

ICU Council Chair's Report

A note by David Smith

I apologise for not being able to attend this meeting, particularly as issues surrounding Council form a significant part of the agenda. I am currently abroad, but am contactable by email and phone if necessary. I shall keep my phone on during the time of this meeting in case there are any urgent questions.

There has been one meeting of Union Council and an Annual General Meeting since the last meeting of the Trustee Board. Both were highly eventful.

NINTH MEETING – Monday 21st May

This meeting was cancelled as it was clear from an early date that it would not be quorate.

UNION GENERAL MEETING – Wednesday 6th June

I am afraid to say that it is difficult to consider this event as anything other than disappointing. The aim was to discuss constitutional amendments with a large proportion of the student body, with 300 students needed for it to be quorate. However, fewer than 20 attended, the vast majority of whom were members of Council. There was some extremely positive discussion on all of the issues presented, but it would be difficult to argue that the student body at large were engaged in these issues. In light of this, it may be advisable for such a meeting to be held at a much earlier date next year.

TENTH MEETING – Monday 11th June

This meeting was beset by a number of difficulties. It was apparent just over an hour before the meeting that it would not be quorate. However, due to the late discovery of this information, it was decided that it should go ahead. I was highly doubtful (and remain so) that a quorate Council would be able to meet between the time of this meeting and the end of the session, as evidenced by the failure to convene an Emergency Council following the discussion surrounding the issue of Honorary Life Memberships at this time last year. It was therefore decided that there would be discussion on all of the issues, which would be minuted and sent to Council as a whole, who would come to their decisions via an email vote. This was agreed to be the most sensible option, but due to the nature of some of the issues presented, many members of Council subsequently felt that there had been inadequate discussion, particularly in light of the General Meeting being inquorate.

The Sabbatical reports and a living out request from the incoming President were received and accepted, as were the Union Court nominations. NB – these decisions are not yet confirmed, as Council are yet to vote on them due to the appeal to Court on whether such a move is constitutional. No substantial discussion was had on the constitutional amendments, with the majority of the debate focusing on whether it would be appropriate to discuss these matters at an inquorate council. The only approved agenda item was the Union Awards paper as the email vote was conducted the following morning due to the short time scale, with the Colours Ceremony being the following evening.

My inclination would be to attempt to call an emergency meeting of Council before the end of the month, but I have serious doubts as to whether such a meeting would be quorate. At the time of writing, I am unaware of the Court ruling on this matter, which may have already come to a suitable decision.