

## **ICU Council Chair's Report**

*A note by David Smith*

Since the Trustee Board last met, there have been three Council meetings.

### **Ordinary Members**

Elections for ordinary members had a varying range of interest across the faculties. All undergraduate positions have now been filled (following a repeat election in the RCSU), but postgraduate positions have yet to be filled. However, there is interest in these roles, and we expect all positions to be filled in the repeat elections in time for the next council meeting.

At their training session, the ordinary members were encouraged to question current practices, scrutinise the activities of officers, and not be afraid to ask a seemingly 'stupid question'. Despite being rather quiet in their first meeting, they are becoming increasingly comfortable with the process and getting more involved in discussion.

### **FIRST MEETING – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

We ran a well attended training session before the meeting. The majority of proceedings were taken up by reports from the sabbatical team, faculty union presidents, and the Felix editor. All reports were passed, except for the GSA report, which was delayed until the 14<sup>th</sup> November meeting due to the GSA Chair being on a leave of absence. The Sabbatical Accommodation Policy (referred to Council by the Trustee Board), aiming to address the discrepancy in remuneration between the sabbatical officers, fell in both this meeting and the subsequent Council as there was a feeling that sabbaticals should be encouraged to live in halls due to the pastoral role that they fulfil in doing so. An amended Equal Opportunities Policy was passed unanimously.

### **SECOND MEETING – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

All sabbatical reports were accepted, with the DPW report being received at the next meeting. A paper requesting support from the Union on the 'Free Babar Ahmad' campaign was slightly amended and passed, although it was made clear that such a paper was unlikely to be approved by Trustee Board due to the potential for it to be considered ultra vires, particularly the request for the President to send an email to all students encouraging them to support the campaign. The paper subsequently fell at Trustee Board level.

Honorary Life Memberships for last year's sabbatical team were discussed, without any of the former officers being present while they were being discussed. The outcome was the same as when originally voted on, with HLMs being awarded to the

President, DPCS, DPW, DPE, Felix editor and ICSMSU President. The Summer Ball debrief (also on this meeting's agenda) was presented, followed by a proposal to request an independent inquiry into the ball. Council resolved to request an inquiry from ICU Court. However, Court was unclear on the need for such an inquiry, having already suggested that the current sabbatical team would be able to conduct an unbiased and objective investigation, an avenue that was never explored by the person who submitted the paper.

The Responsible Retailing of Alcohol policy was met with disapproval by some members, partly due to dissatisfaction regarding the reduced ability of clubs to run financially profitable events, and partly due to unhappiness with the tightening of regulations on what type of behaviour is deemed acceptable in Union bars. Amendments were approved, including one agreeing that College ID could be used as age verification, a potential breach of licensing law.

### **THIRD MEETING – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November**

Coming only two weeks after the previous meeting, this was an extremely short Council. All sabbatical reports were received and accepted, as was the GSA report.