

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the second ordinary meeting of
the
Council
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2007-2008 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on the 29th October 2007 at 6.35pm.

Present:

Council Chair	Mark Mearing Smith
President	Stephen Brown
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Alistair Cott
Deputy President (Education & Welfare)	Kirsty Patterson
ICSMSU President	Tim Wills
RCSU President	Jennifer Morgan
GSA Chair	Jon Matthews
A&E Chair	Andy Mason
OSC Chair	Marie- Louisa Awolaja
Media Group Chair	Karl Bonney
RSM President	Danny Hill
SCC Chair	Lily Topham
CAG Chair	Radha Gadhok
RAG Chair	Karandeep Dhanoa
Welfare Campaigns Officer	Hannah Theodorou
RCSU Welfare Officer	Inger Eriksson
CGGU Welfare Officer	Sam Piper
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexander Grisman
RCSU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Andreas Esau
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Research)	Eirini Spentza
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Ashley Brown, Caroline Clark, Alex Guite, Danny McGuinness, Tom Roberts Felix Editor, Camilla Royle, Rosie Smithells

Apologies: Deputy President (Finance & Services) Chris Larvin (Proxy to President), CGCU President Tristan Sherliker, ACC Chair Luke Taylor, RCC Chair Eugene Chang (proxy Phil Leadbeater) Equal Opportunities Officer Chiraush Patel, WCUS President Leila Serrao Union Manager Peter Haldane

Not present:

ICSMSU Welfare Officer – Mo Khaki, ICSMSU Education Rep (123) Sukhpreet Dubb, ICSMSU Education Rep (56) Hannah Dixon, ICSMSU Education Rep (4 and PG) Laura Thomas

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The Chair explained the differences between agenda items; reports, decisions, discussions.

2. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

RECEIVED: Minutes from 8th October 2007

NOTED:

- a) In regards to item 12.1 (Higher Education funding), the GSA Chair stated that the resolution was to suspend the current policy, not revoke.
 - i. The President agreed that the GSA Chair was correct on this point.
 - ii. The amended resolutions for item 12.1 from the minutes of 8th October 2007 are as follows:

1) To suspend all previous policy on higher education funding pending a consultation with the student body to be coordinated by the President and the Deputy President (Education and Welfare). This suspension expires on 31st January 2008.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the amended minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING – None

4. CLUBS AND SOCIETIES BOARD REPRESENTATIVES TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Council Chair

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to vote and the paper was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To appoint the SCC Chair, Lily Topham, and RSM Chair, Danny Hill to represent the Clubs and Societies Board to Executive Committee.

5. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM STUDENT TRUSTEE TO TRUSTEE BOARD

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President passed on Omar Hashmi's apologies who unfortunately could not be at the meeting.
- b) Mr Hashmi was the founder and President of the Political Sciences Society.
- c) Council moved to a vote and the paper was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To appoint Omar Hashmi as an Interim Student Trustee.

6. COURT APPOINTMENT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote and there were no objections.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To appoint Mark Flower to the Union Court as the Faculty of Engineering representative.**
- 2) To accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee and appoint Eleanor Jay to the Union Court.**

7. APPOINTMENT OF LAY TRUSTEE TO TRUSTEE BOARD

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Lewis Hands has the experience and qualities that will greatly benefit the Trustee Board.
- b) The next meeting of the Trustee Board is on the 8th November 2007.
- c) It was questioned if Council were content for authority to be delegated to Executive Committee to ratify the outstanding Lay Trustee position.
 - i. In the first instance, the Trustee Board Appointments Committee screen applicants.
 - ii. Any decisions will be reported to Council.
- d) Council moved to a vote on both decisions required and they were both passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To appoint Lewis Hands as a Lay Trustee of Imperial College Union. His period of office shall terminate on August 1 2010.**
- 2) To allow the Executive Committee to appoint a Lay Trustee to fill the vacancy should a suitable candidate be identified. If the Executive Committee fails to appoint a Lay Trustee before the next meeting of the Board on 8 November then this power shall lapse.**

8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

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

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) will be moving to a location close by to campuses thus still being accessible if required.
- b) It was reiterated that searching for accommodation was not undertaken during sabbatical office hours.
- c) Council moved to a vote and there were no objections.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To allow the Deputy President (Education and Welfare), Kirsty Patterson, to move out of halls and organise her own living arrangements within close proximity to the South Kensington Campus.**
- 2) To grant the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) the full living-out allowance in accordance with the Officer's Halls Rooms Policy.**

9. GREEN ROOF POLICY

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the RAG Chair

NOTED:

- a) Imperial College has the space to potentially have the largest green roof in London.
- b) The nature of a Green Roof was explained and the opportunities to house wildlife were pointed out
- c) Simplified, creating a Green Roof would be replacing the gravel roofs with 'Green space'.
- d) It was proposed to remove 'Union believes 7', The Grass is always Greener on the top of a building' as this was not factual.
 - i. It was pointed out that this is purely a phrase that is widely known to most.
 - ii. Council moved to a vote on not removing 'Union believes 7'.

