

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the sixth 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 18th February 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 (Finance & Services)	Chris Larvin
CGCU President	Tristan Sherliker
A&E Chair	Andy Mason
ACC Chair	Luke Taylor
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
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Mo Khaki
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexander Grisman,
RCSU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Andreas Esau
ICSMSU Education Rep (4 and PG)	Laura Thomas
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)	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, Jess Marley, Andrew Somerville, Jon Matthews, Kadhim Shubber Christian Carter, Matthew Hoban

Apologies: Deputy President (Education & Welfare) Kirsty Patterson (proxy John James), ICSMSU President Tim Wills – proxy to Mo Khaki, RCSU President Jennifer Morgan, Media Group Chair Karl Bonney, WCUS President Leila Serrao, CGCU Academic Affairs Officer (Research) Eirini Spentza, ICSMSU Education Rep (123) Sukhpreet Dubb, ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate) Olivia Kenyon

Not present: Equal Opportunities Officer Chiraush Patel, CAG Chair Radha Gadhok, CGGU Welfare Officer Sam Piper, ICSMSU Education Rep (56) Hannah Dixon, RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate) Mark Saleme

1. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The Chair tabled a document outlining procedural motions and thanked Jon Matthews for compiling the information.
- b) It was reminded that the behaviour of some members of Council at the last meeting was unacceptable and will not be tolerated in future meetings.
- c) The President apologised for the lateness of agenda item 11 and explained that the survey did not finish until Sunday.

2. MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING – 21st January 2008

NOTED:

- a) In regards to point 15.c), the President clarified that the advice from the College Secretary and Hamish Common was in no way 'legal advice' and that he retrospectively should have replied 'no' when the question of whether he had sought legal advice was posed.
 - i. Mr Matthews wished to clarify that his concern was that it was legal advice had been sought and had no issue with guidance sought from Mr Common

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the minutes**

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) In regards to the CGCU report which was not reported to last Council, the C & G CU President stated that he had returned to hospital after the last Council meeting and as yet has not completed the report.
 - i. The CGCU President asked council if they wanted a verbal report given to the present meeting or a written report submitted to the next meeting.
 - ii. It was agreed that a verbal report would be given at the current meeting and a written report also submitted to the next meeting.

ACTION:

1. **The C & G CU President to submit a written report to the next meeting of Union Council.**
- b) In regards to the verbal update from the C & G CU President , the following was reported:
 - i. The C & G CU President was away for the 2 weeks before the last Council and then has been 'in and out' of Hospital since so had not had a lot of time on campus.
 - ii. The CGCU Executive Committee were thanked for stepping in the interim.
 - iii. Sponsorship has been found for the annual egg race thus a good event is anticipated.
 - iv. The photocopying system has been sorted out which has given an extra £400.
 - v. There is a faculty Welfare meeting coming up soon.
 - vi. The 3 Union bar night was very successful and it is anticipated to have broken even.

4. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Union Manager has met with the building contractors last week but there is still some debate in regards to the final timetable.

- b) College Residences have pledged that all first year students will be placed in to a hall of residences in the next academic year.
- c) UL have removed the subsidy that they were paying towards the Medic Boat house.
 - i. This will affect the amount that the Union is to now pay to ULU. The President is working with ULU and the Medics to negotiate this increase in cost.
- d) A letter of condolence has been sent to Jarvis Purnell, the President of Northern Illinois University Student Association to express Imperial College Union sympathy to the recent tragic events that occurred there.
- e) 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) Chinese Culture Society may be applying to the New Clubs Committee.
- b) The start date for Phase II is the 25th August, however, this is being negotiated to be bought forward.
- c) It was questioned as to what point the decant plan was at.
 - i. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that he had informed the clubs affected.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that stores are looking at being consolidated to ensure the best use of space.
 - iii. The SCC Chair requested that Clubs and Societies be kept inform of any developments in the building redevelopment.
 - iv. As of yet, the building working group has not been required to meet but this will occur once the design team have more extensive plans to work on.
- 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 John James on behalf of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) Apologies were given in regards to the lateness of the report.
- b) Westminster Council has received approximately 1339 responses to the safer neighbourhoods' survey.
- c) The GSA elections have now been completed and Killian Frensch is the new GSA Chair.
 - i. The still vacant positions will be co-opted in by the committee
 - ii. The first meeting of the GSA Executive Committee is occurring this evening.
- d) The next meeting of Representation and Welfare Board is occurring on the 28th February.
 - i. The draft HEF policy will be presented for discussion and it was reminded that any member is able to attend Union meetings.
- e) 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) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) congratulated the organiser for the well run large events that had recently taken place; events such as the Mega Mali and East meet West.
- b) The College Audit committee meeting was compared to the 'Dragons Den' with College being pleased with what was presented to them.
- c) The catering outlets are now using potato starch takeaway containers and cutlery which is in line with the Imperial College Union environmental policy.
- d) The Clubs and Societies spreadsheet has taken longer than anticipated, however, it is anticipated that this will be ready by the coming Friday.
- e) The Union minibus fleet will be affected with the implementation of the low emission zone.
- f) Currently liaising with College in regards to the insurance arrangements for the recently written off minibus.
 - i. As it is coming to the end of the busy period, being a minibus down should not put too much of a strain on the fleet.
- g) The Felix Editor requested if it was possible to get a copy of the strategic plan that was submitted to College.
 - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he is happy to release this document but will remove the confidential sections.
- h) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

8. COURT DETERMINATION

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

9. SUMMER BALL STUDENT GROUP

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

NOTED:

- a) The purpose of the group is to seek out a student direction and gauge what is wanted by the general student population for this major event.
- b) The invitation to join in the group will also be printed in Felix and on the website.

