

Ratification of External Trustees

Proposer - Abhijay Sood – Union President, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Seconder – Michaela Flegrova – Deputy President (Education)

Union Notes:

1. As a registered charity, Imperial College Union has a Board of Trustees. The purpose of the Board is to ensure we are run effectively and properly, in accordance with our Governing Documents, UK law, and in financial prudence.
2. The Board is primarily made up of students and student representatives, alongside five external trustees and one alumni trustee who are there to provide external insight and oversight. Terms for external trustees are 3 years in length.
3. All Officer Trustees (President and Deputy Presidents), the Council Chair, and two student trustees are elected in a College-wide ballot, while the remaining two students are appointed, in accordance with Section F of the Union Constitution.
4. The appointments of those two students, as well as all external/alumni trustees, must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of Union Council.
5. We have conducted a recruitment process for the appointed student trustees, with successful candidates Jacques Bazile and Charlotte Drastich.
6. Jill Finney's term as Chair of the Board of Trustees is set to end at the end of this month.
7. In order to ensure an appropriate handover window, the Board would like to extend Jill Finney as Chair until the end of this calendar year.

Union Resolves:

1. To ratify the appointment of Jacques Bazile (Appendix A) to the Board of Trustees for the 2021-2022 academic year.
2. To ratify the appointment of Charlotte Drastich (Appendix B) to the Board of Trustees for the 2021-2022 academic year.
3. To ratify the extension of Jill Finney (Appendix C) as Chair of the Board until December 31st 2021.

Appendix A – Jacques Bazile

Jacques is a part-time Master's in Public Health student, based in the United States.

His application was extremely impressive, with relevant employment and charity experience. He answered the interview questions extremely well.

We decided to appoint him to the trustee role for these reasons, but also because we feel he would provide a potentially useful unusual point of view (remote PG student, minority ethnic background, studying a one-of-a-kind course at the College). Concerns about his detachment from the community and distance from London were assuaged by his engagement with his peers on his course, and the fact he will be travelling to the UK over the course of the next year and is happy to plan around our Governance calendar. This is aided by the fact that some meetings will be held remotely anyway.

We feel he would be a strong addition to the Board, and would encourage you to ratify his appointment.

Appendix B – Charlotte Drastich

Charlotte is a current first-year student in Life Sciences. She is the incoming Vice President of Biochemsoc.

As a first-year, Charlotte's experience is naturally more limited, though she did have some prior experience in a school setting from which she could draw. She offered good answers to the questions which were raised at interview, demonstrating a clear understanding of what is required of a trustee. We feel her proactive engagement, and international perspective, would be valuable on the Board. On that basis, we would encourage you to ratify her appointment.

It is important to note that while neither Jacques nor Charlotte have had lots of ICU experience or engagement, we believe the eight other student members of the Board, as well as the alumnus trustee, should more than make up for this. The benefit of outside experience is part of the case for both these appointments, as has often been the case for past appointed student trustees.

Appendix C – Jill Finney

Jill has had an illustrious career as a communications manager in the corporate sector, then as Deputy Chief Exec at the Care Quality Commission (**the** UK health regulator), and more recently in various charity trustee roles. She joined the ICU Board in 2015, and has been Chair since October 2017.

Her work has been of incredible value to the Union overall and to me personally. Perhaps most crucially, she pressed forward profound organisational change in the Union at the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year. This was a difficult and brave decision, which caused more than a few short-term headaches for us, but has meant the Union is now in a far stronger position to serve students than it otherwise would be. Everything we've achieved since: good new staff, increased funding, a new strategy, follows from Jill's decision to act. We should not take this for granted – many other organisations' boards (thinking of none in particular) sit on their hands until they absolutely have to act, in the face of problems of a similar scale.

While she is ready to hand over the reins to a new chair, we think it would be reckless to do so without allowing some time for handover. This is the rationale for the extension for which we are seeking your approval here.