

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the third 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 11 November 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	Dariush Hassanzadeh-Baboli
CGCU President	Tim Munday
RCSU President	Serena Yuen
ACC Chair	Oliver Benton
RSMU Chair	Ben Warnick
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
RSMU Welfare Officer	Rachael Shuttleworth
GSU Physical Sciences AWO	Stuart Haylock
GSU Life Sciences AWO	Rachel Vaux
GSU Business AWO	Alex Derrick
GSU Medicine AWO	Mike Asavarut
ICSMSU Academic Affairs Officer – Science Years	Cyin San
RSMU Academic Affairs Officer	Emma Toms
Campaigns Officer	Xiaoyang Zhao
LGBT Portfolio Officer	Kyle Hellemans
International Officer	Katherine Chio
Disabilities Officer	Dimitrios Karponis
Ethics & Environmental Officer	Rhiannon Holden
Non Faculty Ordinary Member	Philippa Skett
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)	Jasper Menkus
Natural Sciences Ordinary Member (UG)	Klas Wetterberg
Natural Sciences Ordinary Member (PG)	Andrew Tranter
Medicine Ordinary Member (PG)	Abel Tesfai
<b>Permanent observers</b>	
Governance and Administration Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

**Apologies:** CGCU Welfare Officer Juliet Kernohan CGCU Academic Affairs Officer James Murphy Engineering Ordinary Member (UG) Ze Tan Interfaith Officer Shamim Ahmed Gender Equalities Officer Madeleine Maxwell, BME Officer Shiqu Qiu

**Not present:** RCSU Academic Affairs Officer Zoe Hsu, ICSMSU Academic Affairs Officer – Early Years – Usama Asif, ICSMSU Academic Affairs Officer – Clinical Salma Haddad

**A presentation was given by Chris Banks – Director of Library Services before the formal business started**

## 1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

### NOTED:

- a) Nominations were taken from the floor for the vacant positions of Faculty of Medicine UG Ordinary Member and Faculty of Natural Science PG Ordinary Member.
- b) Elections were conducted under the Minor Election Rules
  - i. Siyuan Chen stood for the vacancy for Faculty of Natural Science PG Ordinary Member.
  - ii. Eric Suen stood for the vacancy for Faculty of Medicine UG Ordinary Member.
  - iii. Members who were eligible to vote did so and both candidates were elected successfully.

### RESOLVED:

- 1) **To elect Siyuan Chen as Faculty of Natural Science PG Ordinary Member and Eric Suen as Faculty of Medicine UG Ordinary Member.**

## 2. MINUTES – 28 October 2014

### RESOLVED:

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

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

### NOTED:

- a) The working group to investigate the feasibility to implement electronic voting methods met. They are seeking to source a set of electronic voting pads to run as a trial and will report back to the next meeting.

## 4. MOTION TO HOLD A GENERAL MEETING

RECEIVED: The motion was presented by Andrew Tranter

### NOTED:

- a) The President stated that he will call a General Meeting for December 1 2014 at 18.30 and Council are voting on the content of paper.
- b) An exemption is being sought from the Board of Trustees, in line with Constitution rule 32 – that the adjournment of any General Meeting held (to (primarily) discuss the higher education funding model is an indefinite adjournment.
- c) It was challenged that the paper states that Council isn't accountable which is incorrect.
- d) Concern was raised that policy is attempting to be set at a meeting that has a high probability on not meeting the quorum requirement of 200.
  - i. The high turnout at elections indicates that members are engaged and will take up the opportunity to have their say in a General Meeting format.
- e) Promotion of the meeting will be crucial for its success.
  - i. It was suggested that a financial incentive could be provided to encourage people to participate in survey and General Meeting.
- f) There is the potential for a large number of amendments to be made at the General Meeting which may go against the survey results and make the meeting a bit of a farce.
- g) ICU is unique to other institutions in that direct democracy is not embedded in the culture of the members.
  - i. This is something that is being aspired towards and the Democracy Review may have some suggestions and outcomes to work towards this culture. The President stated that he will bring up 'Direct Democracy' in the Governance Review.

