

17 July 2014

**Council Chair Report**  
**Richard Bennett – Council Chair**

The last meeting of Council was an extremely productive with a good turnout from members and some active discussions. The agenda was lengthy and as such I ensured that debate was kept concise but that all members had the opportunity to contribute. Reports were the first items considered and most Constituent Unions submitted reports on their activity for the year.

Below is a summary of the meeting; for further information, all papers and minutes can be found.

**Higher Education Funding**

Options on what opinion and stance the Union should take were discussed however it was decided that further research and consultation with students should take place. The resolution of the paper was to refer the decision to a referendum which will take place at the beginning of the new academic year.

**Role review**

A paper was put forward suggesting changes to the roles of all Officer Trustees. The changes were to have a set of 'general responsibilities' for all officers and then specific duties to their individual roles. The reasoning behind this was that this was the first year that the Officer Trustees have been Board members and those in the roles observed how the role description in the current Bye Laws don't accurately reflect what happens in practice.

The second part of the paper suggested a change to the names of the roles of Deputy President Clubs & Societies and Deputy President (Finance & Services). The suggested changes were Deputy President (Activities & Development) and Deputy President (Activities & Finance).

There was vigorous debate on both the changes but they were passed with the required 2/3rds majority with no amendments being made to the presented amendments. These amendments went to the Governance Committee as part of the Bye Laws review which is still in progress.

**Union Awards**

Recommendations from the Colours Committee, as a requirement of the Union Awards Policy, were put forward to Council. There was no debate and all recommendations were passed.

The Sabbatical Officers were all bestowed Honorary Life Membership.

The President's Award was bestowed on Paul Allatt, Deputy Director of ICT.