

Imperial College Union

N.U.S. NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND U.L.U. DELEGATES – second reading

Proposed by the External Relations Working Group

Background

This paper has been prepared by the External Relations working group to establish a code of conduct that the group believes all Union delegates to ULU and NUS governing bodies should be expected to abide by. The group believes that the delegates elected to represent the students of Imperial College should not abuse their position and work against the aims, objects and policies of the Union. The group also seeks to ensure that delegates elected to represent the Union who fail to carry out their duties should be prevented from standing for these positions again.

Council notes that:

1. Both the "Yes" and "No" campaigns in our referendum acknowledged that the National Union of Students needs reform.
2. Our elected NUS delegates will have the opportunity to join one of many party political or religious "factions" upon arrival at conference.
3. ULU and ICU delegates are elected to represent all members of ICU.
4. The NUS National Conference CD4 Motions Document, which can be accessed from http://resource.nusonline.co.uk/media/resource/conf07_cd4_motions2.doc.
5. NUS National Conference is responsible for setting the broad policy agenda for NUS for the following year.
6. NUS delegates will be responsible for electing NUS officers for the subsequent academic year.

Council believes that:

1. Due to the diverse nature of our student body, it is inappropriate for an elected delegate to sit with a delegation based on their personal political viewpoint.
2. Our ability to reform the NUS will be severely hampered if our delegates do not vote as one.
3. Several motions under consideration at NUS Conference 2007, whilst they would make splendid topics for a debating tournament, have little direct relevance to members of ICU.
4. NUS and ULU delegates should vote and behave as instructed by ICU Council. Failure to do so is an abuse of the mandate they have received from the electorate.
5. The NUS should only campaign on issues that directly affect students as students.
6. Dedicating officer time and resources to campaigning on wider political issues is preventing the NUS from reaching its full potential when it comes to running effective campaigns on student issues such as top-up fees.
7. The day to day effectiveness of the NUS relies to a great extent on the ability of its senior officers. It is in ICU's best interests that our delegates elect officers who have views closest to that of ICU, particularly with regards to reforming the organisation.

Council resolves to

1. . **Insert the following paragraph into Regulation 1 (Officers of the Union Regulations)**

F. Job Descriptions for delegates:

Delegates elected to represent the Union to the National Union of Students (NUS) and the University of London Union (ULU) shall:

- i. Attend all Union relevant meetings and represent the views of the Union to the NUS National Conference and the ULU Council.*
- ii. Work with all other Union delegates to support motions that the Union Council believes further the aims, objects and policies of the Union.*
- iii. Work with all other Union delegates to prevent motions that the Union Council believes work against the aims, objects and policies of the Union from being passed.*
- iv. Be forbidden from joining any NUS or ULU political or religious faction.*

- v. *Where clarification is required on matters concerning 32.i to 32.iv, the delegate shall seek instruction from the Union President.*

Any NUS National Conference delegate who fails to attend the NUS National Conference without giving ten College day's notice and a reason to the satisfaction of the President or, in the view of the Council expressed through a disciplinary motion, fails to fulfil the tasks outlined in 32 shall be forbidden from running for NUS Conference positions again.

Any ULU Council delegate who fails to attend two ULU Council Meetings without giving five College day's notice and a reason to the satisfaction of the President shall be deemed to have automatically resigned from their position and will be forbidden from running for ULU Council positions again.

2. Insert the following paragraph into Regulation 2 (Elections and Referenda Regulations)

33. *The Union's delegates for the National Union of Students' National Conference shall be the President and other delegates elected by and from the Full Membership by College-wide secret ballot during the Spring Term on dates approved by the Union Council. Should a delegate resign ten or more College days in advance of the NUS National Conference or any ULU Council meeting then the President shall appoint a replacement and report his or her decision to the following Union Council Meeting. The Union Council may appoint an observer to attend the NUS National Conference and report on its outcomes and the conduct of Union delegates to the first Union Council meeting of the Summer Term.*

JC & SB