10. NUS HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING AMENDMENT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by President

NOTED:

- a) The 2 areas most concentrated on are the bursaries and teaching allocations.
- b) It was pointed that the numbering on 'Conference believes' was askew and it was asked as to what conference belief was being deleted.
 - i. It was confirmed that it was the 4th belief that was proposed to be deleted.
 - ii. The President stated that he and the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) will amend the numbering issue.
- c) In regards to bursaries, Imperial College currently has control of issuing and administering bursaries for its students; what is proposed is centralising of this scheme which the President expressed his disagreement of.

- d) Rosie Smithells stated that Imperial College bursaries are substantially less than other Universities and questioned if Imperial College Union will lobby to increase them.
 - i. The President stated that bursaries offered at Imperial College are one of the highest in the sector.
- e) Andrew Somerville questioned about standardising the bursary system so that Universities are providing the same amounts.
 - i. The President stated that this idea was rejected by Treasury when it was suggested a few years ago.
- f) Imperial College is one of the better institutions in that they have given the majority of the bursaries out.
- g) Andrew Somerville stated that in his opinion, he is concerned that the bursaries will vary between Universities and that students will be disadvantaged by this.
 - i. Mr Somerville stated that there is supposed to be a flat fee so that price is not a factor when choosing a university.
 - ii. Jon Matthews stated that ultimately it is the interest of Imperial College students, current and future and a national scheme will reduce the funds available to Imperial College students.
- h) Council moved to a vote on the paper and it was accepted unanimously with 1 objection.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To adopt the below text as Union policy substituting the relevant section headings as appropriate.**
- 2) To submit the below text as an amendment to Motion 602 at NUS Conference**

Conference Believes:

1. That full-time undergraduate students across England and Northern Ireland are forced to pay up to £3,000 per year in variable top-up fees after graduation on an income contingent basis. There will be a review in 2009.
2. That Secretary of State for DIUS, John Denham, has called for a wide ranging debate about the size, purpose and structure of the higher education system before the 2009 review of fees.
3. That this year, the government announced an expansion to the grants system, which means that two thirds of all full-time students in higher education will be entitled to a full grant and a further third of all full-time students will be entitled to a partial grant.
4. That part-time students are still required to pay unregulated fees up front.
5. That tuition fees paid by international students continue to rise without any real explanation or justification and are also unregulated.
6. That some politicians and academics on the right have called for commercial interest to be charged on some or all student loans and fee loans.
7. That different student funding systems now exist in Scotland and Wales following decisions taken by the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly.
8. Institutional autonomy over student bursaries works at a diverse range of Universities.
9. Attempts to lobby the government for realistic regional weighting have been unsuccessful.

Conference Further Believes:

1. Higher education across the UK remains significantly under funded.
2. That the expansion of higher education is an economic necessity and essential to the pursuit of social justice.
3. That while NUS should retain a principled commitment to the notion of free education, the focus for the 2009 review must be to secure a fairer funding system for all students, to defeat any attempts to lift the cap and further the destructive marketisation of HE.
4. That NUS' must combat the inequalities faced by part-time students as well as the unregulated fees paid by international and postgraduate students.
5. That any attempts to charge commercial interest on student loans would be disastrous and must be opposed.
6. Institutions failing to allocate their bursary money can learn from those who have.
7. Student support packages will be more responsive to student needs if decided locally.
8. The governments failure to support students in expensive regions emphasises the importance of protecting student support arrangements from the vagaries of public spending decisions.

Conference Resolves:

1. For building for the 2009 review to be NUS' priority campaign, focussing on defeating any attempt to lift the cap, opposing the marketisation of education and campaigning for a fairer funding system for all students.
2. To defend Universities right to determine their own bursary packages and to work with OFFA to ensure that Universities failing to meet their commitments improve their performance in future years.

11. VARIABLE TEACHING FUNDING AMENDMENT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) focused on this section of the same motion.
- b) Council moved to vote on the paper and there were no objections.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To add the below text to Union policy substituting the relevant section headings as appropriate.
- 2) To submit the below text as an amendment to Motion 602 at NUS Conference.

See agenda item 10 resolution for full text of motion

Amendment to Motion 602 – Higher Education Funding – Building for the 2009 Review

Adds:

Conference Believes:

10. That current government funding models for teaching and research put a greater emphasis on the differing cost in research while ignoring the difference in teaching costs.

