

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the second ordinary meeting of
the **Council** of the
Imperial College Union in the 2014/15 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on the 28 October at 18.30

Present:

Council Chair	Paul Beaumont
President	Tom Wheeler
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Abi de Bruin
Deputy President (Education)	Pascal Loose
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Alex Savell
Deputy President (Welfare)	Chris Kaye
GSU President	Nida Mahmud
ICSMSU President	Dariussh Hassanzadeh-Baboli
CGCU President	Tim Munday
RCSU President	Serena Yuen
ACC Chair	Oliver Benton
A&E Chair	Jonathon McNaught
Media Group Chair	Cem Hurrell
SCC Chair	Tom Rivlin
CAG Chair	Michael Chung
RCC Chair	Richard Cameron
RAG Chair	Ben Fernando
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer	James Murphy
GSU Physical Sciences AWO	Stuart Haylock
GSU Life Sciences AWO	Rachel Vaux
GSU Business AWO	Alex Derrick
GSU Medicine AWO	Mike Asavarut
Campaigns Officer	Xiaoyang Zhao
LGBT Portfolio Officer	Kyle Hellemans
International Officer	Katherine Chio
Disabilities Officer	Dimitrios Karponis
Interfaith Officer	Shamim Ahmed
Non Faculty Ordinary Member	Philippa Skett
Engineering Ordinary Member (UG)	Ze Tan
Engineering Ordinary Member (UG)	Lachlan Price
Engineering Ordinary Member (UG)	Oliver Ford
Engineering Ordinary Member (UG)	George Butcher
Engineering Ordinary Member (PG)	Richard Simons
Engineering Ordinary Member (PG)	Meng Guo
Natural Sciences Ordinary Member (UG)	Philip Kent
Natural Sciences Ordinary Member (UG)	Jasper Menkus
Natural Sciences Ordinary Member (UG)	Klas Wetterberg
Natural Sciences Ordinary Member (PG)	Andrew Tranter
Medicine Ordinary Member (PG)	Abel Tesfai
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Apologies: RSMU Chair Ben Warnick, RSMU Welfare Officer Rachael Shuttleworth ICSMSU Academic Affairs Officer – Science Years Cyin San, RCSU Academic Affairs Officer Zoe Hsu, RSMU Academic Affairs Officer Emma Toms Ethics & Environmental Officer Rhiannon Holden CGCU Welfare Officer Juliet Kernohan

Not present: ICSMSU Academic Affairs Officer – Early Years – Usama Asif, ICSMSU Academic Affairs Officer – Clinical Salma Haddad, Gender Equalities Officer Madeleine Maxwell, BME Officer Shiqu Qiu

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) Drinking of alcohol will not be permitted in the meeting.
- b) Registers on Interests are to be returned to r.coxhead@ic.ac.uk as soon as possible.
- c) Printed copies of papers must be requested in advance of the meeting. Requests to be made to r.coxhead@ic.ac.uk
- d) Elections for Council Reps to the Health and Safety Committee are now open. Further information is found in Agenda Item 6
- e) Members must talk through the Chair by raising their hands and not over each other.
- f) Argue the point and not the person – personal attacks will not be tolerated.

2. MINUTES – 28 October 2014

NOTED:

- a) Some minor typographical errors were highlighted.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To pass the minutes are a correct record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) is in communication with clubs in regards to how to incorporate Associate Members in to Union activities that have restrictions put on by external affiliations.
- b) The President is in communication with the Vice Provost Education and Director of Campus services in regards to the amenities fund and what services have been reduced as a consequence of rents being reduced.

