

# Union Council

Owen Heaney  
Council Chair 2017/18



# Council Dates 2017-18

<del>▲ 25/10/2016</del>	<del>Pippard Lecture Theatre</del>	<del>18:00 – 20:30</del>
▲ 07/11/2017	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30
▲ 05/12/2017	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30
▲ 09/01/2018	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30
▲ 23/01/2018	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30
▲ 13/02/2018	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30
▲ 20/03/2018	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30
▲ 15/05/2018	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30
▲ 19/06/2018	Pippard Lecture Theatre	18:00 – 20:30

Any questions or concerns you can get  
in contact with me at  
[chair@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:chair@imperial.ac.uk)

# In a sentence...

- ▲ Council is the Central Union body that decides on policy for the Union, or essentially ‘what the Union believes’ as a whole.

# Your role and responsibility at Council

- ▲ Council is here to be the legitimate voice of the student body; passing policies that state the Union's stance on issues which may be local, national or international.
- ▲ Your Officer Trustees bring reports to Council to ensure you know how they are representing you. This also provide an opportunity for you to ask them questions about their work.
- ▲ If elected as a member of Council you are expected to read these reports and you are encouraged to speak to friends and course-mates about issues before coming to the meeting

# My role and responsibility at Council

- ▲ As Chair, I am obliged to remain independent and impartial in all Council-related matters – everyone gets equal treatment at Council.
- ▲ I step down from the Chair whenever I have an interest in the matter under discussion.
- ▲ I am responsible for keeping the meeting orderly, on topic and on schedule.
- ▲ I cannot vote except to break a tie.

# Voting Records

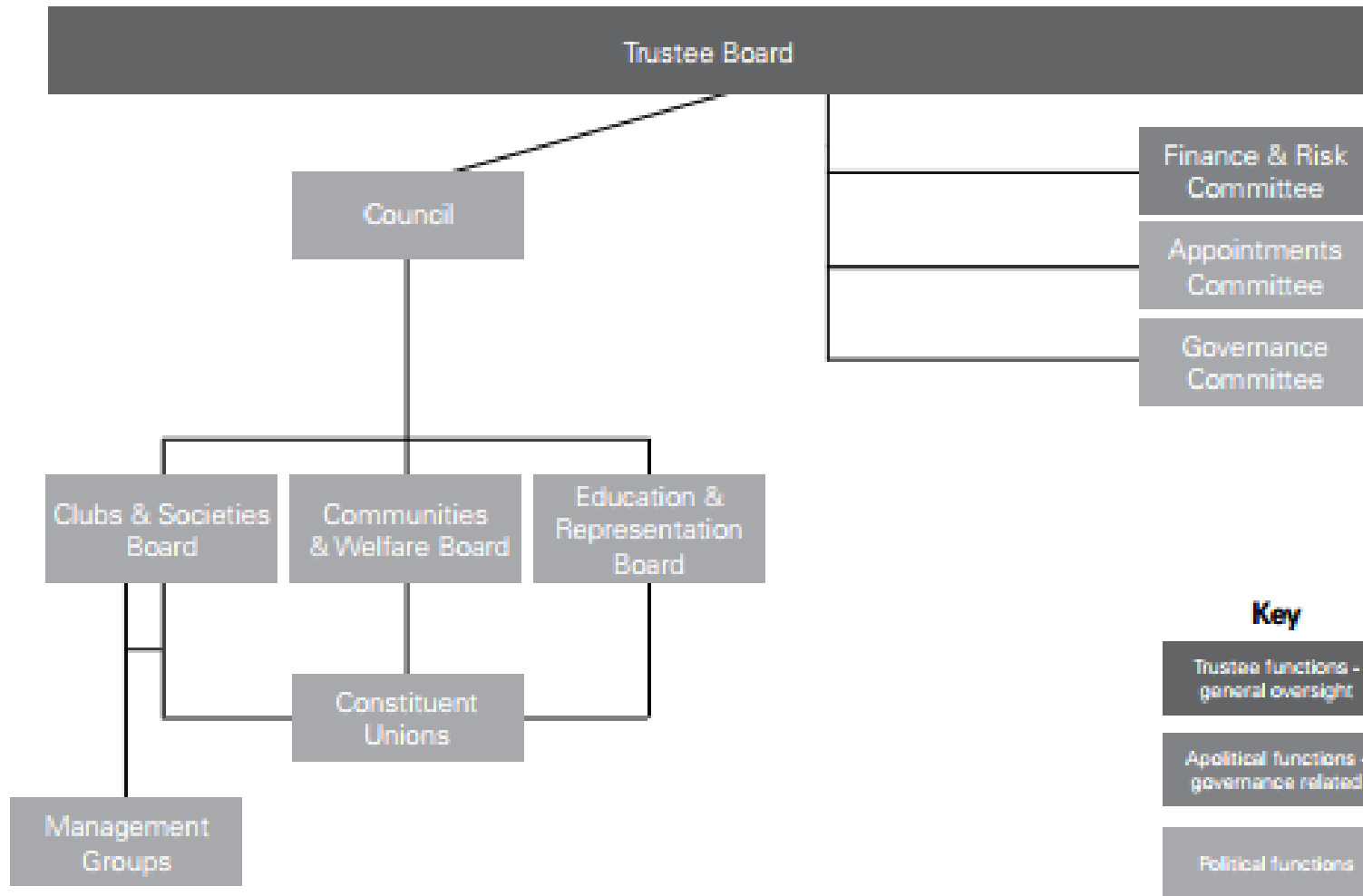
- ▲ In 2013 the Union Council committed to record and publish an Council voting records on the Union website.
- ▲ This was with the belief that since Council members are elected to represent members' views and they are accountable to those members, publishing the votes of individuals would encourage Council members to vote for Union members they represent and accurately reflect their views in policy
- ▲ The Council Chair is allowed to declare any vote a secret ballot, for example in the case of discussing an individual Union member. This is subject to the usual rules of challenging the chair (as set out in the Standing Orders).
- ▲ <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/dbfile/pbf/111>

