make the following changes to the Bye Laws:**
 1. **The Graduate Students' Association have been renamed the Graduate Students' Union as they requested.**
 2. **Removed the "rejected reports" from the censure guidelines, as a relic of the old constitution (there's no provision to get to this point in the current constitution).**
 3. **Provision for elections of Ordinary Members using simpler rules than an external RO, for both October, and for any by-election when a Council Member position falls vacant during the year.**
 4. **Increased the time a suspension/expulsion can be for under Summary Punishment from 7 days to 28 days.**

- d) In regards to the name of the Deputy President (Finance & Services), the following points were made:
 - i. Finance, Community and Development is an accurate reflection of the role.
 - ii. It was suggested to see how the role develops to see what name best fits.
 - iii. It was agreed that if the name changes, it should be 'communities'.
 - iv. It was suggested that the perception of students may be that Council has 'pulled the rug out from underneath' a candidate who stood on the understanding that the role would not be what it has changed to. It was highlighted that the role has not changed dramatically and there is scope to grow the role with the additions of extra remits.

- v. Council moved to a vote on renaming the role and the vote is as follows:
- | | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 0 |
| AGAINST | 21 |
| ABSTAIN | 6 |
- Falls

- e) It was suggested and unanimously agreed that Council should vote on having Council review the name of the Deputy President (Finance & Services) role in January.

RESOLVED:

- 2) To defer the decision to rename the Deputy President (Finance & Services) role until the meeting of Council in January 2014**

5. GPA POLICY

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

NOTED:

- a) It was reiterated that College are not considering this introduction of GPA at the moment; the policy is anticipatory.
b) Council moved to a vote on the policy and it was passed unanimously apart from 2 abstentions.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the policy (see appendix)**

At this point, the Chair stepped down due to conflict with the following paper and Richard Bennett, Council Chair elect Chaired

7. UNION AWARDS

Received: The paper was presented by the President

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the presented nominees for Union Awards. See appendix**

8. LIVING OUT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Marissa Lewis stated that travel time in to campus will be one of her priorities when seeking accommodation.
b) Council moved to a vote and it was passed unanimously to allow Marissa Lewis to live out for her Sabbatical year 13/14.

RESOLVED

- 1) To allow Marissa Lewis to live out for her Sabbatical year 13/14**

10. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

11. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

12. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and the vote is as follows:

FOR	19
AGAINST	6
ABSTAIN	2

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

13. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and the vote is as follows:

FOR	21
AGAINST	4
ABSTAIN	1

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

14. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

15. FELIX

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Felix Editor

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

16 CGCU REPORT - not presented

NOTED:

- a) The CGCU President stated that he will circulate a report tomorrow.

17. GSU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the GSU AWO Engineering

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

18. ICSMSU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the ICSMSU President elect

NOTED:

- a) The issues with the Alumni Ball are on-going and being monitored.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

19. RCSU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the RCSU President elect

NOTED:

- a) It was stated that is ticket sales for the dinner are poor, this will be cancelled.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

20. SILWOOD REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Silwood Chair

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

21. RSMU Report – not submitted

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22.1 PRESIDENTS AWARDS

NOTED:

- a) The President bestowed the following awards:

- President Awards:
- Lorraine Craig
- Philip Kent
- Stephen Richardson
- Club, Society and Project of the Year – Caving
- President’s Award for Representation – Undergraduate – Biology
- President’s Award for Representation – Postgraduate – Business

21.2 CLUBS & SOCIETIES BOARD NAME CHANGES

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President Clubs & Societies

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on passing the presented paper and it was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To define a list of equivalent or replacement terms to update all Clubs, Societies & Projects Board policies and standing orders. This will replace terms or policy references within current policies and standing order without passing them individually. There shall be no re wording of policies or standing orders without the respective document being passed in the usual manner.

Original term	New Term
Clubs & Societies Board (CSB)	Clubs, Societies & Projects Board (CSPB)
Clubs & Societies Committee (CSC)	Management Group (MG)
Faculty Union (FU)	Constituent Union (CU)
President’s Committee	[Removed does not exist]
Regulations	Bye Laws
Regulation reference	Bye Laws reference

Meeting closed 8.20pm
Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2012/13

_____ Chair of the Meeting

Grade Point Average Policy

Proposed by the Deputy President (Education) Doug Hunt

Background

Grade Point Average (GPA) is a grading system mainly used in the USA, where a given number represents the average of a student's grades during their time at an institution and is usually weighted by the number of credits given for their enrolled course. Most American universities use a four-point system, where the maximum grade point is 4.0.

