

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the fifth ordinary meeting of
the
Council
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2007-08 Session

The meeting of Union Council was held in the Union Building on 21st January 2008 at 6.30pm in the Union Dining Hall.

Present:

Council Chair	Mark Mearing – Smith
President	Stephen Brown
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Alistair Cott
Deputy President (Education & Welfare)	Kirsty Patterson
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Chris Larvin
CGCU President	Tristan Sherliker
RCSU President	Jennifer Morgan
A&E Chair	Andy Mason
Media Group Chair	Karl Bonney
RCC Chair	Eugene Chang
RSM President	Danny Hill
SCC Chair	Lily Topham
Welfare Campaigns Officer	Hannah Theodorou
RCSU Welfare Officer	Inger Eriksson
RCSU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Andreas Esau
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Owen Connick
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	John James
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	John O'Neil
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Rosie Smithells
CGCU ordinary member (Postgraduate)	Ashley Brown
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Shray Amar
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Ryan Dee
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Mark Saleme
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Jose Videria
RCSU ordinary member (Postgraduate)	Amar Joshi
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Mark Chamberlain
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Alexander Walls
Permanent observers	
Union Manager	Peter Haldane
Governance and Administration Coordinator	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Tom Roberts Felix Editor, Andrew Somerville, Jon Matthews, David Charles, Nurlan Tokmoldin, Andrew Holland, Salma Begum, Edward Judge, Christian Carter

Apologies: ICSMSU President Tim Wills – proxy to Deputy President (Finance & Services), ACC Chair Luke Taylor – proxy to President, RAG Chair Karandeep Dhanoa – proxy to John O'Neill, OSC Chair Marie-Louisa Awolaja, ICSMSU Education Rep (123) Sukhpreet Dubb, , ICSMSU Welfare Officer – Mo Khaki, WCUS President Leila Serrao, ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate) Olivia Kenyon

Not present:, CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Research) Eirini Spentza ICSMSU Education Rep (4 and PG) Laura Thomas, Equal Opportunities Officer Chiraush Patel, CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught) Alexander Grisman, CAG Chair Radha Gadhok, CGGU Welfare Officer Sam Piper, ICSMSU Education Rep (56) Hannah Dixon

1. CHAIR'S BUSINESS – none

2. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – 10th December 2007

NOTED:

- a) The Chair stated that he 'vacated' the chair and not 'stood down' during the paper on mascotry.
- b) The Chair is the Spanner bearer and not the Davy bearer.
- c) Amar Joshi was in attendance.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the minutes**

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) The Postgraduate Faculty Union Co-ordinator has now been recruited.

4. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President has taken an additional half day annual leave since writing the report.
- b) The Trustee Board has approved the next stage of the Beit Masterplan.
 - i. It has been suggested to the Trustee Board that the bad debt provision may need to be increased from £11k to £30k.
- c) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

5. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The New Clubs Committee has now approved the set up of the Gaelic Association.
- b) The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) is currently leading an extensive space audit of the Union spaces in Beit.
- c) A decant plan of club stores has been created for phase 2 of the Masterplan displacement.
 - i. The RCC Chair requested that process of the decant be made transparent to Clubs and Societies.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) assured that the affected Clubs and Societies will be informed well in advance of any relocation during the redevelopment.
- d) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

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) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

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 question by the CGCU Postgraduate Representative what the shortfall was on Summerball sponsorship.
 - i. Currently the shortfall is £7k.
 - ii. A full Summer Ball report and budget will be presented to the next meeting of Executive Committee.
- b) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

8. FELIX REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Felix editor

NOTED:

- a) The President expressed his appreciation to the Felix editor and team for a consistently high quality publication that has produced this year.
- b) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

9. ICSMSU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by Mark Chamberlain

NOTED:

- a) 60% of Imperial College final year medical students were allocated their first choice which is extremely disappointing.
- b) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

10. RCSU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by RCSU President

NOTED:

- a) £30k sponsorship has been elicited for the Science Challenge.
 - i. The launch of the Science Challenge is occurring on Tuesday 22nd January and the President extended the invitation to all.
 - ii. The launch is occurring in Mech Eng 220

- b) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) congratulated the RCSU President on a successful last term.
- c) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

