

Imperial College Union
Constitutional Changes and Service Level Agreements
A note by Ashley Brown

Following the John Collins Governance Review in 2006, Imperial College Union adopted a new constitution. Since then a number of changes have been made to the document and internally, some of which require “tidying up”.

We also adopted a new Code of Practice, which governs the relationship between Imperial College and Imperial College Union. While the body of this document is sound, the Annexes were passed in a rather hap-hazard manner over a number of years, the numbering is off and some of them are out of date.

I am presenting some of the revised Annexes and Service Level Agreements here, along with a description of our proposed constitutional changes and tidy-ups. These are intended for information only at the moment.

Constitutional Changes

Welfare Campaigns Officer: The Representation and Welfare Board will be creating new positions at its level to co-ordinate specific welfare campaigns throughout the year. The post of Deputy President (Welfare) has also taken on more responsibility for welfare campaigns. It is proposed that we remove the Welfare Campaigns Officer.

International Students’ Officer: It is proposed that the International Students’ Officer be removed from Council and placed under the Representation and Welfare Board instead.

Financial Regulations: It is currently enshrined in the constitution that the Clubs and Societies Board assigns money to Faculty Unions, but it is absurd that a body which concerns itself solely with Clubs and Societies should assign funding for representational aspects. I am proposing that we make this explicitly more flexible. The Executive Committee also has overall control of the budget, so it can introduce other supplementary budgeting methods anyway (as we have done this year).

Equal Opportunities Officer: It is proposed that we retain the Equal Opportunities Officer on Council, but modify the job description to have explicit responsibilities for the oversight of RWBs individual Campaign Co-ordinators (or whatever they call them).

Representation and Welfare Board: It is proposed that RAG and CAG are explicitly added to RWB, the text regarding RWB is tidied so that the alternating chair is stipulated in the right location, that RWB can give money to Faculty Unions during budgeting and that it can require representation and welfare officers to submit reports.

Health and Safety: It is proposed that the Executive Committee and Trustee Board be required to have a Health and Safety report as a standing agenda item.

Tidy-ups: Last summer we replaced the General Manager position with an Operations Manager, however the constitution still refers to the General Manager. I am proposing to fix this.

We would like to clarify that an abstention is not a vote, under the “present and voting” requirements of the constitution.

It is proposed that we clarify the rules regarding publicity near PCs, as Court has ruled that PCs can no longer be considered “ballot boxes” under the current regulations.

Wye College is now completely gone, so we need to remove the Wye College Union Society President and other mentions of Wye.

Charity Registration: In order to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation we need to include some additional clauses in the constitution, including a “winding up” clause which allows us to transfer the assets of Imperial College Union (an unincorporated association) to Imperial College Union (a CIO). There will be a few other things we may have to add to satisfy the charity regulators too.

Annexes and Service Level Agreements

With regards to the Annexes and Service Level Agreements, I am distributing as many as I can for comment in advance. Annexes/SLAs marked as “OK” are finished, ones marked “Pending” are waiting for more information:

Costs	OK (no changes)
Publications	OK (no changes)
Defamation	OK (no changes)
Staff/Student Protocol	OK (no changes)
ICT	OK (no changes)
HR	OK (no changes)
Sports Partnership	OK (new, was an Executive Committee policy)
Finance	Pending (changing conditions)
Trading/Retail	Pending (re-write of existing Trading and Retail annexes)
Estates	Pending (contains out of date information)
Space	Pending (contains out of date information)

Timeline

It is common for meetings during the Summer Term to be poorly attended, except the final meeting in June. I am therefore circulating these plans now, with final approval sought as follows:

Union Council	7 June
Trustee Board	email decision by the 22 nd June
College Council	9 July