

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the seventh ordinary meeting of
the
Council
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2008-2009 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on the 16th March 2009 at 6.45pm.

Present:

ICU Council Chair	Afonso Campos
ICU President	Jennifer Morgan,
ICU DP (E&W)	Hannah Theodorou
ICU DP (F&S)	Christian Carter
C&GCU President	Mark Mearing-Smith
RCSU President	David Charles
ACC Chair	Sam Furse
Media Group Chair	Amar Joshi
RCC Chair	Jennifer Wilson
SCC Chair	Peter Mabbott
RAG Chair	Jon Downing
RCSU Welfare Officer	Edward Poynton
C&GU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexander Grisman
ICSMSU year 4 & Research	Rep Alex Walls
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Rikki Norris
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Lawrence Weetman
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Owen Connick
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	John James
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Christopher Gibbs
Physical Sciences Postgraduate Representative	Neki Patel
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Salman Waqar
Non faculty representative	Seyyed Mozaffari-Chinjani
Engineering Postgraduate Representative	Soumaya Mauthoor
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Nida Harwood
Business School Postgraduate Representative	Luke Dhanoa
GSA and Faculty Union Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Chileya Kasuba

Observers: Jovan Nedic Felix Editor Sami Soud, Annas Hussein, Yasin Fatyn

Apologies: ICU DP (C&S) Lily Topham, ICSMSU President Mark Chamberlain, A&E Chair Rachael D'oliveiro, GSA Chair Rhys Morgan, ICU Welfare Campaigns Officer Tim Barrett, CAG Chair Christoph Aymanns, RSM President Adam Baldwin, OSC Representative Andrew Holland, ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate) Najette Ayadi O'Donnell, ICU Equal Ops Officer Bhavesh Patel, RCSU Academic Affairs (Taught) Oliver Rogers, ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate) Albert Poon (proxy ICSMSU President), , RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate) Sammi Elfituri, ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Strachan Mackenzie, Silwood Park Chair Muhammad Tariq, ICSMSU Welfare Officer Kathryn Wright, Life Sciences Postgraduate Representative Sean Delaney, , School of Medicine Postgraduate Representative Basma Bahsoun, Union Manager Peter Haldane

1. **CHAIRS BUSINESS – none**
2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 16th February 2009**

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the minutes as an accurate record.**

3. MATTERS ARISING – NONE

4. PRESIDENTS REPORT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council were encouraged to lobby against fee rises.
- b) Ally Cott was thanked for his assistance in the election process.
- c) The Postgraduate Awards ceremony is taking place on the 6th May.
 - i. Those interested in being Marshalls for this event are to let the President know.
- d) In regards to the changes in the immigration system being introduced it was stated that Registry are organising a meeting to address the UK Border Agency Proposal of monitoring International Students.
- 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 President on behalf of the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) In regards to budget appeals, these will be addressed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
 - i. The SCC suggested that it would be in the best interest that all CSC's attend.
- b) 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) The QAA review has required a lot of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) time.
- b) There is now greater transparency in College committees.
- c) A draft SEC Presentation will be given by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) at the next meeting of Representation and Welfare Board.
- d) The Green week competition will be held open for another week.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) acknowledged college's effort in making a greener campus.
- 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 budgeting meeting of Clubs and Societies Board was a long stressful process but mostly went well.
 - i. Appeals are to be submitted to the next Executive Committee meeting.

- b) The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Deputy President (Finance & Services) will be going to Wye to undertake an inventory check as there will be no Imperial students there after the end of the academic year.
- c) The online claims system has not been implemented but treasurers have been invited to pre launch discussion.
 - i. It is anticipated that this will be running for the next academic term.
- d) The 5 year plan had been submitted to college, the budget for subvention was due to be submitted mid April
- e) Some elections complaints have been received and are being dealt with accordingly.
 - i. In regards to the appointment of the deputy Returning Officer, it was stated that College employees are able to undertake this position.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he felt over worked in the position of Returning Officer so took on a Deputy to assist him.
 - iii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that she feels that students should be in control of the democratic process and not staff members, especially members of college staff and this should not set precedent for further years.
- f) The website is currently being reviewed for improvements.
- g) Council moved to a vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report**