# How to get a paper to Council

- ▲ Any full member of the Union is able submit a motion to Council in the form of a paper. All motions require a proposer and one or more seconders.
- ▲ The paper should be structured as follows:
  - ▲ \* Union Notes (Facts) –factual information on the topic.
  - ▲ \* Union Believes (Opinion) – what you believe to be true. This is where debate will come in. What you believe may not be what other councilors hold true.
  - ▲ \* Union Resolves (Actions) – what do you want to happen. Mandate officers to speak to college/external. May need resources (time or physical) allocated.
- ▲ The motion may be amended in the meeting. The proposer may accept the suggested amendment or if not, Council will vote on it.
- ▲ Send any papers written in to the Council Chair: [chair@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:chair@imperial.ac.uk)
- ▲ **I'm very happy to assist anyone looking for help writing a paper – just drop me an email!**



# Structure of Imperial College Union



# Council's Relationship with the Board of Trustees

- ▲ In theory Council Chair is the fundamental link between the two, presenting papers to both about what the other has been up to.
  - ▲ If you're interested you can find the papers for the meetings online [here](#)
- ▲ Equally, the Officer Trustees sit on both meetings so you can ask them to follow things up/ explain issues or decisions to you too
- ▲ Trustee Board is essentially meant to be the overarching strategy and oversight, ensuring that knowledge is not lost year on year as the membership of Union Council changes

# Constitution & Bye-Laws

- ▲ The Constitution and Bye-Laws are currently undergoing a full review, so worth touching on them now.
- ▲ The Constitution of Imperial College Union is the governing document of the entire organisation.
- ▲ Together with the Bye-Laws they define the fundamental objects and principles of the organisation
- ▲ Where the Constitution forms the outline of the Union's existence, the Bye-laws elaborate the rules that govern the Union's operations.
- ▲ Changes to the Constitution and Bye-Laws require approval from not only two thirds of Union Council but also Trustee Board and Imperial College Council