Conference Further Believes:

9. That due to varying costs incurred from teaching different courses some Universities are able to profit from teaching funding and tuition fees.

Conference Resolves:

3. To lobby the Government to introduce variable teaching funding which takes into account the variation in costs incurred to teach each individual course.

12. UKFPO REFORM

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by Alex Walls

NOTED:

- a) Nationally this scheme has worked quite well, however London is a popular choice for graduates.
 - i. Imperial College teaching hospitals are a popular choice nationally.
- b) It is felt that the application process is also a 'creation writing' exercise.
- c) The intention is not to pull out of the scheme but to try to review the application process to make it more beneficial to Imperial graduates.
- d) Council moved to a vote and the paper was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To adopt the text below as policy replacing "Conference Believes" with "Imperial College Union Notes", "Conference Further Believes" with "Imperial College Union Believes" and "Conference Resolves" to "Union Resolves".

2) To submit the following text as an addition to Annual Conference Motion 514

Conference Believes

1. That the UKFPO applications system used for allocating training places in teaching hospitals is a national applications system that relies on local ranking information provided by medical schools.
2. That the current system does not take in to account students natural preference for continuing their medical training where they have studied.
3. There is currently no requirement for the NUS representative to the BMA to have any relevant experience of issues affecting medical students.

Conference Further Believes

1. That the current UKFPO applications system is not logical. Using locally established quartiles as part of a national applications scheme inevitably leads to inequality nationally
2. That representation of medical students is best done by a medical student as they will have experienced the issues first hand.

Conference Resolves

1. To lobby the United Kingdom Foundation Programme Office (UKFPO) to allow medical students to apply for their F1 training positions using a structured CV in the upcoming review of the applications process in April.
2. To require the NEC/Senate to elect a current medical student to act as the link between the NUS and BMA.
3. To lobby the Department of Health and the UKFPO to give credit in the F1 application process to those students that wish to continue in Medicine where they have studied at Medical School

13. GREENING THE NUS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) There is a high probability that this paper will not get discussed.
- b) Council moved to a vote to accept the paper and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1) To submit the following addition to Conference Resolves 4 on motion 814

Specific methods to be employed by the NUS to reduce its carbon emissions shall include but not be limited to:

- a. *Measuring our energy use through installing local metering or gaining access to and regularly monitoring meters if they already exist in NUS buildings.*
- b. *Support and where feasible, pursue proposals for installation of onsite renewable energy and low or zero carbon technology on NUS buildings.*
- c. *Reduce NUS's use of air travel by refusing to subsidise or reimburse Officer air travel within the UK if the same journey can be made by rail or bus provided that this will not take more than one hour more than travelling by plane. For the avoidance of doubt when comparing travelling times this comparison will take in to account the total journey time and will include a reasonable time allowance for check in, security checks and waiting for departure in the airport itself.*
- d. *To assist with the implementation and monitoring of this policy a log of all flights taken by NUS Officers in an official capacity and all available energy use statistics will be reported to each meeting of the NEC or Senate as appropriate.*

14. MOTION TO SUPPORT STUDENT MILITARY ORGANISATIONS RECRUITING AT IMPERIAL COLLEGE

RECEIVED: The motion was presented by the CGCU Academic Affairs Officer Alex Grisman

NOTED:

- a) It was clarified that these organisations are not the military forces recruiting, they are the student sections.
- b) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he was in agreement with the paper, however, wished to have resolve 12 clarified in that these organisations are required to pay for stalls at Freshers Fairs.
 - i. It was agreed that they should be paying participants at the Fair by the CGCU Academic Affairs Officer and he stated that this was not the intention of the resolve; just that they were not banned for joining in the Fair.
- c) The President suggested removing 'Union notes' 3 and 'Union resolves' 13.
 - i. It is not possible to provide a link from the front page of the website.
 - ii. The CGCU Academic Affairs Officer did not agree to removing 'Union notes' 3 as this is factual; this was backed up by the Deputy President (Finance & Services) who stated that the Union has no power over what College does with the website.
- d) The President also proposed to add Union resolves 16 to mandate himself to take this issue to ULU Senate.
 - i. It was agreed to add resolve 16, 'To mandate the President to take this motion to the next ULU Senate'.
- e) Council moved to a vote to accept the paper and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To allow London URNU, UAS and OTC to recruit at Imperial College and at future Fresher's Fairs.
- 2) To provide a link to URNU, UAS and OTC websites from the Union Website.
- 3) To mandate the President to write to the other London Colleges, especially those that have banned recruitment, to inform them or call on them to reconsider their current policy.
- 4) To mandate the President to write to the London Student Military Organisations to inform them of our continued support for the activities they provide to our students.
- 5) To mandate the President to take this motion to the next ULU Senate.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The Felix Editor stated that he and the Live Editor are intending to coordinate a group to discuss the Union Staff Student Protocol policy.
 - i. Volunteers were asked to contact the Felix or Live Editors if they are interested to be part of this discussion group.

Meeting closed 8.00pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2007/08

_____ Chair of the Meeting