

**Imperial College Union**  
**Minutes of the sixth ordinary Meetings of Union Council**  
**11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 6:00pm –8:00pm**

**Present:**

Role	Name
Union Council Chair	Alex Auyang (AA/Chair)
Union President	Abhijay Sood (AS)
Deputy President (Welfare)	Shervin Sabeghi (SS)
Deputy President (Education)	Michaela Flegrova (MF)
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Ross Unwin (RU)
Deputy President (Finance and Services)	Sam Lee (SL)
Arts and Entertainment Sector Chair	India Marsden (IM)
BME Officer	Deborah Adegoke (DA)
CGCU President	Hayley Wong (HW)
Ethics and Environment Officer	Stephanie Yeung (SY)
Gender Equality Officer	Priantha Pretheshan (PP)
GSU PGR Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering)	Abderrahim Boualam (AdB)
ICSMSU President	Muntaha Naeem (MN)
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Natania Varshney (NV)
International Officer	Isabelle Zhang (IZ)
Knowledge Sector Chair	Alexander Nielsen (AN)
LGBT+ Officer	Keir Logan (KL)
Mental Health Officer	Lauren Wheeler (LW)
Recreation Sector Chair	Adam Turner (AT)
RSMSU Vice President (Education)	Katie McCann (KM)
Sports Sector Chair	Geoffrey Sheir (GS)
UG FoM Council Rep	Haider Nazerali (HZ)
UG FoM Council Rep	Gabrielle Mathews (GM)
UG FoNS Council Rep	Michael Kohn (MK)
UG FoNS Council Rep	Susan Rutter (SR)
UG FoE Council Rep	Hilliam Tung (HT)
UG FoE Council Rep	Olasoji Ajayi (OA)
UG FoE Council Rep	James White (JW)
PG FoNS Council Rep	Ansh Bhatnagar (AnB)
PG FoNS Council Rep	Chiara Riedel-Loria (CR-L)
PG Non-Faculty Council Rep	Luckme Thakkar (LT)

**Observers:**

Felix Editor	Calum Drysdale (CD)
Governance Officer	Victoria Agbontaen (VA)
Student	Petchara Newson (PN)
Student	Ceire Wincott (CW)

**Apologies:**

RCSU President	Aparna Pillai (AP)
RSMSU President	Jasmine Crocker (JC)

**Absent:**

Community and Faith Sector Chair	Joshua Ofengbai (JO)
Culture Sector Chair	Tin Hang Un (TU)
CGCU Vice President (Wellbeing)	Matthew Scott (MS)
CGCU Vice President (Education)	Aleksander Ziolkowski (AZ)
Disabilities Officer	Adya Rao (AR)
GSU President	Zixiao Wang (ZW)
GSU Vice President (Representation)	Lintong Li (LL)
ICSMSU Academic Chair	Rachel Kwok (RK)
Interfaith Officer	Safi Thanya Siamwalla (SaS)
Media Chair	Matej Genci (MG)
RCSU Vice President (Welfare)	Maria Borc (MB)
RCSU Vice President (Education)	Daniyar Ghani (DG)
PG FoE Council Rep	Zhongyao Jiang (ZJ)
PG FoE Council Rep	Ravi Shankar (RS)
PG FoM Council Rep	Ebenezer Donkor (ED)
PG FoM Council Rep	Subarna Chakraborty (SC)
PG Non-Faculty Council Rep	Sabrina Lui (SL)
RSMSU Welfare Officer	Emmeline Poole (EP)
Silwood Park President	Conor Nicoll (CN)
UG FoE Council Rep	Varun Srivastava (VS)
Working Class Officer	Grace Fisher (GF)

Item	Actions
<p><b>1. Chair's welcome and Chair's business</b>  1.1. Chair welcomed the Council to the fifth 2020-21 Council Meeting.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies:</b>  2.1. Apologies from:  Aparna Pillai (AP)  Jasmine Crocker (JC)</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>  3.1. Chair confirmed with Council if there were any changes required to be made to the minutes.  3.2. No dissensions were put forward.  3.3. Chair confirmed the minutes as accepted as consensus.</p>	
<p><b>4. Action Tracker</b>  4.1. SL noted that the UCU development project will be starting on the 14<sup>th</sup> June and major structural works will begin the 21<sup>st</sup> join throughout the Summer and should be finished by the start of term one.   4.2. AS an initial meeting has begun around associate memberships in the Union and the group will reconvene for discussion shortly. Ideas have been discussed to handle the issue internally before going to the College.</p>	
<b>Matters for Decision</b>	
<p><b>5. Science Museum's Shell-sponsored exhibition</b>  5.1. AN expressed that he felt submitted papers without notice is undesirable and he did not have sufficient time to read the paper in depth as he is overloaded with work, as are a number of other students. AN added that late submissions does not allow for Council members to consult with their constituents about the context of the paper, which consequently results in less scrutiny as well as less time to consider the unintended consequences of the paper or ask informed questions. In future, papers should not be accepted at late notice if they are not emergency, time-sensitive papers.   5.2. AAu explained that due to the scarcity of the agenda items for this Council meeting, there would be extra time to discuss it. AAu also stated the paper was time-sensitive but it is important that AB gets to present the proposed paper.   5.3. AB briefly highlighted the paper explaining that there is an exhibition at the Science Museum on carbon capture which is sponsored by Shell which has led to scientists among other groups, withdrawing from the exhibition. AB noted that we are partners in this community, so it is important for the students to speak out about these issues and to write a letter outlining our opposition to this, relaying the concerns in a constructive manner.   5.4. MK asked whether this has been done at other Universities and what type of response can be expected. AB explained that he is not certain about other Universities but felt like Imperial students should take a stance as we are in the same community as the Science Museum.   5.5. AN asked what type of relationship the Union has with the Science Museum. RU clarified that the Union does not have a specific relationship with the Science Museum and do not have any direct contacts there, but it is through our interaction with the College.</p>	