# The Constitution

- ▲ Name
- ▲ Objects
- ▲ Powers
- ▲ Dissolution
- ▲ Amendments to Constitution & Bye-Laws
- ▲ Membership
- ▲ Referenda
- ▲ General Meetings
- ▲ Trustees
- ▲ Union Council
- ▲ Constituent Unions
- ▲ General
- ▲ Definitions and Interpretations

# The Constitution

- ▲ Amongst other information, the constitution outlines the authorities of Council. These are to:
  - ▲ represent the voice of the Students;
  - ▲ subject to Clause 73, set the Policy of the Union and refer Policy to Referenda of the Members (in accordance with the Bye-Laws);
  - ▲ make, repeal and amend the Bye-Laws jointly with the Trustees and Imperial College London Council in accordance with Clause 11;
  - ▲ receive the annual accounts of the Union;
  - ▲ approve the annual list of the Union's affiliations;
  - ▲ appoint associate members in accordance with Clause 18 and the Bye-Laws,
  - ▲ form sub-committees and working groups as it sees fit from time to time

# The Constitution

- ▲ The Constitution also sets out the Board of Trustees' ability to overrule Council's decisions (clause 73):
- ▲ The Board of Trustees may override any decision and Policy made by the Members in general meeting or Referendum or by the Union Council which the Trustee Board considers (at their absolute discretion):
  - ▲ has or may have financial implications for the Union
  - ▲ is or may be in breach of, contrary to or otherwise inconsistent with charity or education law or any other legal requirements (including ultra vires);
  - ▲ is not or may not be in the best interests of the Union or all or any of its charitable objects;
  - ▲ will or may otherwise affect the discharge of any or all of the responsibilities referred to in Clause 72.

# Bye-Laws

- ▲ Structure of the Union
- ▲ Meetings
- ▲ Policy
- ▲ Officers of the Union
- ▲ Complaints & Discipline
- ▲ Major Elections
- ▲ Minor Elections

# What is Council

- ▲ As per to the Bye-Laws, Council consists of:
  - ▲ The 5 Officer Trustees
  - ▲ Council Chair
  - ▲ Constituent Union Chairs
  - ▲ Management Group Chairs
  - ▲ Union Welfare Officers
  - ▲ One Welfare Officer of each Constituent Union
  - ▲ One Academic Affairs Officer of each Constituent Union
  - ▲ Fifteen Ordinary Members elected by cross-campus ballot proportional to the students registered on courses that make up a particular Faculty
  - ▲ One Ordinary Member elected by cross-campus ballot proportional to the students registered on courses that are not in a particular Faculty



# Council Meetings

- ▲ Every 4 weeks
- ▲ Union Council may be called additionally by the President
- ▲ Council may be called additionally by the Council Chair upon receipt of a request by one of the following:
  - ▲ The Trustee Board
  - ▲ The Executive Committee
  - ▲ A General Meeting
  - ▲ Ten Members of the Union Council
  - ▲ 100 Members of the Union
- ▲ With at least 5 days notice!

# Sub Committees

- ▲ Council can delegate powers to sub-committees. These sub-committees may not create policy that binds the whole Union, or include powers for anything that requires 2/3 majority resolution Council. They consist of:
  - ▲ The Executive Committee
  - ▲ The Clubs, Societies & Projects Board
  - ▲ The Education & Representation Board
  - ▲ The Communities & Welfare Board

# Appointment of external trustees

- ▲ We are due to consider the appointment of a new Alumni Trustee at this meeting, and so it would be useful to go through the process with you now. In accordance with the Constitution:
  - ▲ One Alumni Trustee shall be appointed by a simple majority vote of the Board of Trustees, who will receive advice on the appointment from the Appointments and Remuneration Committee, provided that the appointment of each Alumni Trustee is ratified by a two thirds majority vote of the Union Council.
  - ▲ Unless their appointment is terminated in accordance with Clauses 60 to 64, Alumni Trustees shall remain in office for a term of up to three years.

# Appointment of external trustees

- ▲ All appointed Trustees (External, Alumni and Appointed Student Trustees) must have their appointment ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of Council.

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