11. MOVING FORWARD WITH THE GSA ELECTIONS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to vote on lifting the suspension on the GSA elections and there were no objections.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To lift the suspension previously imposed on the GSA elections.**

12. UNION ELECTIONS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council were asked to inform the President if they had intention of standing or seconding any candidates and they will not be considered for the Elections Committee.
- b) Rosie Smithells requested that under 'RON', the sentence 'fairly comical task be removed'.
 - i. It was agreed that ', but important' be added to the sentence.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Under RON, the sentence to read, '...fairly comical, but important, task'.**
- c) It was queried whether the number of NUS delegates had been increased.
 - i. The President stated that he had checked and the number of delegates had not increased
- d) In regards to the liberation conferences, the President suggested that the Representation and Welfare Board should look further in to this.
- e) Council moved to a vote to accept the paper and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To approve the 2008/09 Sabbatical elections timetable.**

13. NUS CONFERENCE WORKING GROUP

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President corrected the paper in that it should be Regulation 3 and not 4 where the job descriptions lay.
- b) The President asked for volunteers to contact him if they wished to scrutinise the documents.
- c) The NUS regional conference is occurring on the 30th January and if anyone wished to attend, to contact the President.
- d) Council moved to a vote to accept the paper and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To establish an NUS Conference working group to be chaired by the President.**

- 2) To mandate the President to advertise for volunteers who are interested in feeding in to this process.

14. RESOLUTIONS AGAINST SANCTIONS AND THE WAR ON IRAN

RECEIVED: The motion was presented and proposed by Safa Shoaee

NOTED:

- a) Concern was raised that the paper presented is ultra vires.
 - i. The President stated that the Union can not fund any demonstration that does not affect students as students and thus makes the paper ultra vires.
 - ii. The proposer replied that Iranian students studying at Imperial College will be affected in that they will lose scholarships from the Iranian government and will have to leave Imperial College as they will not be able to fund their study.
 - iii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) pointed out that the Union's stance on the environmental policy does not affect 'students as students'.
- b) The SCC Chair stated that if there is doubt that this motion is ultra vires, then the paper should be withdrawn.
 - a. The SCC Chair suggested that the paper be bought back once the motion had been investigated and ensure that the paper presented is not ultra vires.
 - i. The RCC chair concurred that this paper should be bought back once investigated if the paper is ultra vires.
- c) The proposer deleted the term M&M from resolve 8.
- d) It was requested that the paper be updated to reflect that this will be a policy of Imperial College Union and not Imperial College.
- e) Jon Matthews went through point by point on the resolves and expressed the following
 - i. *To support and build the International Day of Action on March 15th that has 'Don't Attack Iran' as a central demand – Definitely ultra vires*
 - ii. *To facilitate distribution of publicity for the demonstration and to support Imperial Stop the War group in their meeting which calls for no attack on Iran – Clubs can undertake this, not a function of Council.*
 - iii. *Support the IAEA- Iran work plan – Definitely ultra vires*
 - iv. *Publicly oppose the military option against Iran or further sanctions. – Out of the scope of Imperial College Union*
 - v. *Prevent any discrimination against current and new Iranian students- admitting any students from Iran/ Iranian students. – The Union has an Equal Opportunities policy which covers this point.*
 - vi. *To raise awareness amongst students of the issues surrounding economic sanctions on Iran. – Duty of clubs.*
 - vii. *For members of executive and council to write to the Lords, local MPs etc urging them to support the lifting of all non-military sanctions and encourage other members of the union to do so also. – This can be done by individuals; if the Union do this, it is ultra vires.*
 - viii. *To work with NUS in informing students of actions we are taking. – Can work with NUS on this.*
 - ix. *To campaign against the non-military sanctions imposed on Iran – Out of the scope of the Union*
 - x. *To (maintain) support for the Stop the War Coalition and their efforts to prevent any attack or non-military sanctions on Iran. – Duty of clubs.*
 - xi. *To sign the pledge to take action against escalation towards an attack on Iran, and for such action to include occupations. – Definitely ultra vires*
 - xii. *In the case of an attack, to provide full support for demonstrations. – Duty of clubs.*
- f) The proposer stated that it is better for the central Union and clubs to work together and that the paper is not asking for money, it is asking for support.

