

# Royal College of Science Students' Union: Constitution

## 1 Name

- 1.1 The students' union of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Imperial College shall be known as the Royal College of Science Students' Union, hereinafter referred to as "the Union".
- 1.2 The Union and recognised clubs and societies may use the name and insignia of Imperial College and the Royal College of Science in their titles and in pursuit of their activities, but may not assign the privilege to any other entity. In using the names and insignia, the Union and its clubs and societies shall have due regard for the Colleges' status and reputations.

## 2 Status

- 2.1 The Union shall be a Constituent Union of Imperial College Union ("ICU") representing the Faculty of Natural Sciences

## 3 Aims and Objects

- 3.1 The Aims and Objects of the Union shall be as per the ICU constitution:

## 4 Membership

- 4.1 The categories of membership of the Union shall be Full, Honorary and Life.

### 4.2 Full Members

- 4.2.1 All registered students of the Imperial College Faculty of Natural Sciences are automatically Full Members of the Union. Departments outside of the administration of the Faculty, but within its quality assurance structure, are considered to be part of the Faculty for this purpose.
- 4.2.2 A person opting out of membership of ICU is deemed to have opted out of membership of the Union. Such a person shall enjoy all the facilities and amenities of the Union, but may not participate in its governance, including, voting or standing for election.
- 4.2.3 The ICU Sabbatical Officers are *ex officio* non-voting members of the Union and its Committees.

### 4.3 Honorary Members

- 4.3.1 The procedures to award and revoke Honorary Membership to individuals shall be defined in Policy.
- 4.3.2 The Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences is an *ex officio* Honorary Members.

### 4.4 Life Members

- 4.4.1 Any former Full Member of the RCSU, or its previous incarnations, who is a Life Member of ICU is a Life Member of the Union.

## 5 Affiliation

- 5.1 The Union and its clubs and societies may affiliate to any organisation that furthers their aims.
- 5.2 No affiliation shall knowingly be made to an organisation involved in illegal activities.
- 5.3 The Union shall not make any affiliation that might affect its political impartiality. Clubs and societies are free to make such affiliations.
- 5.4 The Union shall publish annually a list of any external organisations to which an affiliation fee has been paid or donation given and inform Imperial College Union Council as necessary.

## 6 Officers of the Union

- 6.1 The Officers of the Union shall be the President and other officers listed in Regulation 1.
- 6.2 The duties and responsibilities of the Officers of the Union are listed in Regulation 1.
- 6.3 Officers of the Union shall be elected according to Regulation 2.
- 6.4 In the event of a vacancy or an Officer of the Union being unable to fulfil his or her duties the President may delegate those powers and responsibilities held by that Officer pending elections.

6.4.1 In the event that the role of the President remains vacant, a member of the Executive Committee chosen by secret ballot by the Executive Committee will fulfil the role until the vacancy is filled in line with ICU policy.

6.5 Officers of the Union and any other position in the Union for which a date is not otherwise prescribed shall hand over to their successors on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

## 7 General Committee

7.1 General Committee shall be the sovereign and governing body of the Union. All Officers, committees, clubs and societies shall be accountable to General Committee.

7.2 General Committee shall receive such reports from Officers and committees that it may require, with the President and Executive Committee reporting to each ordinary meeting.

7.3 The standing orders for the conduct of General Committees shall be set in Regulation 4.

7.4 The President shall convene General Committees twice each term and additionally as necessary.

7.5 Emergency meetings

7.5.1 Emergency meetings shall be convened upon the request of:

- a) The President.
- b) The Executive Committee.
- c) Resolution of a previous meeting of the General Committee.
- d) Twenty Full Members of the Union.
- e) Six members of the General Committee.

7.5.2 An Emergency meeting shall

- a) Be held between two and five College days of being called.
- b) Discuss only those matters that it was called to debate.
- c) Be entitled to refer back or overrule any decision or policy of the Executive or other committee of the Union, so long as it is within the matter of debate.

## 8 Executive Committee

8.1 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the general management of the Union and prescribing Union policy, subject to any direction of General Committee.

8.2 The President shall convene the Executive at least every three weeks during term time.

8.3 An emergency meeting of Executive as defined by 7.5.2 may be called by

8.3.1 Resolution of General Committee,

8.3.2 The President, or

8.3.3 Two other members of the Executive Committee.

8.4 Emergency action:

8.4.1 The President may act on behalf of the Executive, provided that these actions are reported to and reviewed by the Executive and the General Committee at its next meeting.

8.4.2 The Executive may act on behalf of General Committee in matters of urgency, provided that these actions are reported to and reviewed by the General Committee at its next meeting.

## 9 Committees of the Union

9.1 General Committee, the Executive and other committees (see Regulation 3) may establish and dissolve sub-committees and may delegate any powers to them or individuals save that such establishment or delegation shall not affect the rights, powers and responsibilities of any other committee.

9.2 The President is an ex-officio voting member of all committees of the Union.

## 10 Clubs and Societies of the Union

10.1 The Union shall oversee Clubs and Societies in advancing their own and the Union's Aims and Objects.

10.2 Clubs and Societies shall be managed by their Committees and governed under Policy.

- 10.3 Any Member of ICU is entitled to join any Club or Society and any member of the Union to serve on its Committee.
- 10.4 The President shall be an *ipso facto* Full Member of all Clubs and Societies, and an *ex-officio* voting member of all Club and Society Committees.

## 11 Financial Responsibility of the Union

- 11.1 The President and the Honorary Junior Treasurer are ultimately responsible to the ICU President through the ICU Deputy President (Finance & Services) for the finances of the Union.
- 11.2 All constituent parts of the Union shall comply with ICU Financial Regulations.

## 12 Elections

- 12.1 Only Full Members of the Union may stand or vote in Union elections. Further restrictions shall be applied for certain positions.
- 12.2 Only Full Members of the Union may stand or vote in Officer elections.
- 12.3 The President or a nominee approved by the Executive shall be the returning officer for Union Officer elections, and responsible for their fair and efficient conduct.

## 13 Regulations

- 13.1 The regulations of the Union are:
  - 13.1.1 Officers of the Union
  - 13.1.2 Elections
  - 13.1.3 Composition of Committees
  - 13.1.4 Meetings Standing Order

## 14 Policy

- 14.1 Policy can be established by any committee of the Union but it must be ratified by the General Committee.
- 14.2 Policy shall lapse after three years unless presented for re-approval.
- 14.3 Policy shall be kept by the President and Honorary Secretary and be freely available to any member of ICU.

## 15 Interpretation

- 15.1 This Constitution is bound by the Constitution of ICU.
- 15.2 This Constitution binds the Union in its entirety including the Clubs and Societies.
- 15.3 This Constitution overrules Regulations, which overrule Policy, which overrules Clubs and Society constitutions and any other committee or individual.
- 15.4 In the event of an interpretation being sought for this Constitution, its Regulations or Policies, the President shall make a ruling, which shall be reported to the Executive. Precedent shall provide a basis for future interpretations.
- 15.5 Where an interpretation involves the Constitution of ICU, and the matter is not resolved, it shall be referred to the ICU President.

## 16 Amendments

- 16.1 Alterations to the Constitution shall be proposed by a two-thirds majority of the General Committee. The ICU Executive shall approve any amendments, which shall then be as valid as this Constitution.
- 16.2 Alterations to the Regulations shall be proposed by a simple majority of the General Committee and approved by the ICU Executive.

## 17 Revocation

- 17.1 This Constitution shall be binding on all parts of the Union from August 2014.
- 17.2 This Constitution shall supersede all previous constitutions.