FOR	12
ABSTAIN	8

Passes

RESOLVED:

- 1) **Union believes 7, 'The Grass is always Greener on the top of a building' to remain in the document.**
- e) The GSA Chair offered point of information in that there is already a green roof in the Flowers building.
 - i. The RAG Chair stated that this proves that this initiative works and College are in support.
- f) On questioning where the roof would go, it was stated that Huxley would be an ideal location.
 - i. It was pointed that Huxley is going to be refurbished in the near future.
 - ii. It was reminded that Council is not looking at the logistics, just to support in principle.
- g) It was reiterated that College staff are in support of this scheme.
- h) Council moved to vote on accepting the policy in its entirety and it was passed unanimously with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To endorse the Green Roof Project and give it the backing of Imperial College Union.**
- 2) **To mandate the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) to draft a proposal to the College with the help of the RAG Chair and other interested parties.**
- 3) **To mandate the President to Champion the proposal to key members of College Staff.**
- 4) **To publicise the Green Roof Project to Imperial College Students and Staff to raise awareness and gather support for the project.**
- 5) **To mandate the Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) to encourage the involvement of Clubs and Societies, especially affected DepSocs and those with environmental interests.**

10. NUS GOVERNANCE

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President gave the background on the NUS Governance review and expressed his strong opinion that this was long overdue.

- b) The GSA Chair questioned the relevance of the 'further resolves' and questioned if this potentially a 'backdoor' opportunity to undertake a referendum.
 - i. The President assured that this was not the case at all. If a referendum was to occur, it would follow the correct Constitutional procedure.
 - ii. The President stated that Edinburgh University are inserting a similar resolve in the paper they are also submitting.
- c) Camilla Royle expressed her disagreement with 'Union Notes 5', in that this statement can not be substantiated.
 - i. The President replied that currently the only opposition that the reform has had has been from these groups; opposition such as Facebook groups.
 - ii. The GSA Chair suggested striking the word 'only' from 'Union Notes 5'. The President accepted this amendment.

RESOLVED:

1) 'Union Notes 5' to read 'That there is significant socialist opposition to the reforms'.

- d) The CGCU Academic Representative (Research) had objection to the wording of 'Union Believes 5' and stated this was too strong. It was suggested to strike it.
 - i. The President stated that it had been his observation that it is the narrow sectional interest groups that have had the most opposition to the reform and that it ties in to 'Union notes 5'.
- e) The President expressed his surprise that he was in agreement with the NUS President for a change.
- f) Council moved to vote on accepting the paper and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOVLED:

2) to accept the following as policy

Imperial College Union notes

1. The reforms laid out in this paper which were proposed by the National Executive Committee.
2. The NUS's constitutional requirement that all proposed changes to the constitution have to be passed by 2 consecutive conferences.
3. An Extraordinary NUS Conference can be requested by 25 Unions.
4. NUS sabbaticals have stated that if the NUS does not change then the organisation will not have a long term future.
5. That there is significant socialist opposition to the reforms.
6. The National President has publicly stated that the hard left are opposing these reforms out of self-interest and not out of genuine concern for the future of the NUS.
7. The NUS's VP (Education) has stated that NUS's democratic structures are "broken" and that the NEC received "poor management advice" when presented with over optimistic sales projections for the NUS Extra Discount card.
8. The unhealthy state of NUS's finances. In recent years the NUS has used the proceeds from the sale of capital assets to meet running costs.
9. That the NUS has acknowledged it has lost several key arguments with the general public.
10. That with around 30% turnout last autumn our members voted 53% in favour of NUS affiliation.
11. The motion that Imperial College Union submitted to the last NUS Annual Conference, asking the NUS to support our Access to Rivers Policy, was not discussed due to time constraints.

Imperial College Union believes

1. That the narrow margin of victory for the pro-affiliation campaign suggests that there is a reasonably large degree of scepticism as to the benefits of NUS

affiliation.

