

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the third 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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 6.35pm.

**Present:**

Council Chair	Mark Mearing Smith
President	Stephen Brown
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Alistair Cott
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Chris Larvin
ICSMSU President	Tim Wills
RCSU President	Jennifer Morgan
ACC Chair	Luke Taylor
A&E Chair	Andy Mason
OSC Chair	Marie- Louisa Awolaja
RCC Chair	Eugene Chang
RSM President	Danny Hill
SCC Chair	Lily Topham
RAG Chair	Karandeep Dhanoa
Welfare Campaigns Officer	Hannah Theodorou
RCSU Welfare Officer	Inger Eriksson
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexander Grisman
RCSU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Andreas Esau
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Research)	Eirini Spentza
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	John James
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	John O'Neil
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Jose Videria
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Shray Amar
CGCU ordinary member (Postgraduate)	Ashley Brown
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Mark Chamberlain
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Olivia Kenyon
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Alexander Walls

**Permanent observers**

Union Manager	Peter Haldane
Governance and Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

**Observers:** Ryan Dee, Amar Joshi, Owen Connick, Rosie Smithells, Andrew Somerville, Jon Matthews, Tom Roberts Felix Editor

**Apologies:** Deputy President (Education & Welfare) Kirsty Patterson (Proxy John James), Media Group Chair Karl Bonney (proxy Lily Topham), CAG Chair Radha Gadhok

**Not present:**, CGCU President Tristan Sherliker, Equal Opportunities Officer Chiraush Patel, WCUS President Leila Serrao, CGGU Welfare Officer Sam Piper, 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 gave a presentation in regards to the purpose and proceedings of Council.
- b) In regards to the suspension of the GSA elections, the Trustee Board met and resolved to suspend the requirement under Regulation 4, C.19. 'In the event of a vacancy, nomination papers shall go up within 10 college days of the Vacancy occurring'.
  - i. The reason for this is to allow time to consult with the Postgraduate community and ensure that any election that does take place is not a farce.
- c) The recently elected Ordinary Members of Council were informed of regulation 6. B. 31, 'automatic resignation of non ex-officio members who fail to attend or send apologies to the committee to 2 consecutive meetings, the members are then deemed to have resigned.

## 2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RECEIVED: Minutes from 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007

### NOTED:

- a) It was Phil Leadbeater of who was the RCC Chair proxy.
- b) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) asked that his proxy to the President be recorded.
- c) Rosie Smithells stated that she wished to be noted as an observer at the meeting.

### RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the amended minutes.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

### NOTED:

- a) In regards to item 16, GSA Chair resignation, actions 16.1 and 16.2, the President reported that he had consulted with the Court Chair, who recommended referring to the Trustee Board as reported in Chairs Business.
  - i. All candidates were notified of the suspension of the election.

## 4. BY ELECTION TO UNION COUNCIL

### NOTED:

- a) The by elections were for as follows:
  - Natural Sciences Undergraduate Ordinary Members – 2 positions
  - Natural Sciences Postgraduate Ordinary Members – 1 position
  - Engineering Undergraduate Ordinary Members – 2 positions
- b) The President was the Returning Officer and the SCC Chair was RON for all elections.
- c) Hustings took place for all positions and votes were cast by paper ballot and processed as STV.
- d) In regards to the Natural Sciences Undergraduate Ordinary Members election:
  - i. The candidates were Ryan Dee and Mark Saleme.
  - ii. Mark Saleme was unable to be present, however the RCSU President read out his submitted manifesto.
  - iii. 10 valid votes were cast. Ryan Dee received 6 votes. Mark Salame received 4.
  - iv. Both candidates were duly elected.

- e) In regards to the Natural Sciences Postgraduate Ordinary Members election:
  - i. The candidates were Amar Joshi and Jon Matthews.
  - ii. As there were no Natural Sciences Postgraduate members in the room, it was suggested that the decision be made by a coin toss or to allow all members in the room to vote in this election.
  - iii. It was decided that the best option would be to allow all members in the room to vote and thus Council interpreted the Constitution do allow this to occur.

**RESOLVED:**

**1) To open the vote to all members of the Union present at the meeting.**

- iv. 30 Valid votes were cast. Amar Joshi received 19, Jon Matthews received 8, RON received 3.
- v. Amar Josh was duly elected.
- f) In regards to the Engineering Undergraduate Ordinary Members election:
  - i. The candidates were Owen Connick and Rosie Smithells.
  - ii. 7 votes were cast. Owen Connick received 5. Rosie Smithells received 2.
  - iii. Both candidates were duly elected.