The agenda was reordered at this point to consider matters for report as the next items

8. PRESIDENTS REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) 5 students attended the open forum to discuss Bursary Funding which was disappointing. As a result of this low turnout, an online survey was sent out to those who receive bursaries of which there were 320 responses. The data is now being analysed and will be presented to College in the morning.
 - i. One of the investigations is trying to challenge the idea that student in the £25000-60000 bracket get funding from their parents or guardians which is not always the case.
 - ii. It is hoped that the bracket banding will be changed as currently they are quite broad.
 - iii. A comprehensive spectrum of responses were sought which is why the opinion of just the Executive Committee wouldn't have been substantial enough.
- b) The Democracy Review is part of a bigger body of work that is encompassing all areas of governance on the Union. Members will be involved and consulted during this review.
- c) It was requested that the President forward on the contact details of the other Unions that he has been in communication with to the RAG Chair.
- d) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) A meeting is taking place in the next few weeks to discuss the MG Restructure.
 - i. Members of CSPB are taking part in the initial stages of the review but this will have wider consultation later on.
 - ii. It was acknowledged that the previous 2 Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) have tried to move the restructure forward but the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that this will be completed during her time.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

10. 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 it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

11. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

12. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The GSU President requested that she meet with the Deputy President (Welfare) to discuss PG Engagement.

ACTION:

- 1. The Deputy President (Welfare) to arrange a meeting with the GSU President to discuss PG engagement.**
- b) Attendance figures for DRI were approximately 140 students who partook of the evening and the event meet expectation for providing an inclusive event in the licensed venue.
 - i. As the whole venue is licensed, it is not able to separate the space to provide a venue for student under 18 years old.

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

FOR	35
AGAINST	2
ABSTAIN	1

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report**

13. FELIX REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Felix Editor

NOTED:

- It is hoped that the production of the student handbook comes back under the Felix remit next year.
- Council moved to a vote to accepting the report and the vote is as follows:

FOR	34
AGAINST	4
ABSTAIN	0

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report**

14. CGCU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the CGCU President

NOTED:

- The CGCU President receives a stipend for 2 months over the summer term to allow them to dedicate time to role and prepare for Welcome events and the year ahead.
 - The CGCU President reported that they had been working with clubs to help bring their Standing Orders up to date.
- There is still a vacancy for the role of Regalia Officer.
- Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by President

NOTED:

- Council were asked to discuss the function of the Executive Committee and if it was decided that it still is necessary, then elections for the 4 positions will take place.
- It is within Council's remit to change the Standing Orders for the Sub Committees that sit under it but and change to the Bye Laws must be done in conjunction with Board of Trustees.
- The Financial Procedures do not have a requirement for the Executive Committee to approve budgets.
- It was suggested that the Union is a large financial organisation and this needs oversight.
 - Ultimately Trustees are financially liable and have delegated a certain level of scrutiny to the Finance & Risk Committee. The Finance & Risk Committee is made up of a majority of Student and Officer Trustees.

- e) The GSU President stated that they sat on the committee last year and in her experience and opinion, the committee was not necessary as it had very little to do and what it did do could have been covered by other committees who have the knowledge and expertise.
- f) Working groups have value in that the members on these are the ones with the interest and knowledge to be able to address the topic.
- g) It was suggested that the dates for the subcommittees of Board of Trustees should be made available online.
 - i. It was stated that there are some papers that are restricted circulation due to the information contained in these and as such papers will not be made available online.
- h) 4 elected officers from Council on Executive Committee doesn't make this automatically effective as the members may not have the operational knowledge.
- i) Council moved to a vote on removing the responsibilities of the Executive Committee from the Standing Orders of the Sub Committees of Council and the vote is as follows:

FOR	26
AGAINST	5
ABSTAIN	7

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To remove the responsibilities of the Executive Committee from the Standing Orders of the Sub Committees of Council.**

- j) It was highlighted that the Standing Orders need to be altered and thus Council moved to a vote to alter the Executive Committee's Standing Orders to read:

'1. This committee does not meet and has no membership and the vote is as follows:

FOR	28
AGAINST	4
ABSTAIN	6

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 2) **To amend the Standing Orders of the Sub Committees of Council to read '1. This committee does not meet and has no membership' under Executive Committee (see appendix)**

