

NOTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the seventh ordinary meeting of the  
**Council**  
of the Imperial College Union in the 2013/14 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on the 29 April 2014 at 6.40pm.

**Present:**

Council Chair	Richard Bennett
President	David Goldsmith
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Yas Edwards
Deputy President (Education)	Nat Kempston
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Kieron Creagh
Deputy President (Welfare)	Marissa Lewis
ICSMSU President	Steve Tran
A&E Chair	Alex Savell
RCC Chair	Tom Wheeler
Media Group Chair	Maciej Matuszewski
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer	James Murphy
GSU Medicine AWO	Nuha Yassin
International Officer	Nida Mahmud
Interfaith Officer	Tagore Nakornchai
C&GCU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	Yulia Bulgakova
	Thomas Lim
	Timothy Munday
C&GCU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Stefan Nubert
	Richard Simons
RCSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	Ben Fernando
	Xiaoyu Chen
RCSU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Andrew Tranter
	Giulia Ferlito
ICSMSU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Alan Askari
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

**Apologies:** CGCU President Lejon Chua, GSU Chair Andreas Thomik, ACC Chair Chew Liew OSC Chair Charmain Li CAG Chair Sam Page SCC Chair Michail Ntinalexis RCSU Academic Affairs Officer Mariza de Souza GSU Engineering Academic and Welfare Officer Hassan Ahmadzadeh GSU Business Academic and Welfare Officer Ruxandra Luca LGBT Portfolio Officer Nia John Gender Equality Officer Sarah Sturrock Campaigns Officer Chris Kaye GSU Life Sciences AWO Marta Sawicka RCSU President Plabon Saha, CGCU Welfare Officer Juliet Kernohan, ICSMSU Welfare Officer Sunila Prasad, ICSMSU Ed Rep 4, Biomed & Pharm Lucinda Osborn, RSMU Chair Emily Pennington, , SCC Chair Jia Cheong, RAG Chair Callum Kirk, ICSMSU Education Rep Anju George, GSU Physical Sciences AWO Max Boleininger, ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Rahul Ravindran, Disabilities Officer Moeko Maiguma-Wilson, Gender Equality Officer Sarah Sturrock RCSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members Selina Leung C&GCU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members George Butcher ICSMSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members Hiba Saleem Danish ICSMSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members Shiqu Qiu

**Not present:** Silwood Chairs Claire Bankier, Shorok Mombrikotb, , RCSU Welfare Officer Douglas Imrie, RSMU Welfare Officer Hayley Meek

**1. HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY PRESENTATION**

RECEIVED: The presentation was made by the Education & Welfare Manager Andrew Keenan

NOTED:

- a) A discussion paper will come to next Council and then revised policies to last Council of the year.
- b) Any comments or queries in the meantime to be directed to the Deputy President (Education) and Deputy President (Welfare).

## 2. CHAIRS BUSINESS

### NOTED:

- a) The meeting was deemed inquorate and as such no decision can be made.
  - i. The papers will be discussed with recommendations to be made to Council.
- b) The Union Awards nominations will be opening soon and Council members will be contacted to sit on the committee.

## 3. MINUTES – 11.03.14

### RESOLVED:

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

## 4. MATTERS ARISING – Not Applicable

*The agenda was reordered at this stage to consider agenda item 6 as the next item of business*

## 6. MOTION FOR IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION TO SAY NO TO ISLAMOPHOBIA AND DENOUNCE 'STUDENT RIGHTS'

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by Hazem El-Turk

### NOTED:

- a) The effect on Imperial has already been tested as an event where a speaker came to talk to Isoc was sensationalised on the Students Rights website.
  - i. Isoc engaged with the Union and College prior to the event to ensure that all the processes and procedures were followed and the event went ahead with no issues.
- b) The majority of the Student Rights website is currently populated with anti-Muslim articles.
- c) Student rights directly target SU's and the paper is asking for the Union to have a plan in place if they contact ICU.
- d) Council moved to a vote to recommend the paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR	20
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	2

**RECOMMENDATION: To pass the presented motion for Imperial College Union to say no to Islamophobia and Denounce 'Student Rights'**

### The Union Resolves:

- 1) Imperial College Union release a public statement/open letter addressed to *Student Rights* criticising their lack of transparency, sensationalism, divisive and counter-productive activities and disproportionate preoccupation with Muslim students, and calling on them to drastically change their approach and mentality. The statement should also outline ICU's commitment to challenging Islamophobia along with all other forms of prejudice and discrimination, and should be circulated to students so that they too are aware of the stance and feel reassured if necessary.
- 2) Imperial College Union to write to Imperial College management, making explicit students' concerns about the effect *Student Rights'* activities have on students' welfare, campus cohesion and freedom of speech on campus, as well as reiterating the Union's desire to maintain its autonomy in determining guidelines on external speakers in co-operation with College, without outside interference.
- 3) Imperial College Union to maintain ongoing communication with College regarding any developments, including asking College and the Press Office to inform ICU of any future

attempts by *Student Rights* to lobby them regarding any student group's activities. In the instance that the latter occurs, ICU is to keep the concerned societies' leadership informed about the situation without delay.