8. MOTION TO TWIN ICSU WITH ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF GAZA

RECEIVED: The motion was presented by Nida Harwood

NOTED:

- a) In essence, twinning with the University would show solidarity and support.
- b) Other Russel group universities has passed this motion.
- c) The Jewish Society was not consulted on this paper as the paper is focused on the humanitarian side and right to education and not the political aspect.
 - i. The SCC Chair clarified that Israel is not connected to the remit of the Jewish Society and as such there was no need for them to be consulted on the paper.
- d) The SCC Chair stated that he disagreed with Union resolves 9; that a plaque be erected and questioned where the funding for this would come from.
 - i. Miss Harwood stated that she had not investigated how the plaque would be funded.
- e) Concern was raised in regards to the provision of scholarships.
 - i. It was pointed that the Rector has indicated that he would like Imperial College to give more scholarships.
 - ii. Lobby of the College would be part of the remit of the Welfare Campaigns Officer and they will be asking for scholarships to be provided at the same level as home fees.
- f) It was pointed that Zohair is a student from the University of Gaza .
- g) Alex Guite stated that the motion contained a lot of points specifically condemning Israel which he stated should be removed as Imperial College Union is apolitical but overall he supported the concept of providing aid.
- h) It was proposed that Union Resolves 10 'to lobby the university to disaffiliate with Israel academic institutions until Israel abides by international law' be removed.
 - i. Miss Harwood accepted this proposal.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To remove Union Resolves 10.**

- i) Ashley Brown stated his opposition to the union Resolves section as it appeared to be a copy of papers submitted by stop the war group to other unions.
- j) Boycotting of Institutions is not necessarily the best way of making a point,
- k) Manchester University Union has passed a similar motion to lower fees for Palestinian students.
- l) The reason that this particular University was chosen to twin with was due to the Science and Engineering department being hit hard during the attacks and as Imperial College is a Science and Engineering focused University it seem relevant.
 - i. It was pointed that there is only 1 university in Gaza.

- m) It was suggested that it made more sense to send aid and help redevelop the University in Gaza rather than bringing students here.
 - i. The University of Gaza has limited course selection.
 - ii. Miss Harwood stated that there is value in twinning with the University rather than just providing aid.
- n) The RCSU President expressed his reservations at the feasibility of the motion.
- o) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that some Imperial College students are also struggling financially and that support should potentially go to them in the first instance.
 - i. Imperial College Union's Fair-trade policy was highlighted.
- p) It was suggested that Students should be given the option to give aid to Gaza and this should not be made compulsory.

Council recessed for 10 minutes at this point.

- q) the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that she did not believe that Imperial College Union should only deal with Imperial College Union issues but does not think that twinning would be ideal from Colleges' point of view in that they will not want to associate themselves with certain stances and specific Universities and that annoying College is not in the best interest of Imperial College students.
- r) It was suggested that this paper is a good place to start sponsoring students from war torn countries.
- s) Various amendments to the paper were proposed and are as follows:
 - i. To strike Union notes 4
 - ii. To strike Union believes 1
 - iii. To remove the last sentence from Union believes 2.
 - iv. To remove 'and the international persecution of Palestinian students' from Union believes 3.
 - v. To remove Union resolves 5.
 - vi. All but removing the last sentence from Union believes 2 were agreed by the proposer.

RESOLVED:

- 2) To strike Union notes 4**
- 3) To strike Union believes 1**
- 4) To remove 'and the international persecution of Palestinian students' from Union believes 3.**
- 5) To remove Union resolves 5.**

- t) Council moved to a vote to accept the amended paper and the vote was unanimously against the motion.

RESOLVED:

- 6) To reject the motion.**

- u) The SCC Chair requested that he be noted as abstaining on the paper.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – NONE

Meeting closed 9.15pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2008/09

_____ Chair of the Meeting