7. MOTION TO IMPLEMENT THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF DECEMBER 10, 2013

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the RAG Chair

NOTED:

- a) One of the concerns when the paper was discussed last year was that members of Council were elected without the knowledge that their voting records would be made available.
- b) It was stated emphatically that and solution that is decided upon should not lengthen the meeting of Council.
- c) The most practical solution is an electronic recording system but it cannot be assumed that all members of Council will have access to technology.
- d) The Media Chair suggested that Council Meetings can be recorded by ICTV and this can be published online.
- e) There are implications on future employability with potentially employees judging on how people have voted.
 - i. Opinions can change between the age of University and then going out in to employment.
 - ii. The votes could be put behind a college log in.

- iii. There is a danger that the voting records may be misinterpreted if the vote is read out of context.
- f) Members will vote with their experience and vote with the members they are representing best interest in mind.
- g) It was stated that spending money on voting technology will not make Council transparent. This money could be put towards supporting Council Members to engage with their electorates.
- h) Council moved to a vote on an amended Belief 1 'students should have the opportunity to investigate the voting records of their elected representatives' of the paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR	14
AGAINST	19
ABSTAIN	5

Falls

- i) Council moved to a vote on Belief 2 'That the Council must publish voting records in order to be truly democratic.'

FOR	6
AGAINST	30
ABSTAIN	2

Falls

- j) Council moved to a vote on upholding the resolves and maintaining the actions of the previous paper, as agreed on December 10, 2013 and the vote is as follows

FOR	17
AGAINST	12
ABSTAIN	9

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To uphold the resolves of the previous paper, as agreed on December 10, 2013 (see appendix).**

- k) Council decided not to vote on the remaining resolves until such time as the action that was made in the December 10 2013 was completed.
- l) This action was to hold an 'investigation into the mechanisms to implement the policy' and was decided to be via a working group to be run by Council member George Butcher.

ACTION:

- 1. **George Butcher to form a working group, discuss the options possible and report back to Council, with the time and date of the working group's meetings circulated amongst Council.**

8. HIGHER EDUCATION SURVEY

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

NOTED:

- a) The survey is posed in such a way that it seeks to find out participants thoughts on how Higher Education should be funded without explicitly proposing the 3 options.
- b) The survey should take between 5-8 minutes to complete.
- c) It was questioned of the terminology state or tax payer should be used.
- d) It was suggested that the survey is quite verbose and may put people off completing it.

- i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that some of the text is legally required.
- e) The survey is trying to give facts to the participant at the same time as questioning them to ensure that their responses are as informed as possible.
 - i. It was suggested to include the consequence of each option in the survey.
- f) It was asked if the question relating to the total cost of the individuals fees is over the year or the total duration of their degree.
 - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he will make this clearer in the survey.
- g) It was suggested that a scale can be used for some questions.
- h) Andrew Tranter stated that he will propose to call a General Meeting on the matter
- i) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) welcomed comments to be emailed to him.

Meeting closed 20.40

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2014/15

_____ Chair of the Meeting

Executive Committee Standing Orders

1. This committee does not meet and has no membership.
2. The Council may amend these Standing Orders.

Clubs, Societies & Projects Board Standing Orders

The Clubs, Societies & Projects Board shall function in accordance with the Union Constitution, Bye-Laws and, additionally these Standing Orders.

Membership

1. The Membership shall be:
 - 1.1. The Officer Trustees
 - 1.2. One representative of each of the Constituent Unions
 - 1.3. The Management Group Chairs

Structure

2. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) shall chair the committee.
3. Each member shall have one vote, with the exception of the chair, who shall have only the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Aims & Objectives

4. The Aims & Objectives are to oversee the clubs, societies, projects and the central activities of Management Groups and Constituent Unions.

