

ICU Council Chair's Report

A note by Jenny Wilson

Since the last meeting of the Trustee Board, there have been 2 meetings of the Council. The first was held on 15th November and the second on the 13th December 2010.

Over the past two meetings, all Ordinary Member positions have now been filled with particular successes for the postgraduate community. The three positions of Non-Faculty, GSLSM and GSEPS have been filled by postgraduates new to the College this year which is refreshing to have external perspective and experience. I highly recommend appeals to this community in future years as they are notoriously hard to engage.

Despite this, we were unfortunately unable to hold another Ordinary Member training session due to diary clashes, but next year I would recommend for these to be timetabled in with the usual annual training sessions that take place at the beginning of the Autumn term.

15th November Meeting

This meeting predominantly received reports from the Sabbatical team. These were fairly uneventful. The main point of discussion came up during the Deputy President (Welfare)'s report regarding regaining the Union's Fair Trade status and the impacts this would have on the Union's retail operations. It was concluded that many people had strong feelings on the matter but that more research would have to be done to move the subject forward. It was recommended to be a topic for discussion at the next meeting of the Representation & Welfare Board.

13th December Meeting

For this meeting we invited Michael McGarvey, the UCU President for Imperial College as the main paper discussed was the 'Union's Paper to Senate' regarding the restructure of the Faculty of Life Sciences, presented by Alex Kendall. As the paper was a joint submission from both ICU and UCU for Senate, Michael was invited to give a brief description of UCU's stance and proposed actions so that the students on Council were better able to understand the joint position. After he had spoken and answered questions, the Council moved to vote to approve the paper being taken to Senate on behalf of the students, which was accepted unanimously with no amendments.

For this, the Council meeting and paper was advertised in the online group which is against the restructure, inviting its members (students of Imperial) to come along and voice their opinions on the matters. Despite there being very strong feelings in the group online no additional people, to the membership of Council, turned out to hear more about the issue.

Following this, all Sabbatical reports were received and accepted, with the DPFS receiving the action point of making a Summer Ball working group. The remaining two papers were also discussed though were not very contentious. The Raising & Giving and Community Action Group Policy were updated, giving day-to-day and governance responsibility of Projects to the Deputy President (Welfare) and operational responsibility for projects to the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) as this more appropriately mirrored their roles. The Equal Opportunities Policy was also renewed, having been reviewed by RWB, and passed.

At the next meeting of Council in January, we'll be doing a brief review of Ordinary Member's attendance in case any have missed 2 meetings (which results in their automatic removal), and would either like to be re-elected or new candidates found.