

Imperial College Union

TRUSTEE BOARD GOVERNANCE REFORMS

A note by John Collins, IC Union President

Introduction

After hundreds of hours of volunteer and Sabbatical time, after seeking advice from lawyers, stakeholders and students, after hours of discussion and consultation, we have produced a set of constitutional changes that, if implemented, will allow our Union to become a better governed, strategic, student led organisation.

If you vote for these reforms, ICU will:

1. Become an independently registered official charity,
2. Be governed by a professional, student led Trustee Board,
3. Employ best practice of charity governance,
4. Bring in external trustees with years of experience in finance, HR, law and commercial services,
5. Strengthen the Union Council by giving it more legislative powers,
6. Streamline the Executive Committee by making its focus on day-to-day administration,
7. Reduce the number of official Union Meetings from 61 to 51 per annum and reduce CSB and RWB quorums to six members,
8. Clarify the Union's relationship with the College (particularly with regard to Media complaints), reducing confusion and conflict in the future,
9. Make elections fairer and less liable to fall into farce,
10. Create a framework from which long term strategic vision for ICU can be created, implemented, and reviewed.

I have spoken to four CSCs, three Council meetings and countless other Union Committees. We have publicised this proposal in Felix, Live! and on the ICU website. With the exception of minor niggles and typographic errors, I have heard nothing but support for this proposal.

So Council, I urge you to take a deep breath, and vote for these reforms.

Decision required

1. To approve the amended constitution
2. To approve the amended regulations
3. To approve the amended Code of Practice (previously known as the Memorandum of Understanding)
4. To approve the amended Code of Practice Appendices (including a new Annex for Defamation)

JC 05/06/07