



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the seventh ordinary meeting of the  
**Council**  
of the  
Imperial College Union  
in the 2006-2007 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall at 6.20pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> April  
2007

**Present:**

Council Chair	Daniel McGuinness
President	John Collins
Deputy President (Education & Welfare)	Ben Harris
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Jon Matthews
Deputy President (Graduate Students)	Shama Rahman – left 9.05pm, proxy SCC Chair
C & G CU President	James Fok
ICSMSU President	Shiv Chopra
ACC Chair	Luke Taylor
RCC Chair	Mark Flower
RAG Chair	Stephen Brown
SCC Chair	James Millen
RCSU Welfare Officer	Jennifer Morgan
C&GU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexandra Martinsson Dorff
RCSU Academic Affairs Rep (Taught)	Matthew Hartfield
RCSU Research Representative	Daniel Sauder
C&GCU Representatives (Undergraduate)	Edo Abraham
	Steven King
	Yanyan Huang
C&GCU Representatives (Postgraduate)	Ashley Brown
RCSU Representative (Postgraduate)	Alex Guite
ICSMSU Rep (Undergraduate)	Anojan Arulanathan
	Zain Sikafi
<b>Permanent observers</b>	
Permanent Secretary	Peter Haldane
Finance Manager	Dave Parry
Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

**Observers:** Mark Mearing- Smith, Salma Began, Daniel Nill

**Apologies:** Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Eric Lai, A&E Chair Margaret Holme, OSC Chair Sabena Mughal, RSM President Sebastian Turner Equal Opportunities Officer Thomas Brodrick ICSMSU Welfare Officer Mohammedadbbas Khaki ICSMSU Education Rep 123 Eleanor Barry, C&GCU Representatives (Undergraduate) Nick Simpson & Yanyan Huang, Non Faculty Rep Andrew Sykes C&GU Research Representative Eirini Spentza, Welfare Campaigns Office Kirsty Patterson (Proxy DPFS), ICSMSU Education Rep 456 Zacharia Silk,

**Not present:** RCSU President Jad Marrouche, Media Group Chair James Yearsley CAG Chair Radha Gadhok, Silwood Park Chair Michael Garrett, WCUS President Jay Khaneka, C&GU Welfare Officer Emma Persky, C&GCU Representatives (Postgraduate) Viktor Vojnovski ICSMSU Rep (Undergraduate) Jitin Verma RSCU Representatives (Undergraduate) Arik Funke, Adi Misra-Godwin & Simon Nance

**1. CHAIRS BUSINESS**

**NOTED:**

- a) The guillotine has been removed as the Hillary Benn event has been cancelled.

**2. MINUTES 13.03.07**

**NOTED:**

- a) The Head of Student Services was present.
- b) In regards to the 19.1 – NUS Motions, the ‘No platform policy’ was a free vote.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **To pass the amended minutes**

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**NOTED:**

- a) The President gave the following update as to what had occurred since the implementation of the Environmental policy.
  - i. Many areas of the policy have been implemented.
  - ii. An Environmental Consultant has been employed.
  - iii. Recycled paper is being used within the ICU Office.

**4. PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**RECEIVED:** The report was presented President

**NOTED:**

- a) The meeting with college to discuss funding of the Masterplan was not terribly productive.
  - i. The President is cycling to raise funds for the Masterplan and encouraged Council to sponsor the ride.
- b) In regards to the Environmental Policy, the following was discussed:
  - i. Glasses are now able to be taken outside, however, skiffs are still being used for Wednesday and Friday nights as well as big event evenings. There have been no major incidents thus far with glass being broken outside.
  - ii. Crockery and cutlery is in use with the catering outlets, however, the polystyrene containers will still be in used until the stocks are depleted.
  - iii. Westminster Council will not recycle the hard plastic skiffs, however an external company has been sourced who will take the away and recycle.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **To accept the report.**

## **5. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President in the absence of the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) Planning for clubs training is in progress
  - i. Training will begin in June.
  - ii. It is being investigated if podcasts and E-learning are an option to deliver training.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **To accept the report.**

## **6. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) REPORT**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) It was questioned as to why Hammersmith was referred to as 'Hammershit'.
  - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) sincerely apologised for the typing error.
- b) It was questioned by the RCC Chair as to why an accident report was not filled out for the severe sunburn that the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) received whilst he was undertaking activity.
  - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that the sunburn received was not during club activity.
- c) It was proposed to reject the report due the typing error. Council moved to vote on rejecting the report.