- 5.6.** IM expressed those similar issues to this one has come through Council and been relatively supported and there is not a huge amount of descension within the student body, but the bigger concern is the unintended consequences.
- 5.7.** RU stated that there are a number of CSP's at Imperial that are sponsored by Shell, as well as departments that are sponsored by Shell. By writing this letter, we are damming those societies from receiving sponsorship next year. As Shell could decide they no longer want to work with our societies.
- 5.8.** SS said it is important to have a grasp on where the Union efforts are targeted and why efforts are targeted in certain places. SS noted that as Imperial do not have any formal links with the Science Museum, what logic is used to where we decide to condemn things.
- 5.9.** AB explained that Imperial has a shared history/library with the Science Museum so there are formal links. AB stated that CSP's are independent of the Union and people should be able to understand the distinction between the student Union and a CSP. AB expressed that this letter is a message to the Science Museum rather than a message to Shell itself.
- 5.10.** AAu suggested to add an additional resolve that would be voted on separately to ask the OT's to produce a report on sponsorships, how much CSP's get from fossil fuel companies etc. as that sort of report would clarify certain aspects of these issues. SL advised this is being done as part of the Union's sponsorship review.
- 5.11.** HW mentioned that many CGCU societies are directly sponsored by Shell or affiliated with them. HW stated she would be uncomfortable for the Union, who is supposed to represent all students, to put out a letter condemning Shell which could potentially ruin students relationships with Shell.
- 5.12.** PN stated that the Edinburgh International Science Festival recently banned Shell from presenting at their events and Edinburgh University is a partner to that festival. Therefore, it is something similar to what is currently being asked for as some of their departments still receive Shell sponsorships.
- 5.13.** MF voiced agreement with the sentiment of the paper but does not agree with the paper as it is not the job of the Union to tell the Science Museum what to do as we have little to no relation to them. AS agreed that this issue may be outside the sphere of Union Council decision-making but said that writing a letter of this nature will not impact sponsorship, careers etc.
- 5.14.** PN said it is impossible to deny the fact that Imperial is linked with the Science Museum, we are neighbours with them and have students who go in there and for the Union to turn a blind-eye should be against what we want to progress in as a university.
- 5.15.** Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote minus resolves one. The results are as follows: 21% approve and 31% abstain and 48% reject (of a total 29 voting members). Paper was therefore passed with the amendments by Council.

**Matters for Report/Discussion**

**6. DPE Report**

- 6.1. MF noted that out the candidates interviewed for the Representation Coordinator role, none of the candidates were suitable, so interviews will be going out again. The salary for this role will also be increased to bring it in-line with other coordinators with the Student Opportunities & Development team. Abo asked for clarification on what the Rep Coordinators responsibilities would be. MF stated this would be to support the DPE and DPW as well as the Wellbeing Rep Network and Academic Rep Network, ensuring Reps have a point of contact and updating the union website on Rep information etc.
- 6.2. The digital education reporting policy went to the Provost Board and was approved. This will now be actioned from next year onwards, so all student lectures will be recorded.
- 6.3. MF noted the working together task group has started with 8 students having signed up from the meetings. MF noted that the SCA's close on Friday and encouraged Council members to vote for students who they feel should be recognised and nominated.
- 6.4. SR asked what the current state of copyright/IP policy around recorded lectures is. MF said that a summary document will be going out with the policy but highlighted that students do not retain any rights and by being in the lectures they agree to be recorded. However, there will be an option to not be recorded for students that sit within a certain area of the lecture theatre.
- 6.5. MK questioned how the Chemistry building being opened to all students will be advertised when it's ready. MF suggested Council members to offer ideas of how this might best to advertised to students.
- 6.6. Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows:  
27 approve and 1 abstain.
- 6.7. Paper was approved by Council.