**RESOLVED:**

- 2) To elect Ryan Dee and Mark Saleme as the Natural Sciences Undergraduate Ordinary Members.**
- 3) To elect Amar Joshi as the Natural Sciences Postgraduate Ordinary Member.**
- 4) To elect Owen Connick and Rosie Smithells as the Engineering Undergraduate Ordinary Members.**

***The agenda was rearranged to hear items 7, 9, 6 , 8 and then 5 whilst the election count was taking place.***

**7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT**

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

NOTED:

- a) It was questioned as to what issues the visit to Wye unearthed and what the current state of the WCUS Clubs and Societies is.
  - i. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that £8k was ring fenced for WCUS for the 07-08 period and he and the Deputy President (Finance & Services) have been assisting in the allocating of these fund.
  - ii. There are approximately less than 200 members at Wye.
- b) The ACC chair questioned when the Clubs surgery was occurring.
  - i. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that this had been advertised to CSC and through clubs lists and was occurring every Wednesday 11-2pm in Student activities centre.
- c) Electronic income forms went live 3 weeks ago.
  - i. The RCC Chair stated that there appears to be some issues with this system as clubs have submitted forms and not received confirmation.
  - ii. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that there are some 'bugs' still being sorted out.
- d) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

**1) To accept the report.**

## 9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) apologised for not having the Tours Allocation report completed.
  - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) explained that his computer crashed today thus losing the information. He will have the document recovered by tomorrow.
- b) The Honorary Senior Treasurer procedures manual will be finished shortly.
- c) The Finance training can be booked through the website.
- d) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.

## 6. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) In regards to the Building Masterplan, if and when works start, it will be March at the earliest.
  - i. College Finance will give an indication at the end of next week.
  - ii. The Project Review Board is meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- b) The IC and Harlington Trusts have given funds that will need to be used for phase 2 as per the trusts stipulations.
- c) In regards to the PhD issues, the following was discussed:
  - i. In regards to PhD students not being considered a 'student' when writing up, different Universities have different policies on this.
  - ii. The President will raise this issue at the next meeting of the Aldwych group.
- d) It was questioned as to what the level of Union reserve will be after the Masterplan has been funded from this pot.
  - i. The President stated until the level of funding I received from College, this is unknown.
  - ii. The President assured that the Unions reserved will not be plundered.
  - iii. The current level of union reserves is approximately £1.2-1.6m
- e) In regards to the ATAS system, the CGCU ordinary member (Postgraduate) expressed that this scheme seems to be 'ridiculous'.
  - i. The President stated that College have been lobbying against this to the Government but this has not been successful as of yet.
- f) Jon Mathews questioned as to what the current state is of recruiting the Postgraduate and Representation Coordinator was.
  - i. The President stated that HR have delayed the process however it is anticipated that the post will have had been successfully recruited by the end of the term
- g) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.

## 8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) It was questioned as to what the success of RISE week was.
  - i. The Welfare Campaigns Officer stated that the week was successful on certain levels.
  - ii. There was little assistance from the GLA with the publicity that they did promise arriving.
  - iii. Generally there appeared to not have much student interest.
  - iv. There is a large event being planned for Spring term for RISE week that will hopefully have more interest.
- b) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was passed unanimously with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

## 5. NUS EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President has read through the proposed NUS Constitution and highlighted an area for concern for himself is the selection of Student Trustees by a nominations committee.
  - i. Student Trustees election by cross campus ballot alleviates nepotism and the possibility of 'slates'.
- b) The President suggested that there will be a change in how delegates are to be picked to attend the Conference.
  - i. The most appropriate sabbatical Officers will be ex officio with the rest of the delegation being picked 'at random'.
- c) It was mentioned that the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) will drive the minibus for the delegates.
  - i. It was mentioned that due to the activity taking place during office hours, the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) would essentially be taking payment which is illegal under the road traffic act.
- d) Council were reminded that delegates will be taking their mandate from Council, thus not giving a lot of opportunity to voice their own agendas.
- e) Any potentially interested delegates were asked to email the President expressing their interest to attend the extra ordinary conference.
- f) Council moved to vote and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To support the NUS governance reforms and mandate our delegation to the Extraordinary Conference to vote in favour of them
- 2) To submit the following text as an amendment to the new NUS constitution

### Conference Believes

1. Points 71 and 89 of the core constitution.
2. Several Unions who have adopted a similar governance model to the one proposed elect their Student Trustees via cross campus ballot.
3. It has been proposed to introduce Lay Trustees in to the new governance structure in order to provide a higher level of financial and legal scrutiny that can be provided by a committee consisting entirely of students.

### **Conference Further Believes**

1. The Nominations Committee of the Board has a vital role to play in matching the skills of Lay Trustees to the organisational needs of NUS.
2. Student Trustees will fulfil a crucial role in ensuring that Senior NUS Officers and management are subject to high-level scrutiny by ordinary students.
3. That the role of Student Trustee is different to that of a Lay Trustee in that Lay Trustees are only there to bring pre-specified expert knowledge that elected Student Officers are unlikely to hold.
4. That pre-screening of potential Student Trustees by a Nominations Committee detracts from the NUS as a democratic student led organisation.
5. Allowing the Board to have such influence over appointments to itself does not represent best governance practice for a democratic organisation.
6. That the composition of the NUS Board mitigates the risk of the Student Trustee roles becoming too political as neither Officer, Student or Lay Trustees are capable of gaining a numerical majority.
7. Annual Congress is capable of selecting appropriate Student Trustees via the same electoral process used to elect officers.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To replace clause 71 with "Student Trustees who shall be individual members of the national Union elected as a block at the Congress as further defined in the rules. For the avoidance of doubt, an Officer or a person who was previously an Officer shall not be eligible for appointment as a Student Trustee.
2. To delete "or Student Trustees" from Point 89 of the draft Articles of Governance

Meeting closed 7.30pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2007/08

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