Powers

5. The Committee's powers shall be:
 - 5.1. Allocating funding to the clubs, societies, projects and the central activities of Management Groups and Constituent Unions to promote their aims and objectives as far as within the remit of the Clubs, Societies & Projects Board up to a value set by the Trustee Board in the Union's yearly budget.
 - 5.2. Allocating reserve funding up to a value set by the Trustee Board in the Union's yearly budget.
 - 5.3. Determining policy governing the management of clubs, societies, projects and the central activities of Management Groups and Constituent Unions.

Status, interpretation and amendment of these standing orders

6. Formal interpretations of these standing orders shall be made by the Chair. When no settled position can be made on interpretation, or when it involves a Union rule, it shall be referred to the President.
7. The Council may amend these Standing Orders.

Community & Welfare Board Standing Orders

The Community & Welfare Board shall function in accordance with the Union Constitution, Bye-Laws and, additionally these Standing Orders.

Membership

1. The Membership shall be:
 1. The Officer Trustees
 2. One representative of each of the Constituent Unions
 3. The Union Welfare Officers
 4. One representative of the residents of Halls of Residence

Structure

2. The Deputy President (Welfare) shall chair the committee.
3. Each member shall have one vote, with the exception of the chair, who shall have only the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Aims & Objectives

4. The Aims & Objectives shall be:
 1. To act as a forum for issues relating to community and welfare policy to be presented to the Union Council for debate.
 2. Campaigning to promote communities and welfare policy passed by the Union Council.

Powers

5. The Committee's powers shall be to allocate funding to the Constituent Unions to promote their aims and objectives as far as within the remit of the Communities & Welfare Board up to a value set by the Trustee Board in the Union's yearly budget.

Status, interpretation and amendment of these standing orders

6. Formal interpretations of these standing orders shall be made by the Chair. When no settled position can be made on interpretation, or when it involves a Union rule, it shall be referred to the President.
7. The Council may amend these Standing Orders.

Education & Representation Board Standing Orders

The Education & Representation Board shall function in accordance with the Union Constitution, Bye-Laws and, additionally these Standing Orders.

Membership

1. The Membership shall be:
 - 1.1. The Officer Trustees
 - 1.2. Two representatives of each of the Constituent Unions
 - 1.3. The Departmental Representatives

Structure

2. The Deputy President (Education) shall chair the committee.
3. Each member shall have one vote, with the exception of the chair, who shall have only the casting vote in the event of a tie.

Aims & Objectives

4. The Aims & Objectives shall be:
 - 4.1. To act as a forum for issues relating to educational policy to be presented to the Union Council for debate.
 - 4.2. Campaigning to promote educational policy passed by the Union Council

Status, interpretation and amendment of these standing orders

5. Formal interpretations of these standing orders shall be made by the Chair. When no settled position can be made on interpretation, or when it involves a Union rule, it shall be referred to the President.
6. The Council may amend these Standing Orders.

**Motion to Publish the Voting Records of Council Members
Proposed by RCSU PG Ordinary Member Andrew Tranter
Seconded by John Selby - Physics department**

ICU Notes:

1. Council meetings are open to all members of ICU.
2. There is no present mechanism for members to check the voting records of their representatives, short of attending the relevant council meeting.
3. Article L.100.1 of the constitution, which states that “[Council shall have the authority to] represent the voice of students”.

ICU Believes:

1. That students are often unable to attend lengthy council meetings solely to monitor their representatives voting records.
2. That it is impossible for council to be truly representative or democratic when students cannot monitor their own representatives voting records.
3. That the publication of council members voting records is thus a democratic necessity.

ICU Resolves:

1. To record and publish an account of how each council member votes in council, on a per-item basis, on the union website.¹
2. To commit to enacting the previous resolution in time for the next 2 meeting of council.

¹ A note on implementation: this will probably be easiest through the use of electronic voting pad things, often used in lectures. I imagine college has some that we can use.