

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the fourth 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 19 December 2014 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
RCSU Welfare Officer	Akash Jyoti
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
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
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: College Registrar & Secretary John Neilson, Managing Director Joe Cooper

Apologies: CGCU Welfare Officer Juliet Kernohan Engineering Ordinary Member (UG) Ze Tan Interfaith Officer Shamim Ahmed Gender Equalities Officer Madeleine Maxwell, BME Officer Shiqu Qiu Medicine Ordinary Member (PG) Abel Tesfai

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

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) Voting pads will be trialled during this meeting and the outcome of their use will be considered by the Voting Methods Working Group.

2. MINUTES – 11 November 2014

RESOLVED:

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

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) Deputy President (Education) promoted the HEF Survey and Rep Week as actioned to do so.
- b) Thanks were given to the College Registrar and Secretary for attending the meeting of Council.
- c) The College Registrar and Secretary responded to the statement made by Council in regards to Bursary Funding and raised the following points.
 - i. College contribution to bursaries is one of the most generous of all UK Universities.
 - ii. It was acknowledged that the consultation deadlines were tight however students were able to give their opinions through attending the meeting held by the President and the online survey.
 - iii. The total amount given to students may vary due to Imperial College becoming an attractive institution to students to apply to due to the bursaries paid out.
 - iv. The contributions are calculated to be paid over the academic year as their purpose is to support the student during their time of study.
 - v. It was highlighted that some students are tied to London with accommodation contracts that span over 12 months.
 - vi. The President stated that he will circulate the data collected in response to Bursary Funding.
 - vii. It was suggested that Council retract the statement made at the last meeting as they have now received the information that was requested.

Council moved to a vote and the result is as follows:

FOR 21

AGAINST 4

ABSTAIN 8

Passed

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To retract the statement made at the Council meeting of 11 November in regards to College Bursaries as part of the Presidents Report.**

- d) The Managing Director verbally reported on the Finance Department Staffing as requested at the last meeting of Council. The following points were raised:
 - i. The number of transactions in comparison to the size of the organisation indicated that the Finance Department was at capacity and in order for the organisation to grow, a reorganisation of the department was required.
 - ii. The Union is committed to developing its service whilst working within the ethos of developing student leadership.

- iii. It was queried as to why student officers were not kept informed of the changes and it was stated that because of the process which involved changes to roles, what could be communicated was limited.
- iv. Issues with processing and service delivery that have arisen from the change were acknowledged and the Managing Director apologised for these. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) requested that any issues in regards to processing and service provision should be made aware to him. The RAG Chair asked that he meet with the Deputy President (Finance & Services) and Managing Director to discuss the complaints process.

4. HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING POLICY

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

NOTED:

- a) Changes have been included as outcome of the discussions of the non-quorate General Meeting and made the action plan more robust.
- b) It was suggested that an objective be include to aim for free education.
- c) Research in to Postgraduate Loan provision has not yet taken place but the Union and the GSU will be working together to campaign for PG specific loan scheme.
- d) Council moved to a vote on passing the paper as a whole and the vote is as follows:

FOR	30
AGAINST	1
ABSTAIN	3

 Passes

RESOLVED:

1) To pass the presented policy.

- e) Council moved to a vote to consider the addendum to the paper from Andrew Tranter. The Resolves were vote on individually and the vote is as follows:

Resolve 1	
FOR	9
AGAINST	21
ABSTAIN	5

Falls

Resolve 2	
FOR	25
AGAINST	6
ABSTAIN	4

Passes

Resolve 3	
FOR	27
AGAINST	7
ABSTAIN	3

Passes

Resolve 4	
FOR	19
AGAINST	7
ABSTAIN	9

Passes

Resolve 5
FOR 8
AGAINST 18
ABSTAIN 9
Falls

RESOLVED:

- 2) To include the resolutions that passed in the Higher Education Policy (see appendix)

5. MOTION TO REVERSE THE CHANGE TO OFFICER TRUSTEE TITLES

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

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he was involved in the discussion and voted at the meeting of Council where the decision was made to change the title last year.
- i. In the Deputy President (Finance & Services) opinion, the removing of services from the title leads to ambiguity and students would not know who to contact as the titles Deputy President (Activities and Development) and Deputy President (Activities and Finances) are too similar.
- b) Council moved to a vote on passing the motion and the vote is as follows:
- FOR 29
AGAINST 2
ABSTAIN 4
Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) To recommend to the Board of Trustees that the names of Officer Trustee Positions be reinstated as Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Deputy President (Finance & Services) in time for the Big Elections for 2015-16