## 5. COUNCIL ADVOCACY PROCEDURE

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the A&E Chair

NOTED:

- a) The purpose of the paper is to create a forum where the interested parties meet to discuss and put forward a recommendation to Council.
- b) The group can invite other members of Union to be part of the committee.
- c) It is not a policy making body – it will be making recommendations.
- d) The motivated people will volunteer to be part of the committee which in theory are people that will be making the majority of the discussion in Council.
- e) It was suggested that Annual General Meetings should be utilised more and embed it as a culture of the Union.
- f) A working group is undefined and has no reporting structure. The Advocacy Procedure will formalise the procedure and structure. The Advocacy group will focus on debate of the issue rather than a working group which is more of a 'doing' group.
- g) It was queried as to what would happen if the recommendation made by the Advocacy Group is challenged in Council and the procedure does not allow debate.
  - i. The A&E chair stated that there needs to be a good reason for the recommendation to be challenged or for the topic to be debated again, such as a Council member not being present at the Council meeting due to valid reason.
- h) Effective chairing of Council should not allow circular debates.
- i) It was highlighted that the Advocacy group may not draw consensus and then the recommendation will automatically lead on to further debate at the next meeting which negates the purpose of the group.
- j) The guidelines for the Advocacy Group and how the debate will be run have not been drawn up to allow for flexibility in how the group will meet.
- k) There is a risk of the perception of decisions being made by a small group which negates the representative function of Council.
  - i. It was reiterated that the Advocacy Group will be recommending decisions.
- l) It was highlighted that the time commitment on volunteers is already pressured and by it is unfair to out further time commitments on volunteers.
- m) The Deputy President Clubs & Societies stated that Council is already perceived as a barrier to students and that the language used on the proposed policy is yet another barrier which doesn't make it acceptable or welcoming to members not involved in the Union.
- n) It was suggested that Council should be promoted and if students are interested on the topics being discussed, then they will attend the meeting to be able to get their opinion across.
- o) The Advocacy Group will attract the same people who vocalise their opinion in all council meetings.
- p) Council moved to a vote on recommending to pass the presented paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR	4
AGAINST	10
ABSTAIN	8

**RECOMMENDATION – Not to pass the Council Advocacy procedure**

## 7. STUDENT CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

- a) The changes made in the document compared to when it was presented to the last council are not dramatic. The document gives more detailed guidance on consultation.
- b) Big College decisions get an award and departments will use it as a working tool.

- c) It was suggested that departments won't use it and it was highlighted that they can be forced to. Hopefully peer pressure from other college departments will encourage it to happen.
- d) Consultation far reaching and by that token, it is hoped that those consulted will ensure that it will happen.
- e) Training on how students can use the system will be added to training.
- f) Student consultation has been in the form of Union meetings; Felix and publishing in the Union Newsletter and student have feed in through these routes.
- g) A few minor typographical errors were pointed out.
- h) Council moved to a vote to recommend the Student Consultation Framework and the vote is as follows:
 

FOR	18
AGAINST	2
ABSTAIN	3

**RECOMMENDATION: To pass the presented Student Consultation Framework.**

## **8. PRESIDENTS REPORT**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) It was questioned as to why Executive Committee hasn't been meeting.
  - i. It was stated that the decisions that were need to be made were for event budgets of which the decisions could be made over email and not requiring a physical meeting. All decisions are reported to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
  - ii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he will provide a summary of Event Budget decisions made by Executive Committee to the next meeting of Council.

**ACTION:**

**1. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) to supply a summary of Executive Committee decisions that have made over email.**

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

**RECOMMENDATION - To accept the report.**

## **9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS AND SOCIETIES)**

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

NOTED:

- a) The noising demolition work in the basement has not finished.
  - i. The Union offered quite study space away from the works however it was deemed not required by Phil Noteley as the library was open.
- b) Council moved to a vote on recommending accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION - To accept the report.**

## **10. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)**

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

NOTED:

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

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

**RECOMMENDATION - To accept the report.**

**11. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT**

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

- a) Have received ~£200k in sponsorshipb this year.
- b) Council moved to a vote on recommending accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION - To accept the report.**

**12. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT**

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

NOTED:

- a) The Union has been referenced in the House of Lords report and many of our recommendations have been included.
- b) Council moved to a vote on recommending accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION - To accept the report.**

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

NOTED:

- a) It was queried as to how to encourage Council members to attend meetings and how we can motivate members to attend or discard those who don't.
  - i. There is a system of removing officers in the Constitution and Bye Laws however it is not the best way of dealing with members who are not attending meetings.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2013/14

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of the Meeting