

Departmental Society Policy
By the DPCS

The Union notes:

1. That Clubs and Societies policy states: *“60. All Full Members of the Union are entitled to join any club or society, unless a club or society is registered with a government agency or national governing body which prohibits membership of affiliated clubs and societies on certain grounds. Membership may only be restricted on unavoidable legal or insurance issues (e.g. firearms control). Clubs and societies shall exercise the minimum possible restriction of membership, and inform the CSC or Faculty Union and Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) of any such restriction. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) may strike out any prohibition on membership.”*
2. That Departmental Societies have dual purposes of providing social/welfare functions for a department and promoting the subject/going beyond the immediate reach of a course
3. That Clubs and Societies policy states: *“66. A club or society may set qualifications for membership of the committee (for example: the chair may have had to sit on the committee previously, or a post may not be filled by a finalist) but these shall not be unduly onerous, and if they are, may be struck out by the CSC, Faculty Union, the Union President or Court. These qualifications must be set out in the club or society constitution.”*

The Union believes:

1. That most courses of study should be allocated a Departmental Society in line with the Society who most closely fits their course content. This shall include Postgraduate courses.
2. That the minimum possible restrictions on membership and eligibility for election should apply to Departmental Societies as they apply to all other groups, whilst preventing the social/welfare functions of a department being impaired

Imperial College Union resolves:

1. Departmental Societies shall be open to all members of the Union who, if they are not a member of the allocated course, may purchase membership at a nominal price set by the Society
2. All Full members shall have voting rights, regardless of their course code
3. Restrictions on eligibility to stand for election may be imposed by the society by amendments to their Constitution. Appeal shall be to the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies).
4. Maximum grant calculations shall never apply to a Departmental Society

Clubs and Societies Board
9th May 2011

5. For inter-departmental courses the host department DepSoc shall be that to which automatic membership is conferred. Elective membership for other DepSocs is then at the discretion of the students.
6. Money donated by the Faculty or Department for social or welfare purposes will only be used on Departmental Society members who are automatic members and shall not be used on members who have purchased membership to the Departmental Society.
7. Standing for election in a DepSoc does not imply the ability to stand in elections for positions within the management group executive committee that the DepSoc is within