

Imperial College Union
Constitutional Changes Relating to Summer Elections
A paper by ICU President – Scott Heath

Background

1. As indicated in my note, we shall be having a General Meeting soon which will pass multiple amendments of the Constitution. As such, I decided it was inefficient to physically amend the constitution to facilitate some changes required for the Summer Elections to then change it again a few weeks later.
2. Due to this I am asking the Council to accept the principle of the following changes and allow the Summer Election to be altered to reflect these decisions.
3. The changes relate to the welfare officers, the Court Advocate and the PG Sabbatical.

Welfare Officers

1. The Welfare officers currently sit on the Representation and Welfare Board with one, the Equal Opportunities Officer, having a vote on Council. I believe that the Welfare officers should all become Officers of the Union and subsequently have a vote on the Council.
2. All policies passed by RWB must come to the Council and this move will mean that the 'experts' will be present when the paper is discussed and ratified.

The Court Advocate

1. The position of Court Advocate was created two years ago to provide a 'human face' for the Court.
2. I believe that the role provides little benefit to the Court or the Student Body and therefore recommend its removal. As such, we would not elect a new Court Advocate in the Summer Elections.

PG Sabbatical

1. I believe it is essential for the representative needs of the Postgraduate Students that we introduce a Sabbatical Officer for this area.
2. We will know in the next few weeks whether we have secured funding to introduce a DPPG and a member of support staff for the role. If this is the case, we will need to move quickly to elect someone as many PG students are currently seeking employment for the next year.
3. The role would involve sitting on all Graduate Schools Committees where a student has a seat, attending College Senate and QAAC, supporting the GSA, promoting PG careers, supporting the DPW in PG Welfare issues and much more.

Resolves

We resolve, pending new wording of the Constitution, to:

1. Allow the Welfare Officers to have a seat on and vote at Council.
2. Remove the Court Advocate position from the Constitution.
3. Allow a PG Sabbatical position, should funding become available, to be elected.