**7. DPW Report**

- 7.1. SS highlighted that the College has agreed to extend the Imperial bursary for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year medics, which is currently does not cover.
- 7.2. SS added that they have been continuing ongoing piece of work around monitoring the attainment for different demographics and College have a plan to review 4-5 departments to look at results from Winter exams and compare it against different demographics to ensure there is not any bias towards students from lower socio-economic backgrounds.
- 7.3. SS added he has had a number of meetings around safety and harassment in the College. This includes providing safety alarms to students, communication campaigns and also education and training around harassment. SS noted he has been working on framework disciplinary procedures at the Union.
- 7.4. SS highlighted that he is looking to start a working group around sexual harassment and asked if any Council members are interested in being a part of this to get in touch with him.
- 7.5. MN mentioned if there is an update or progress on tackling period poverty. SS said that there had been discussing on this topic with the

To provide an update on progress with 'Period poverty' at the College.

<p>liberation officers and there had been different options considered with the College.</p> <p><b>7.6.</b> Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 26 approve, 2 reject.</p> <p><b>7.7.</b> Paper was approved by Council.</p>	
<p><b>8. DPCS Report</b></p> <p><b>8.1.</b> RU's report was submitted late but before the meeting.</p> <p><b>8.2.</b> RU noted that socially distanced activities should be allowed indoors, but he is awaiting a final list of lecture theatres, rooms and other spaces across campus that can be used for CSP activities.</p> <p><b>8.3.</b> CSP annual budgeting is continuing, and resolutions should be provided to MG's by the end of the week. Imperial athletes' budget has been completed and a funding model is being finalised that will work sustainably for sports clubs.</p> <p><b>8.4.</b> RU added he has secured additional funding for clubs to go on tour this Summer which continues until the end of December.</p> <p><b>8.5.</b> SR asked whether risk assessment guidance be updated for outdoor social activities now that government guidance has changed. RU said yes, and they will also be updated for indoor social activity.</p> <p><b>8.6.</b> IM asked what the reason for the delay on resolutions is as the meeting was initially on the 20<sup>th</sup> April. RU said that many people said they were unavailable, so it would have been impossible to hold the meeting with only 4-5 people present. This led RU to prioritise other work to get step 2 government guidance going, therefore resolutions had been deprioritised as it does not impact CSP's until next year.</p> <p><b>8.7.</b> HW asked if there will be another round of NAC application this year. RU said there was a round that closed on 10<sup>th</sup> May and there will be one more happening in June.</p> <p><b>8.8.</b> AT asked how CSP's know whether they are considered sport or recreation and whether they are able to have the room capacity rule for indoor sport. RU said any CSP that does a risk assessment for that activity will be able to play. It is activity rather than the club.</p> <p><b>8.9.</b> Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 19 approve, 5 abstain and 3 reject. Paper was approved by Council.</p>	
<p><b>9. DPFS Report</b></p> <p><b>9.1.</b> SL noted that he will be writing up project plans for user groups as well as for sponsorship contracts.</p> <p><b>9.2.</b> SL said that the bars and shops are open and have been trading very well. Reynolds will be opening next week on Wednesday's and Friday's and h-bar will be opening in a few more weeks as to not over-burden staff.</p> <p><b>9.3.</b> SL added that College have launched a sustainability committee which will sit under the Provost Board and will be responsible for implementing the recently released strategy. The DPFS will sit on this Board.</p>	

<p><b>9.4.</b> AN noted that he had been made aware by a society member of KN that gluten-free options at the Union do not seem to be labelled and staff do not know which options are gluten-free. MK stated that he wrote a paper on this at SSB.</p> <p><b>9.5.</b> Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 25 approve.</p> <p><b>9.6.</b> Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	<p>SL to ensure that all allergens are labelled correctly on the app.</p>
<p><b>10. President Report</b></p> <p><b>10.1.</b> AS mentioned that the Union's financial model is being changed so it does not rely on commercial surplus to run core activities.</p> <p><b>10.2.</b> AS added that discussions around Alice Gast's successor have started, noting the importance of having a student as part of the process and interviewing panel.</p> <p><b>10.3.</b> AS stated that he has spent the majority of his project time on SRI focused work with several meetings with students and staff with relevant interest in this area to compile a report that will go back to College.</p> <p><b>10.4.</b> AS highlighted that there is a plan and timeline now in place for the petition system, which will be concluded before the end of July.</p> <p><b>10.5.</b> AS added that the Union is piloting Volunteer townhalls, which is an idea that came out of GIB to keep students informed on the organisation, especially on the staff side.</p> <p><b>10.6.</b> Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 23 approve. .</p> <p><b>10.7.</b> Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>MF encouraged members of Council to apply for the available roles of Student Trustee within the Unions Board of Trustees which is the highest governing body of the Union.</p> <p>MF expressed that Council members are well placed to be a Trustee and also have the experience to be a Trustee. MF said it is a great opportunity for a student who has already been engaged with the Union to join the Board.</p> <p>AS explained a need for the July Union Council meeting which will be scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> July.</p>	