

Motion to change the role title of Ordinary Member to Council Representative

Proposer: Ansh Bhatnagar (FoNS UG OM)

Seconders: Rebecca Neil (FoNS UG OM), Michaela Flegrová (FoNS UG OM), Paul Balaji (FoE UG OM), Maurice Yap (FoE UG OM), Michael Edwards (RCSU President and former FoNS UG OM)

Union Notes:

1. Union Council is currently composed of a mix of Constituent Union volunteers, Management Group volunteers, Officer Trustees, other Officers of the Union, and 16 separately elected individuals known currently as Ordinary Members.
2. There is currently no readily available role description for the OMs in the governing documents of the Union.
3. The role was advertised in the 2017 Autumn Election with the following description:

What does an Ordinary Member do?

Ordinary Members speak for their fellow Undergraduates or Postgraduates in their faculty. While any student of Imperial College London can attend Council, or bring a paper to it for approval, the Ordinary Members are there to give a voice to students who may not otherwise volunteer with Imperial College Union. The roles exist to ensure that every faculty and study type has at least one dedicated representative on Council to air their views.

(found at <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/your-representatives/council-ordinary-members>)

4. That the Union's Representation Policy defines a 'representative' as:

3.1. A 'representative' is an individual, nominated from a larger group, who is responsible for conveying the views and experience of members of the group to a third party, and conveying information from a third party to members of the group.

Union Believes:

1. The OM roles are currently underused and are not seen as effective roles for the representation of students on the highest democratic body of the Union.
2. That OMs should play a valuable role at Council, representing the students of their respective faculties more effectively.
3. That this can be achieved with more students reaching out to their OMs.
4. That students would be more aware of the role and would have a better idea of what the role involved if the title of the position better reflected the role.
5. That the description used to advertise the OM role fits the definition of a 'representative' – they are there to “give a voice” to the students of their faculty, and to “air their views”.

6. That the name 'Council Representative' is a clear and accurate name for the OM role, as described by the Union.
7. That a formal role description is required to accurately and consistently advertise the role during elections and inform those in office of their expectations.

Union Resolves:

1. To change the name of the 'Ordinary Member' position to 'Council Representative'.
2. To come up with a formal role description for the Council Representative role, to be placed in the Representation Policy.
3. To give Council a vote to finalise the role description.
4. To mandate the Council Chair to act upon the above three points in time for the 2018 Autumn Elections.