FOR	12
AGAINST	9

Falls

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **To accept the report.**

## **7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NOTED:

- a) It was questioned as to which clubs have not submitted budgets.
  - i. This information is known by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) who was not present.
- b) CSC's were asked to encourage clubs who have not submitted their completed tour applications to do so.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **To accept the report.**

***The agenda was reorder to hear agenda item 9 and 10 next as the Deputy President (Graduate Students) had left the room.***

**9. FELIX REPORT**

NOTED:

- a) It was stated that a Felix report that was rejected had not been resubmitted.
  - i. This could not be substantiated.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.**

**10. NUS CONFERENCE REPORT**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President expressed pride in the way the delegation conducted themselves at conference.
- b) The process leading up to conference can be improved for next year.
- c) The Conference was very well run and not as farcical as anticipated.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.**

***The agenda was reordered to hear agenda item 8 as the next item of business.***

**8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (GRADUATE STUDENTS) REPORT**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Graduate Students)

NOTED:

- a) The Postgraduate Careers Fair is taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.**

***The agenda was reordered to hear agenda item 12 as the next item of business.***

**12. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (GRADUATE STUDENTS) REFORM**

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President and Deputy President (Graduate Students)

NOTED:

- a) Of the 3 models proposed, model 2 has had the least support.
- b) Executive Committee is broadly in support of model 3.

- c) The Deputy President (Graduate Students) stated the following:
  - i. Model 1 retains leadership with students.
  - ii. Model 3 promotes best practice being lead by staff with the staff also carrying institutional memory.
  - iii. If model 3 does move ahead, an honorarium may also be able to be provided to the volunteers over summer.
  - iv. The staff member under model 3 will also support Faculty Unions.
- d) The Deputy President (Graduate Students) expressed concern that the staff member may try to 'create their own empire' and take over the leadership of the GSA.
  - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that in his opinion model 3 is not an affront to democracy as the Staff Student Protocol protects against this by prohibiting 'generation or development' of policy.
- e) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that Imperial College Union is very understaffed compared to other unions.
- f) Model 3 is similar to what is used in Cardiff and Bristol Universities.
  - i. The staff member at Cardiff is employed by the college thus received direction from College.
- g) Daniel Sauder stated that model 3 potentially gives loss of value for money for the GSA as the staff member is not exclusive.
  - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that the GSA does need to start supporting itself financially just as other Faculty Union and CSC's do.
  - ii. The President assured that within the Job Description of the staff member, their focus would be on the GSA.
- h) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) suggested that a large space would need to be found to house the volunteers and staff member.
  - i. It was suggested to swap the current Deputy President (Finance & Services) and Deputy President (Graduate Students) offices.
  - ii. The Deputy President (Graduate Students) stated that she would like the space to be a 'common room' type area.
- i) Daniel Sauder objected to Resolve 4, 23, ii. In that the term 'Constitution' should be replaced with 'Standing Orders' and proposed that 'Constitution should be replaced with 'Standing Orders'.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) **Resolve 4, 23, ii to read as the following:**
  - i. Be responsible for the development and preliminary interpretation of their Standing Orders.*
- j) Council moved to vote on accepting the paper.

FOR	21
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	1

Passes

**RESOLVED:**

- 2) **To endorse Model 3 of the proposal**
- 3) **To replace all references to the Deputy President (Graduate Students) with Graduate Students' Association Chair;**
- 4) **To amend the Union Constitution to ensure that the GSA Chair retains a position on the ICU Council, Executive and Management and Planning Group (to be incorporated into the next round of governance changes)**

- 5) To amend the job descriptions in regulation one of the Union Constitution by removing the whole of paragraph 20 (job descriptions for Sabbatical Officers) and inserting the following paragraph under section E (job descriptions for non Sabbatical Officers):

