

Council Chair Report

Owen Heaney, Council Chair

Since the last meeting of Council, there has been a full meeting of the Board of Trustees. This report aims to update Council with an overview of the business transacted at the meeting, with a view to increasing Council members' awareness of the Board's activities.

1st February 2018 – Board Meeting

The first full Board meeting since October, there were a great many items to get through. The discussions and decisions of most relevance to Council are listed below:

- The Associate Member Policy was renewed, with the only change of note from the previous version being that responsibility for setting the price for Associate Membership has been transferred from the defunct Executive Committee to the Appointments and Remuneration Committee (a sub-committee of the Board). Since the abolition of the Executive committee, the price has been adjusted by Officer Trustees and this change re-formalises the process.
- The Bye-Law changes required for the Leadership Elections, as approved by Council at the last meeting, were formally approved by the Board. Note that this does not include the renaming of Council Ordinary Members; this change shall be included when the fully-updated Bye-Laws resulting from the Governance Review are presented.
- An increase in the number of incidents and near-misses reported to the Union was noted and highlights the good work being undertaken to raise awareness of the importance of proper incident reporting,
- The Managing Director presented a report giving an overview of the health of the Union. As it stands, the Union is somewhat behind budget for the year to date, however steps are being taken to address this and there are no major concerns about the Union's financial health
- A report covering the progress of the Wellbeing Representation Network thus far was presented. While this report did highlight some issues early on in the implementation process, overall the Network has been successful in achieving the aims set out. In particular, the relatively small size of the Network allows Union staff to have meetings with volunteers individually or in small groups, which have proven extremely valuable sources of information on the wellbeing issues facing students. However, despite these successes, it was decided that the Network should not be expanded for the time being, either in number of representatives or expansion to postgraduate courses as well as undergraduate, as its long-term effectiveness is yet to be proven and the increased size would make it difficult to retain mandatory training for representatives.
- A brief discussion on the barriers to inclusivity in the Union was held, as a response to Imperial's Institutional Culture Report. There was general consensus that tackling these barriers should be a key priority for the Union.
- The Head of Finance and Resources gave a short presentation on the changes to Data Protection requirements due to come into force later this year. It is not anticipated that the changes will produce any major problems for the Union.

If you have any questions about anything discussed above or the Board of Trustees in general, I can be reached by email at chair@ic.ac.uk.