ACTION:

1. The Deputy President (Welfare) to take the recommendation to Board of Trustees.

The agenda was moved to consider Agenda item 8 as the next item of business

8. MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN A CLUB OFFICER

RECEIVED: The motion was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Chair declared that he sat on the Governance Committee that considered the incident and the Club Officer stated that he had no issues with the Chair continuing to preside over the motion.
- b) Council were asked to vote on whether the Chair should preside over the motion and the vote is as follows:
- FOR 22
AGAINST 8
ABSTAIN
Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) For the Chair to preside over the Motion of No Confidence.

- c) The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) declared that they were on the Governance Committee that considered the incident and as such they will abstain from voting.
- d) It was proposed that [Chatham House Rule](#) apply to the preceding and the vote on this is as follows:

FOR	25
AGAINST	2
ABSTAIN	4

 Passes

RESOLVED:

- 2) **To follow Chatham House Rule, where participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.**
 - e) Council are to decide on if the action of the Club Officer, where they lied during the investigation is fitting of behaviour expected of Union Officers.
 - f) The Club Officer admitted that they had been dishonest during the investigation and accepted that this was wrong for which they expressed remorse.
 - i. Their action of being untruthful was undertaken on the understanding that they wanted to protect individuals from disciplinary action.
 - g) The authenticity of the online petition, which was to give support of the Club Officer, was called in to refute as there was no way of authenticating the signatories.
 - h) Anecdotally, there is a misconception as to what the function of the Union is and has little connection to officers 'on the ground' where it is seen as the Union being a bureaucratic entity that is there to fund CSP's and enforce rules.
 - i) If the Motion is not passed, it potentially brings the organisation in to reputational risk as the message may be that the Union allows dishonesty to be acceptable.
 - i. There is the potential for the belief of the divide perception between the Union and CSP's to be exacerbated as the Union may be seen to be delivering disproportional punishment.
 - j) A Motion of Censure is not possible due to the motion needing to go through the correct bye laws procedure.
 - k) There may be a detrimental impact on the club of having an officer removed; that being no one willing to stand for the officer role and the post remaining vacant.
 - l) The issue of the misconception of the role of the Union needs to be addressed. Club training includes personal responsibilities but it was suggested that this should be made more prominent during the sessions.
 - m) Whatever the action of individuals or CSP's, the risk and responsibility ultimately lies with the Union and this needs to be protected so that it can still function for all its members.
 - n) The actions of the Union mitigated a potentially major incident that would impact on the future of those involved. It was recognised that there needs to be significant improvement in relationship building with the Union and CSP's.
 - o) Council moved to a vote which was done by secret ballot and the vote is as follows:

FOR	13
AGAINST	14
ABSTAIN	5

 Falls

The agenda was reordered to consider agenda item 14 as the next item of business

14. UNION STANCE ON CHARGING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL BANK CHARGES

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

NOTED:

a) Council moved to a vote on passing the paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR 31

AGAINST 0

ABSTAIN 1

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To campaign against all hidden charges to students; beginning with, but not limited to, International Bank Transfer Charges**
- 2) **To mandate the Deputy President (Finance & Services) to lobby college to absorb these fees as a cost of doing business and cease charging students for this administrative cost**

6. POSTGRADUATE PARTICIPATION IN CONSTITUENT UNIONS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the RSMU President

NOTED:

- a) It was stated that in the opinion of the RSMU President, it is easier for Postgraduates to identify with the RSMU rather than the GSU as the community is small compared to other faculties.
- b) The GSU President stated that it is very difficult to get PG's involved at all and this will be considered as part of the PG Strategy which is being drafted at the moment.
- c) DepSocs have provisions for Postgraduates to participate but not be part of the committee.
- d) There may be an impact on subvention from faculty as the subvention is given on the understanding that it will be used for UG's only.
- e) It was suggested to hold off making a decision on the paper until the result of the PG Strategy which is expected in February and in the meantime form a working group to consider allowing PG's to be involved at CU committee level.
- f) It was agreed that Resolve 1 to be amended to read as follows:
 - i. To recognise PGs in the Departments of Earth Science & Engineering and Materials as automatically Full Members of the RSMU.

g) Council moved to a vote on passing the amended paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR 23