***“23. The Chair of the Graduate Students Association shall:***

- i. Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union,***
- ii. Be responsible for the development and preliminary interpretation of their Standing Orders***
- iii. Be responsible for the effective involvement, welfare and representation within both the College and the Union, of students registered on postgraduate courses,***
- iv. Be responsible for co-ordinating the provision of graduate student development and progression within Union activities,***
- v. Support postgraduate students’ involvement in all relevant areas of Union and College activity,***
- vi. Liaise with Union and College staff as appropriate including close day-to-day interaction with the staff postgraduate co-ordinator,***
- vii. Attend the relevant Union and College Committees,***
- viii. Be responsible for keeping College informed of graduate students’ opinion on academic affairs***
- ix. Represent the Union on external committees as appropriate,***
- x. Report to Union Committees as appropriate,***
- xi. Work with the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) as appropriate to promote the academic interests and welfare concerns of Union graduate members***
- xii. Negotiate other duties with the President.***
- xiii. Carry out such duties as may, from time to time, be laid down by the Council or the Executive Committee.”***

***The agenda resumed back to normal ordering.***

## **11. GOVERNANCE REVIEW PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

RECEIVED: The presentation was conducted by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Council Chair would be equal to the President on the Trustee Board.
- b) The following was discussed in regards to the removal of positions on Council and Executive Committee
  - i. The SCC Chair stated that Council needs to have appropriate representation as this is the policy making body of the Union and although large, offers a good opportunity for effective debate.
  - ii. Concern was raised that Sabbaticals and Faculty Union President being the only members of the Union involved in the operational aspect.
  - iii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that generally members do not get involved in the Union to sort out the ‘operational day to day’ running of the Union.
  - iv. The RAG Chair expressed that he was against the slim down of the

Executive Committee as in his understanding, Executive Committee is responsible for resource allocation and this should be accountable for their actions; MPG may lose transparency of these actions.

- v. It was reminded that the Representation and Welfare Board and Clubs and Societies Board are also responsible for policy making.
- vi. The President stated that students have the right to 'get things done' but don't need to be part of the team that does this.
- vii. The amount of money that Executive Committee has in the reserve could be transferred to MPG.
- viii. The RCC Chair expressed that the operational board, whatever form it takes, needs to be accountable.
- ix. The operational board must not be 'blinker' and needs to have subjective minds on it.
- x. Ashley Brown stated the Executive Committee is a 'money pot' that currently is operating halfway between policy making and 'nuts and bolts operations'

***The Council Chair stopped discussion at this point to allow the next item of business to be heard; Any Other Business.***

### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **13.1 – EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS ON A CASUAL BASIS**

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NOTED:

- a) The President stated that the paper presented has been submitted with best intentions but needs to be inserted in to a more powerful document rather than be policy which lapses.
- b) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) raised the following points:
  - i. In regards to Resolve 1, he has researched College Policy and he can not find any references to a maximum of working hours and that the Union should work with College if Council passes this resolve.
  - ii. In regards to Resolve 2, the Staff Student Protocol is being presented to the next Council to consideration and a protective clause can be included in this document.
  - iii. Resolve 3 will be covered in the updated Constitution.
- c) Ashley Brown stated that the paper responds to a situation that has occurred recently and that this paper offers a solution to what is occurring now and the bigger picture can be sorted out by the means suggested by the President.
  - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that in his belief the current issue is being resolved and does not need this policy passed to assist.
- d) The President stated that the current Constitution covers the current issue and encouraged Council to not 'pass policy on the hoof'.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To refer the submitted paper to the Governance working Group for consideration.

#### **13.2 - REMOVAL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

RECEIVED: A verbal submission was given by Ashley Brown.

NOTED:

- a) Council is in danger of not achieving quorum with members being absent.
  - i. There are a number of members who have repeatedly failed to attend Council.
- b) The current Constitution protects ex officio members from being removed from committees for failure to attend.
- c) It was suggest that Censure and no confidence of these members may be a way of removing them.
- d) Faculty Union Presidents were asked to mandate members to attend.

**ACTION:**

1. **Faculty Union Presidents to remind their representatives the importance of attending Union meetings.**

*The agenda reverted to item 11, Governance review and discussion however at this point quorum was called and Council was found to not be quorate.*

**Meeting closed 8.10pm**

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Council

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2006/07

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of the Meeting