2. That the establishment of an NUS board means that the NUS will be less likely in the future to suffer from poor financial management.
3. That the proposed reforms will make it more likely that NUS policy is evidence based, more relevant and more likely to get the NUS taken seriously by students, decision makers and the general public.
4. Despite the recent positive steps to reduce affiliation fees our current fee of £44,000 is still too high.
5. That the hard left are opposing the governance review out of political self interest and not out of genuine concern for students.
6. NUS's current democratic structures are inaccessible to the detriment, not just of the members of ICU Canoe Club, but to all students.

Imperial College Union further believes

1. That if this attempt at NUS reform fails then it is a waste of our financial resources and Sabbaticals time engaging with an organisation that refuses to change due to the vested interests and wrecking tactics of the hard left.

Imperial College Union resolves

1. To support the broad direction of movement outlined in the proposed NUS Governance reforms.
2. To mandate the President to write to the NUS President adding Imperial College Union to the list of Unions requesting an Extraordinary Conference to debate the governance proposals.
3. To propose and support reforms which will make the NUS better value for money.

Imperial College Union further resolves

1. Should the governance reforms fail to be passed by both Extraordinary Conference this term and Annual Conference in Spring, with particular interest in the establishment of an NUS Board with absolute financial and legal responsibility for all of NUS's activities, then Imperial College Union should reconsider whether or not we wish to remain NUS affiliates.

11. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Much of the President's time has been spent on disciplinary issues.
- b) Recently attended an Aldwych meeting in Birmingham with the majority of the discussion focusing on NUS Governance changes.
- c) The President expressed great disappointment with the lack of campaigning being undertaken by Candidates in Central Union and Faculty Union elections.
- d) The University of London Heads of College review will now be released in January/February.
 - i. The President suggested that this is due to the incompetence of University of London Staff and the President expressed sympathy for ULU having to deal with the University of London.
- e) There were some issues that arose with the RSM Freshers dinner and these are now being investigated.
- f) It was questioned as to who would be deciding on what questions to ask in regards to the HEF debate.
 - i. Sample questions will be taken to Representation and Welfare Board for comment.

- ii. Any interested parties were invited to attend the next meeting of Representation and Welfare Board or contact the President or Deputy President (Education & Welfare).
- g) It was requested that students be able to access all results from the HEF survey rather than just the summary presented to Council.
 - i. It was assured by the President that results could be accessed.
- h) The GSA Chair requested that the President forward on any information pertaining to PhD funding so as to not duplicate work and ensure that the officers were 'reading from the same page'.
- i) The President stated that College Finance had asked the Union to provide evidence of the College agreeing to level fund PhD students.
 - i. The President responded to the query with the appropriate reference documents and with the appropriate senior College Staff being made aware that this query was referred to him.
- j) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report**

12. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) The Medics Table Tennis club that was prevented from forming were asked to contact the ICU Table Tennis club and potentially become a sub committee of them.
- b) It was questioned what is the current state of WCUS Clubs now that Kent University Students are on Wye campus.
 - i. The President stated that there are currently only a few Kent Freshers at Wye Campus and they are not impacting in Clubs and Societies.
- c) It was questioned what the main points were to come out of the meeting with Arts Imperial.
 - ii. The main point to come out of the meeting was closer ties with advertising and ticket sales would like to be achieved.
- d) The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) is to forward on the email he received in regards to students being able to audition for a unique Big Brother experience.

ACTION:

- 1. **The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) to forward on to CSC's the email pertaining to Big Brother auditions.**

- e) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report**

13. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) apologised for the lateness of her report and that she spelt Imperial College with a small 'I'.
- b) The movies being played for RISE week are Volva and Motorcycle Diaries.
 - i. These are being played on the Tuesday and Thursday night.

- c) In regards to the potential HEF debate, the Rector would make the debate high profile and offer a balanced argument to the issue.
 - i. It was reiterated that no logistics to the HEF debate have been decided.
- d) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report

14. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) It was reported that the Deputy President (Finance & Services) finished the Dublin Marathon in 4 hours 30 minutes.
 - i. Council applauded this result.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report

15. GSA REPORT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the GSA Chair

NOTED:

- a) The reason that the GSA Chair has submitted this report was due to the last report being rejected by Council.
- b) It was questioned as to what dealing the GSA Chair had had with Nigel Wheatly in regards to Postgraduate students who have undertaken an interruption of study.
 - i. The GSA Chair stated that Registry have informed him that the issue has been resolved. However the GSA Chair expressed concern that this issue will occur again.
- c) The ICSMSU President expressed great reservations with the paper and questioned to what extent the GSA Chair had been involved with the initial discussions of graduate medical students about the provision for graduate-entry medical students.
 - i. The discussion that the ICSMSU President had with the GSA Chair was a '5 minute' conversation before the first Council meeting of term and the ICSMSU President did not consider this to be substantive.
 - ii. The GSA Chair stated that he wished to compile all the feedback from the discussions and meet with the ICSMSU President once he had something to present as he appreciates that they are both busy.
- d) The question was raised as to whether the money paid to the GSA Chair of £2000 covers the time over summer break or the entirety of the time in office.
 - i. It is unclear what the honorarium covers as this decision was referred back to the GSA and the requested audit trail is yet to be presented to the President.
 - ii. The ICSMSU President asked Council to consider if the presented report justified £2000 being paid for essentially 5 weeks of work.
- e) Danny McGuinness questioned the extent of the consultation with the graduate medical students had been and whether it was talking to a few 'mates in the bar'.
 - i. The GSA Chair assured that this was not the case but stated that it was proving difficult to extract the data from Registry as to whom the students are.

- f) Alex Guite expressed his opinion that the GSA had gone 'invisible' over the Summer months and questioned if there were any events planned for the near future.
- i. The GSA Chair stated that the GSA budget had been frozen and he did not want to break finance regulations by planning any activity whilst this was the case.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that events were able to be planned last year as the position was that of a Deputy President and thus the officer had time to plan and execute events.
 - iii. Many members of Council objected to the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) statement and reiterated that most Union events are organised by volunteer officers.
 - iv. The President stated that the GSA budget will be unfrozen when the requested audit trail has been provided.
- g) It was questioned as to what the status of recruiting staff support was and the President stated that he has been informed that this recruitment is in progress.
- h) The GSA Chair was asked to clarify the significant differences in the resubmitted report.
- i. The GSA Chair stated that in regards to casework, 2 new cases had been taken on.
 - ii. The section on elections had been expanded and generally expanded points to 'do himself justice'.
 - iii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that there had also been an all Postgraduate mail out at the beginning of term. However, it was pointed that the majority of the work was undertaken by the member of staff. The GSA Chair replied by stating he was not informed of when the mail out was taking place.
- i) The RCSU President reminded Council that Council is there to accept or reject the GSA Chair's report and Councillors should not be voting with the Honorarium in mind.
- j) Council moved to vote on accepting the report.
- | | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 4 |
| AGAINST | 4 |
| ABSTAIN | 12 |
- k) The GSA Chair requested that the vote take place again as not all voting members of Council present in the room had voted; there were 22 voting members and only 20 had cast votes.
- i. Council moved to vote on accepting the report.
- | | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 5 |
| AGAINST | 6 |
| ABSTAIN | 11 |

Falls

RESOLVED:

1) To reject the report.

- i) The Council Chair took a moment to consider the next phase as required by the Union Constitution, Regulation 6, Standing Orders for all Union meetings, section C. 80
- 'The re-presented report may be discussed and voted upon in the same manner as a normal report. If it is rejected a motion of censure in relation to the author of the report will be immediately added to the agenda directly after the rejected report.'*
- ii. The GSA Chair stated to make matters simpler; he would resign from the position of GSA Chair effective immediately. The GSA Chair gave in his voting card and left the room at 8pm.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 BEIT REDEVELOPMENT FUNDING CORRECTION

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote and the paper was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To ratify the clarification made by the Executive Committee to the minutes of the sixth ordinary meeting of Council in the 2006/07 academic year which is as follows:

'To clarify that the funding for the Beit Redevelopment Project should be taken from the Union General Reserve not the Executive Reserve and append a note of this clarification to the minutes of the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the 2005-2006 session.'

16.2 GSA ELECTIONS/VACANT GSA CHAIR POSITION

NOTED:

- a) It was pointed out that now as the GSA Chair has resigned, there is no Returning Officer for the GSA elections.
- b) It was suggest that any GSA Chair duties default to the sabbatical Officers and the President concurred.
- c) It was stated that Union Court are meeting on the 30th October and the President shall contact the Court Chair to seek advice on how to proceed with the GSA elections.
- d) It was proposed in the interim that the current GSA elections be suspended due to there being no Returning Officer.
 - i. Council moved to a vote and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To suspend the current GSA elections.

ACTION:

1. The President to seek advice from the Court Chair as to how to advance with the GSA Elections.
2. The President to contact the current candidates in the GSA elections for inform of the suspension of GSA elections.

Meeting closed 8.15pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2007/08

_____ Chair of the Meeting