

Royal College of Science Union

Updates to the Constitution and Governing Documents of the Union

Michael Edwards, *RCSU President, on behalf of the General Committee of the Union*



Changes to the Constitution

A series of changes were made to the main document to reflect changes within the ICU structure and internal changes.

The name of the Union was officially the Royal College of Science Students' Union in this document, but is widely known as the RCSU only. This has been rectified. (Article 1.1.)

Observance of the ICU By-Laws has been added to 3.1. (Article 3.1.)

12.1. has been added to recognise the governing document for internal Elections. (Article 12.1.)

14.3., the article for provision of Policy to members, enables free distribution of Union policy to members. (Article 14.3.)

The supervision of the ICU Executive has been replaced by the Union Council, which is accepted practice. (Article 16). The oversight of the Council has been removed from Regulations due to current working practices that recognises the sovereignty of Constituent Unions over these documents. No written policy exists to defend this responsibility, which will be rectified.

The sovereignty of the General Committee was raised as an issue, and wording stressing this has been added in terms of the use of Emergency Actions (Article 8.4.3.) and the requirement for a physical meeting for Constitutional Amendments (Article 16).

Changes to Regulation One – Officers and Representatives of the Union

A section recognising the Representatives of the Union has been added, which formally provides for simultaneous holding of Officer and Representative roles. (Articles 1.4 and 1.5)

It is possible for RCSU Departmental Representative Roles to be held jointly, but not Year or Course Representative roles. (Article 1.6.). The equivalent Officer provision (Article 1.3.) has been retained.

President

Ultimate responsibility for the Undergraduate Academic and Wellbeing Representation Networks in the Faculty of Natural Sciences is vested in the President (Articles 2.1.7 and 2.1.8.)

Vice President (Operations)

The expansion to White City is recognised in the role as Deputy to the President (Article 2.2.1.)

The Sponsorship and Alumni Officer is recognised as a key working partner. (Article 2.2.2)

The explicit supervision of Science Challenge is removed as it falls under Article 2.2.8.

Vice President (Activities)

The expansion to White City is recognised in the role as Deputy to the President (Article 2.2.1.)

Vice President (Education) – renaming of Academic Affairs Officer

Joint responsibility to the President and the ICU Deputy President (Education) is explicitly stated. (Article 2.4.1.a)

The Faculty Academic and Wellbeing Staff Student Committees are identified as key meetings for the VPE to attend (Article 2.4.2.)

Vice President (Welfare and Wellbeing) – renaming of Welfare Officer

Responsibility for the Wellbeing Representation Network in the Faculty is stated. (Article 2.5.1.)

Joint responsibility to the President and the ICU Deputy President (Welfare) is explicitly stated. (Article 2.5.1.a)

The Faculty Academic and Wellbeing Staff Student Committees are identified as key meetings for the VPWW to attend (Article 2.5.2.)

The wording in multiple articles has been amended to stress the importance of the new supervisory role the VPWW has as opposed to the previous operational role. (Articles 2.5.3, and 2.5.4.)

Honorary Secretary

Responsibility for the RCSU Inventory is explicitly stated. (Article 2.6.2.)

Responsibility for the Health and Safety of the Union operations is moved from Welfare Officer / VPWW to Secretary. (Article 2.6.9.)

Honorary Junior Treasurer

The role of the HJT in sponsorship contract fulfilment is recognised. (Article 2.7.8.)

The role as the RCSU's joint mascot bearer is recognised. (Article 2.7.9.)

Responsibility for the Inventory is shifted to the Secretary.

Broadsheet Editor

The key relationship with the Web Communications Officer is recognised. (Article 2.8.2.)

A new task – the production of a new experimental periodical leaflet to drive engagement – is added to the role. (Article 2.8.4.)

Events Officer

From August 2018, the role of the Events Officer has been expanded to encompass assistance with the Wellbeing arm of the Union's operations. (Article 2.9.7.)

Web Communications Officer

The e-Bulletin task has been removed as a task now assigned to the President and Secretary.

The role now exists as an advisory role to Departmental Society Webmasters and the associated websites of the Union (Broadsheet, Science Challenge). (Article 2.11.3.)

Departmental Representatives

The representatives have been split into the Academic (Article 2.13.) and Wellbeing (Article 2.14.) Representative Networks. No further changes were made.

Undergraduate Year Representatives

The Wellbeing Representation Network has been recognised in an expansion of this area of Union operation.

Science Challenge Chair

The relevant Faculty staff member for this Officer has changed to the Education Manager. This has been rectified. (Article 2.16.3.)

The new Sponsorship and Alumni Officer has been recognised as a key working partner. (Article 2.16.2.) The role as a partner in securing external partnership for the competition was also raised at General Committee. (Article 2.16.2.)

RAG Champion

No role description existed for this role in the old Constitution. The following has been created to remedy this oversight. (Article 2.17)

- 2.17.1. Act as the liaison between the Union General Committee and the ICU RAG General Committee.
- 2.17.2. Organise fundraising events for the Union in collaboration with the Events Officer and the RAG Committee, and assist on general RCSU social events where appropriate.
- 2.17.3. Co-ordinate budgets for any event organised with the Vice President (Activities) and the Honorary Junior Treasurer.
- 2.17.4. Ensure all events comply with ICU Regulations and Policy in collaboration with the Honorary Secretary and President.
- 2.17.5. Ensure Union participation in core RAG activities such as the Jailbreak and RAG Week

Sponsorship and Alumni Officer

As a new Officer role, no role description existed for this role in the old Constitution. The following has been created. (Article 2.18)

- 2.18.1 Work with the Vice President (Operations) to procure sponsorship for the Union in line with ICU Regulations and in line with the Constitution.
- 2.18.2. Be responsible for the fulfilment of all obligations to any sponsors, including liaising with other officers to ensure all policies and regulations are abided by.
- 2.18.3. Be jointly responsible with the President for communication and engagement with the Royal College of Science Association and any other alumni associations that share the core values of the Union and ICU.
- 2.18.4. In collaboration with the Honorary Junior Treasurer act as the Union's mascot bearer and as such is responsible for the wellbeing of the Theta and the sport of mascotry.