- h) Concern was raised that another General Meeting, which has abysmal attendance, may damage the 'brand' of General Meetings and will perpetuate nonattendance for any future General Meetings.
- i) It was suggested that an online forum, following the format of a Q & A session, may generate interest and get members thinking about the topic of Higher Education funding
- j) It was highlighted that the success of the General Meeting depends on members in the first instance being aware that this is going on. Promotion is vital for its success.
  - i. Council members were asked to use their channels to promote.
  - ii. The Deputy President (Education) was actioned to use the Rep Network to promote the survey and the General Meeting.

**ACTION:**

- 1. **The Deputy President (Education) to use the Rep Network to promote the survey and the General Meeting.**

- k) Council moved to vote on the Beliefs 2 and 3 of the proposal and the votes are as follows:

- i. Belief 2
 

FOR	19
AGAINST	7
ABSTAIN	7
Passes	
- ii. Belief 3
 

FOR	1
AGAINST	25
ABSTAIN	7
Falls so belief 3 is struck	

- l) Council moved to a vote on Resolves 1 and the vote is as follows:

- |         |    |
|---------|----|
| FOR     | 26 |
| AGAINST | 1  |
| ABSTAIN | 7  |
| Passes  |    |

- m) Council moved to a vote on Further Resolves and the vote is as follows:

- i. Further Resolves 1
 

FOR	31
AGAINST	1
ABSTAIN	1
Passes	
- ii. Further Resolves 2
 

FOR	15
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	9
Passes	
- iii. Further Resolves 3
 

FOR	32
AGAINST	1
ABSTAIN	0
Passes	
- iv. Further Resolves 4
 

FOR	4
AGAINST	20
ABSTAIN	9
Falls so Further Resolves 4 is struck	

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **To pass the presented Motion with the accepted amendments (see appendix)**

## 8. PRESIDENTS REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Provost Boards accepted the report from the President in regards to Bursaries Funding but they did not implement any of the recommendations.
  - i. It was proposed by the President that the £16-25k should be split.
  - ii. The Union is able to take a stance on the outcome of Provost Board but it cannot lobby for the decision to be changed.
  - iii. It was requested that the President seek a justification from College as to why the decision was made on that particular funding model and that the President publishes the survey data that was collected.

**ACTION:**

- 1. The President to seek a justification from College as to why the decision was made on that particular bursary funding model.**
- 2. The President publishes the survey data that was collected.**

- iv. College did not give enough time for the data to be sought which goes against the consultation framework.
- v. Council unanimously agreed that they wished to make a statement which is as follows:  
*'The Imperial College Union Council would like to condemn in the strongest possible terms the Provost Board's alterations to the bursary structure. We feel the College has not consulted extensively enough on this decision and that it does not reflect the needs of low and middle income students. We are particularly concerned with the large decrease in support at the £50k boundary and decrease for the poorest students in the under £30k category. We call on them to revisit this issue as soon as possible with a full and extensive consultation that fully takes into account all students' views and needs, and to provide full details of the reasons for any changes made.'*
- b) In regards to the move to Acton, the Union is working with college to minimise the impact on participation and student experience.
  - i. It was questioned as to what the actual total cost will be for students who are located in Acton.
- c) The Extraordinary meeting of the Governance Committee considered 3 incidents from 2 clubs, ICU Rugby and ICSMSU Rugby.
  - i. The outcome of the meeting can be found on the Union Website.
- 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) The Management Group Restructure Working Group met and a draft proposal is being compiled.
- 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) Thanks were given to the RSMU for their support for the Soc Off.
  - i. The purpose of the Soc Off as a thank you for Mums and Dads was questioned as an appropriate event.
- b) It was queried what is going on with Rep Week.
  - i. The stall that was scheduled to be in the Sherfield Foyer was cancelled and the Deputy President (Education) has been in contact with Dep Reps to ask them to promote through their channels.
  - ii. The Deputy President (Education) was actioned to send further Rep Week promotional material to reps.

**ACTION:**

- i. **The Deputy President (Education) to send further Rep Week promotional material to reps.**

c) 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 were asked to promote the HEF survey through their channels.
- b) It was queried as to what has happened to the staffing in the Union's Finance Department.
  - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he is not able to comment at this meeting but will bring an explanation to the next meeting of Council.