A group of Russell Group universities (Birmingham, Nottingham, LSE, Sheffield, Warwick, UCL, York and Bristol) considered alternatives to the existing degree classification system. The group determined its preferences for introducing a form of the Grade Point Average (GPA) system.¹

After the group contacted other universities, the initial group expanded to the universities shown below by September 2012:

- Birmingham
- Bristol
- King's College London
- Leeds
- LSE (they are now against GPA)
- Manchester
- Nottingham
- Oxford Brookes
- Sheffield
- Southampton
- Warwick
- UCL
- York

Their proposed GPA system is shown in appendix 1.

Arguments for the GPA scheme

- In your final year a student will work harder, regardless if they are near a borderline, which provides an incentive to students to maximise their performance
- More transparent and more able to reflect different levels of attainment, so a graduate company/potential supervisor will know straight away if you just missed out on a 2.1 or a 1st
- It is an internationally understood grading system

Arguments against the GPA scheme

- The emphasis on a student trying to improve their grade, may lead to grade inflation and more students will pick the "easier" elective modules. This takes place in the USA and because of this LSE now don't want to use the GPA system.

- The American higher education (HE) system is not the same as the British, so should we use the same grading system? If we do, we still need to convert British GPA to US GPA, since our HE system is very different.
- The proposed GPA scheme goes up to 4.25 (not 4.0) and different GPAs correspond to different percentages for different subjects. Some students may find this more confusing than the current grading system we have.
- The GPA grading system doesn't align itself with the one for A-levels, which is letter grade and percentages.
- Graduate companies can already ask for transcripts and do at assessment centres, if they wish to know your exact grades.
- Graduate companies may start asking for more than 3.00 (equiv. to 60% - a 2.1) to get less students applying and having to pay less for their human resources department.
- Students may experience more stress if they are worrying over every mark and may make the student body more competitive.
- Changing from our current grading system to GPA will require a considerable amount of work and College resources. These resources could be far better spent in improving the student experience.

Beliefs

1. Imperial College London should keep the traditional British degree class marking system.
2. The student body opposes the introduction of a GPA marking system.
3. Switching to a GPA marking system would be a misuse of College resources.

Resolves

1. To inform the College that the student body opposes a GPA marking system.
2. To inform the Russell Group that Imperial College Union does not favour a GPA marking system.

Union Awards

Union Colour

Zahra	Aboukhalil
Fatima	Ahmad
Matthew	Allinson
Martin	Asprusten
Giada	Azzopardi
Richard	Bennett
Henry	Bleech
William	Brown
Christopher	Charles
Francis	Clegg
James	Cooper
Peter	Davis
Pongsathorn	Dechatiwongse
Aaron	D'souza
Christian	Franke
Shiladitya	Ghosh
William	Glendinning
Usman	Goga
Boshuo	Guo
Maija-Lisa	Han
Dariush	Hassanzadeh-Baboli
Johannes	Hoenigl
Ali	Hosin
Ibtesham	Hossain
Maximilian	Hunter
Matthew	Hutchins
Emily	Hutchinson
Narthana	Ilenkovan
Naomi	Jordan
Neeraj	Kalra
Hanan	Kamel
Natalie	Kempston
Giridhar	Kesavan
Callum	Kirk
Jane	Langdon-Davies
Marissa	Lewis
Jonathan	London
Anna	Luthman
Frank	Machin
Megan	MacKenzie
Gemma	Milman
Noah	Nathan
Nicholas	Ng
Aislinn	O'Malley

Leonardo	Paoli
Bhavesb	Patel
Lydia	Pearson
Helen	Pennington
Helen	Phillips
Claudio	Polisseni
Jonathan	Pratt
Sybgbat	Rahim
Deepka	Rana
Timothy	Runcorn
Lewis	Ryan
Plabon	Saha
Cyin	San
Harish	Santhanam
Usman	Siddiqui
Natasha	Strydom
James	Sudlow
Zhao	Tai
Yuen	Tham
Victoria	Walpole
Ken	Wu

Outstanding Service Award

Dominic	Andradi-Brown
Isabel	Fenton
Benjamin	Fry
Adam	Funnell
George	Goldberg
Maryam	Habibzay
Philip	Kent
Wasim	Khoury
Joseph	Letts
Thomas	Lim
Slobodan	Radosavljevic
Suzanne	Rayner
Joseph	Rumer
Simon	Schillebeeckx
Steven	Tran
Ross	Webster
Thomas	Wilshere
Jake	Woods

Fellowship

Lorraine	Craig
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Fellowship with Distinction

Nathaniel	Bottrell
Stephen	Richardson