AGAINST 4

ABSTAIN 6

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To recognise PGs in the Departments of Earth Science & Engineering and Materials as automatically Full Members of the RSMU.**
- 2) **To form a working group to address PG participation at a Constituent Union level and look at changing the RCSU, ICSMSU and CGCU constitutions to allow PGs to become Full Members.**

ACTION:

1. **The RSMU President to work with the Governance and Administration Manager to update the RSMU Standing Orders.**

2. The RSMU to set up a working group to address resolve 2.

7. Motion to award John Underwood honorary life Associate membership

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

NOTED:

- a) Mr Underwood has made significant time and financial contribution to Sinfonetta and they as a club would like this recognised by awarding him Honorary Life Associate Membership.
- b) Council moved to a vote and the results are as follows:
FOR 30
AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 3
Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To award John Underwood Honorary Life Associate Membership for services to Sinfonetta.**

9. PRESIDENTS REPORTS

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The turnout at the General Meeting was disappointing and indicates that members are rarely motivated to put opinions across in person but do in online forums.
 - i. Those who attended were emailed to thank them for their attendance and to invite them to tonight's meeting.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and the votes are as follows:
FOR 28
AGAINST 1
ABSTAIN 1
Passes

RESOLVED:

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

10. 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 the votes are as follows:
FOR 27
AGAINST 1
ABSTAIN 2
Passes

RESOLVED:

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

11. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Rep Week is occurring around the same time as SACA's nominations closing.
- b) There was a disappointing low turnout at the Town Hall meeting.
- c) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and the votes are as follows:
FOR 28
AGAINST 1
ABSTAIN 1
Passes

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 the votes are as follows:
FOR 25
AGAINST 1
ABSTAIN 2
Passes

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 the votes are as follows:
FOR 24
AGAINST 3
ABSTAIN 1
Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report

13. GSU REPORT

RECEIVED: A verbal update was given by the GSU President

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 CLUB TRAINING

NOTED:

- a) The President was requested to look in to club training and how officers and the Union communicate

14.2 MEMORIAL OF PAST MEMBER

NOTED:

- a) It was stated that the clock on the front of the Union Building will be fixed in memorial to Andy Wilson who passed away in July 2014.

Meeting closed 22.00

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2014/15

_____ Chair of the Meeting

Union Higher Education Funding Policy

Proposer:

Alex Savell – Deputy President
(Finance & Services)

Seconders:

Tom Wheeler – Union President &
Pascal Loose – Deputy President
(Education)

Other Contributors:

Andrew Tranter

Policies superseded: Higher Education Funding Policy (Lapsed)

3) The Union Notes:

- a. In June of last year the previous Higher Education Funding Policy lapsed
- b. Union Council of last academic year elected to commit to an information gathering exercise before committing to a new policy
 - i. This should ensure that any policy is reflective of student opinion
- c. The Union Council of this Academic year chose to conduct a survey, led by the Officer Trustees and then bring a policy to a General Meeting of the Union
- d. The survey was conducted between 4 November 2014 and 19 November 2014
 - i. A full analysis of the results and methodology used in this can be found in the attached document 'Higher Education Funding Survey Analysis (2014)

4) The Union Believes:

- a. Higher Education Funding is an extremely important issue as it will affect many students in the years to come
- b. Decisions of such magnitude should be decided based on as much evidence as possible within reasonable constraints for collecting said evidence
- c. Forming a thorough policy which reflects student views gives us a strong platform for lobbying parliament and parliamentary candidates in the upcoming general election
 - i. Higher Education Funding may be a key issue in this election

5) The Union Resolves:

- a. To accept the recommendation and principles of the Higher Education Funding Survey Analysis (Page 17-18)
 - b. To assess any proposed funding models against these principles and campaign accordingly
 - c. Campaigning to include, but not be limited to:
 - i. Lobbying local parliamentary candidates during the General Election Campaign
 - ii. Lobbying local MPs within the current and new parliament as well as appropriate Government and Cabinet Ministers
 - iii. Seeking and exploiting media opportunities to highlight the issue and steer the debate
 - iv. Working with any other like-minded organisations (such as other Universities or Think Tanks) in order to add weight to our various voices.
 1. Noting co-operation on specific issues or parts of an issue need not require a completely aligned position on others
 - d. To condemn and actively campaign against any attempts to increase tuition fees.
 - e. To condemn cuts to government funding for higher education, and to actively campaign for a return to pre-2010 levels of government funding.
 - f. To condemn and actively campaign against the marketisation of higher education.