- i. It was pointed that by committing officer time to policy, it is working outside the aims and objectives of the Union is definitely ultra vires.
- g) Council moved to a vote to accept the paper.

FOR	0
AGAINST	21
ABSTAIN	6

Falls

15. AMENDMENT TO UNION CONSTITUTION

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by Jon Matthews.
The appendix was presented by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) Jon Matthews apologised for the length and perplexity of the paper and thanked the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) for submitting a clarifying document.
- b) Jon Matthews summarised the paper as follows:
 - i. Ultimately, the purpose of the paper is to outline the changes to the Union Constitution during the 06—07 term were not constitutional.
 - ii. The changes that were presented to Council in the 2 readings were not clear.
 - iii. It was made clear to Council that there were further changes that were made to the document at the second reading, however in the opinion of Mr Matthews, this is unconstitutional.
 - iv. The only option is to revoke the changes and go back to the original constitution that was in place before the changes were made and then put the changes through in a constitutional manner.
- c) The President replied to Mr Matthews argument with the following:
 - i. It was reminded that the President is responsible for preliminary interpretation of the Constitution.
 - ii. It is the belief of the President that the Governance Review of the 06-07 term was totally transparent.
 - iii. The current Constitution is 'bullet proof' and had been passed by College Council whom has deemed it acceptable.
- d) The President clarified that College Council have the right to change the Union Constitution if they wish.
 - i. Mr Matthews stated the College Council can only do this if after 3 months of submitting a written request, and this is ignored by the Union.
- e) The President stated that it is his intention in the summer term to tidy up the loose ends of the Governance review and some of the points raised by Mr Matthews are pertinent but can be addressed in the summer term and do not need to be undertaken 'right now'.
- f) The Constitution that Mr Matthews is suggestion to revert to also has a number of errors and thus is still not a 'correct' Constitution.
 - i. Mr Matthews acknowledged that there were some formatting errors in the presented document and explained that this is due to the computer programme that he was using.
- g) Mr Matthews stated that the Finance regulations are invalid as only the changes were presented and not the whole document.
 - i. The President stated that the gap that was in the Finance regulations has been temporarily sorted in that powers have been delegated by the Executive Committee as appropriate.
- h) The President stated if Council believes that the current constitution is not valid, this can be referred to Court to rule on.
 - i. Rosie Smithells expressed concern that if this matter does get referred to Court, and it is proven to be unconstitutional, that would leave the Union in an extremely vulnerable position and the Trustee Board would be removed.

- i) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that a member of Court had made a comment on Live! Today expressing their concern
 - i. The President stated that that comment is 'scaremongering' and not appropriate.
- j) The A&E Chair stated that the paper appears to be a 'fix before someone notices' and he did not agree with this technique.
- k) Mr Matthews stated he is willing to use his own time to 'sort out' a correct Constitution.
- l) The timescale does not work for the proposed revoking of the Constitution; the readings and presentation to College Council.
- m) It was questioned by the RCSU President if the President has sought legal advice in regards to the validity of the current constitutional document.
 - i. The President stated that he had consulted with the College Central Secretariat as well as Hamish Common.
 - ii. Mr Matthews expressed concern that advice had been sought from Mr Common as he is conflicted as one of the original authors of the governance changes and such advice does not constitute legal advice.
 - iii. The President suggested that a request perhaps go to Executive Committee to fund to seek legal advice on the validity on Constitution.
- n) The CGCU Postgraduate Representative stated that if there were changes between the 2 readings that were not highlighted, then the current Constitution is invalid.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) quoted from the minutes of the Council meeting which stated that the changes were not highlighted.
- o) The RCSU President reiterated that if Council believe the current Constitution to be invalid, then the matter should be referred to Court and offered to petition this to Court.
- p) Council moved to vote on accepting the paper.
 - i. It was clarified that Council are voting for the first reading of the paper.

FOR	6
AGAINST	18
ABSTAIN	5
Falls	

- q) Mr Matthews congratulated Council on rejecting their own Constitution.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The CGCU President apologised for not submitting a report to this Council meeting and assured Council that he will submit the report to the next meeting.

ACTION:

1. **The CGCU President to submit the CGCU termly report to the next meeting of Council.**

Meeting closed 7.45pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2007/08

_____ Chair of the Meeting