Changes to Regulation Two – Elections

The role of Academic and Wellbeing Departmental Representatives in acting as the Returning Officer for relevant Year Representative Elections is specified in 2.3. The new Vice President (Education) and Vice President (Welfare and Wellbeing) are identified as the responsible Officers to the Executive for the elections. (Article 2)

As per the By-Laws, it is now specified that elections with over 150 voters are required to be run through eVoting in 5.1. (Article 5.1.)

In 6.4, the procedure for elections of Representatives outside of the main elections is outlined. (Article 6.4.)

The Returning Officer for RCSU Internal elections has not needed to approve publicity for some time – this requirement has been removed and the role of the RO as arbitrator of disputes is reiterated. (Article 8).

Changes to Regulation Three – Composition of Committees

General Committee

The Wellbeing Departmental Representatives and the Sponsorship and Alumni Officer are formally added to the General Committee.

The Clerk of the General Committee, since the Honorary Secretary chairs the General Committee, is defined in Article 1.4.

Executive Committee

The Vice Presidents (Education) and (Welfare and Wellbeing) are formally added to the Executive Committee. (Article 2.3.)

The meeting frequency of the Executive is changed to monthly. (Article 2.2.)

Clubs and Activities Committee

The meeting frequency of the Committee is changed to monthly to reflect Management Group meeting recommendations. (Article 3.4.)

The Honorary Secretary is formally recognised as the Clerk. (Article 3.5.4.)

The Honorary Junior Treasurer is formally recognised as the Chair of the Committee. (Article 3.7.)

Departmental Society Committees

Wellbeing Departmental Representatives are formally added as *ipso facto* members of their respective Departmental Society in parity with their Academic colleagues.

Colours Committee

The Ordinary Membership of the Committee has been reformed, with members from the General Committee reduced by one and members from the new Wellbeing Affairs Committee added. (Article 5.2.5.)

Entertainments Board

Ordinary Members of the Entertainments Board are reiterated as an option to be employed at the discretion of the Board.

Academic Affairs Committee

Modifications reflect the changes to meetings that Academic Representatives attend since the last edition (Article 7.3.) and the addition of the Vice President (Welfare and Wellbeing) as a non-voting permanent observer to the Committee. (Article 7.4.5.)

Wellbeing Affairs Committee

This Committee is new to reflect the introduction of the Wellbeing Representation Network. Its function mirrors the AAC, but with the relevant Wellbeing Representatives, the Vice President (Education) as a non-voting permanent observer, and the invitation of the ICU Deputy President (Welfare). (Article 8)

The Events Officer is a part of the Wellbeing Affairs Board as a General Committee resolution to alleviate the workload of the VPWW. (Article 8.4.)

Operations Board

The Academic and Welfare Officers are removed as they have been promoted to the Executive and renamed. (Article 9).

The Sponsorship and Alumni Officer is added to the Board.

Changes to Regulation Four – Meetings Standing Order

- The Union Council Standing Orders as approved in the October Council for this Session have been identified as the Standing Orders for the RCSU General Committee.

Formal Proposition for Adoption of New Constitution

Proposer - Michael Edwards, *RCSU President*

Seconders

Becky Neil – *RCSU Vice President (Operations)*

Ayush Dharap – *RCSU Vice President (Activities)*

Michael McGill - *RCSU Honorary Junior Treasurer and Mathematics Academic Departmental Representative*

Michael Suarez Vasquez - *RCSU Honorary Secretary*

Abhijay Sood – *RCSU Academic Affairs Officer*

Felix Thompson - *Chemistry Wellbeing Departmental Representative, member of General Committee*

Alexander Crew – *RCSU Events Officer*

Ansh Bhatnagar – *RCSU Science Challenge Chair*

Oscar Scrivens - *RCSU Publicity Officer*

Yizhou Yu – *Biology Academic Departmental Representative, member of General Committee*

Michaela Flegrová – *Physics Academic Departmental Representative, member of General Committee*

Ivan Tang – *RCSU Web Communications Officer*

Lidia Ripoll Sánchez - *Biochemistry Academic Departmental Representative, member of General Committee*

Katerina Stavri - *Chemistry Academic Departmental Representative, member of General Committee*

Lloyd James – *RCSU President-emeritus, 2016-17*

Union Notes

- The amended Constitution and Regulations of the Royal College of Science Union as proposed by its Executive and General Committees.
- The Regulations have been passed by the General Committee of the Union and are already in force, but due to constitutional provisions, a vote of Council is required to ratify and formally accept the constitutional amendments.

Union Believes

- That the aforementioned changes to the Governing Documents of the Royal College of Science Union represent positive change and will bring benefit to the students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Union Resolves

- To approve the proposed Governing Documents of the Royal College of Science Union, effective immediately to facilitate the upcoming Leadership Elections, and for full implementation starting in the 2018-19 Academic Session.