**ACTION:**

- 1. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) to bring an explanation on the Unions Finance Departments restructure to the next meeting of Council.**

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report**

### 13. DISCUSSION ON CLUB BEHAVIOUR

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The RFU and TFL were looking to see what the direction of punishment was put on the Rugby clubs were before they decided what action they will take.
- b) The ACC Chair has engaged with clubs in regards to an 'information amnesty' in relation to clubs undertaking initiations.
  - i. There is a perception that there is pressure on members to take part in initiations, of which the majority involve drinking. Even if excessive drinking isn't encouraged, it is still promoting the opportunity to excessively drink and the pressure to be accepted.
  - ii. There is pressure being put on senior members to appear to be 'macho' through excessive drinking.
- c) University is a time where students are experiencing new situations and are making their own choices which require maturity which they are still developing.
- d) For behaviour to change it is about the cultural changes filtering down from the leaders and some particular officers and chairs have been remarkable in instigating this change in making binge drinking impermissible.
- e) The Union only knows about the extent of unacceptable behaviour when things go wrong.
- f) It was hypothesised that the negative press surrounding students potentially perpetuate the behaviour by student playing up to the stereotype of the yobbish behaviour.
- g) The message is out there with the Union's members that this behaviour is not acceptable or tolerated.
- h) It was stated that Christ Church Student Union has Inclusion Officers which promote inclusion and tolerance in sports clubs.
  - i. It was suggested that although an Inclusion Officer may not be the answer, it was agreed that this should be included in club officer training.
  - ii. A competition could be created within MG and CU's as to who runs the best inclusive event.

Meeting closed 21.45

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2014/15

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

## **MOTION TO HOLD A UNION GENERAL MEETING TO DISCUSS HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING POLICY**

**Proposed by Andrew Tranter  
Seconded by John Selby**

### **ICU Notes:**

1. That the planned referendum on higher education funding was cancelled at the first meeting of council this year, with 24 members of council voting.
2. That this was replaced by a non-binding survey of student opinion.
3. That use of a survey instead of a referendum takes the actual policy decision out of our members' hands and into those of council.
4. That holding the survey may provide more detailed information about the opinions of our members.
5. That it is common practice in other student unions to hold regular general meetings, wherein all members of the Union may vote on policy decisions and hold officers to account.

### **ICU Believes:**

1. That the Union should strive to be as democratic as possible.
2. To achieve this, direct student decision-making and clear accountability channels – such as those provided by general meetings – are vital.
3. That holding a general meeting to set our higher education funding policy would allow the information-gathering advantages of a survey whilst still allowing students a direct vote on the actual policy.
4. That a general meeting would allow students to discuss the actual policy as drafted, rather than set questions – thereby allowing even more information to be gathered than a survey alone.
5. That even independent of the higher education funding question, holding a general meeting would further enhance the democracy, transparency and accountability of the Union.

### **ICU Resolves:**

1. To mandate the Union president to call a general meeting of the Union, between November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>, to set the finalised higher education funding policy and to hold the meeting in accordance with the Appendix of this paper.

### **ICU Further Resolves:**

1. That any other papers will be accepted for consideration at the general meeting, provided that: They are proposed and seconded by members of the Union.
  - 1.1 They are submitted to the Union chair at least seven days in advance of the general meeting.
  - 1.2 And that proposals relating to higher education funding shall be the first substantial (i.e. excluding approval of minutes, acceptance of the agenda, etc.) item of business at the general meeting.

2. Subsequent to proposed motions, the general meeting shall include a “questions to officers” section for members to ask questions of sabbatical officers, who may present a short report of their activities.
3. In the event of inquoracy, all proposals to the general meeting will be automatically taken to the first subsequent meeting of Union council\*.

## Appendix

1. For the avoidance of doubt, the general meeting shall be considered a general meeting of the Union as specified by section J of the constitution of the Union.
2. All papers to be considered at the meeting (save amendments proposed at the meeting) shall be circulated to every member of the Union at least six days in advance of the general meeting.
3. Procedures not specified here (including procedural motions) shall be the same as those used for Union council.

\* Pending a resolution of the Trustees in accordance Constitution rule 32 to suspend an inquorate meeting indefinitely.