

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the fourth ordinary meeting of the
Council
of the Imperial College Union
in the 2012/13 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in SAF 120 on 4 December 2012 at 6.40pm.

Present:

Council Chair	Michael Foster
President	Paul Beaumont
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Henry Whittaker
Deputy President (Education)	Doug Hunt
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Stefan Nubert
Deputy President (Welfare)	Becky Lane
CGCU President	Temí Ladega
RCSU President	James Tsim
Silwood Park Chair	Isabel Fenton
A&E Chair	Adam Funnell
ACC Chair	Jake Woods
OSC Chair	Wasim Khouri
RCC Chair	Joe Rumer
SCC Chair	Lucy McGregor
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Steve Tran
ICSMSU Education Rep 4, Biomed and Pharm	Matthew Hutchins
GSA Physical Sciences academic and Welfare Officer	Ross Webster
GSA Business Academic and Welfare Officer	Simon Schillebeeckx
GSA Engineering Academic and Welfare Officer	Nicholas Ng
International Officer	Jialin Li
Gender Equalities Officer	Marisa Lewis
Disabilities Officer	Sophia Maiguma-Wilson
CGCU Ordinary Member UG	Johannes Hoenigl
CGCU Ordinary Member UG	Joe Gibbs
CGCU Ordinary Member UG	Thomas Lim
CGCU Ordinary Member PG	Marianne Kordab
RCSU Ordinary Member UG	Stuart Haylock
RCSU Ordinary Member UG	Jason Parmar
RCSU Ordinary Member	UG Mariza de Souza
RCSU Ordinary Member PG	James Bannock
RCSU Ordinary Member PG	Xiaoran Lai
ICSMSU Ordinary Member UG	Tagore Nakornchai
ICSMSU Ordinary Member UG	Shrawan Patel
ICSMSU Ordinary Member PG	Maia Kavanagh Williamson
Non Faculty Ordinary Member	Jasper Montana
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Co-Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Felix Editor Tim Arbabzadah

Apologies: ICSMSU President Shiv Vohra, RAG Chair David Goldsmith, Media Group Chair Joe Letts, GSA Chair Maryam Habibzay, GSA Medicine academic and Welfare

Officer Natalie Kempston, , ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Sybghat Rahim, BME Officer Bilal Khan, Ethics & Environmental Officer Laura Johnston, CGCU Ordinary Member UG Oladipupo Disu, CGCU Ordinary Member PG Tianyun Ye, General Manager Joe Cooper

Not present: RCSU Welfare Officer Fredrick Barker, RSCU Academic Affairs Officer Cecile Borkhataria, Campaigns Officer Chinemelu Ezeh, LGBT portfolio Officer Elizabeth Campbell, GSA Life Science Academic and Welfare Officer Helen Pennington, Interfaith Officer Aemun Reza, CGCU Welfare Officer Carol-Ann Cheah, ICSMSU Rep 12 & GEP Ken Wu CGCU Academic Affairs Officer Leonardo Paoli RSMU Chair Lewis Ryan

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The CGCU PG Representative was removed as per the constitution where it states that ordinary members of council who have missed 2 consecutive meetings shall be removed.
- b) It was noted that there were a large amount of faculty representatives not in attendance which is disappointing.
- c) The Constitution and by laws were passed at the last meeting of College Council.
 - i. In the transition stage, the Council Chair will be working to the new constitution but also working with the old rules.

2. MINUTES – 13.11.12

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To pass the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.**

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) The New Projects Committee Standing Orders have been passed at the Clubs and Societies Board.
 - i. RAG and CAG already exist within the CSB policy.

4. NSS RESPONSE

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Executive Committee have approved the response and there was input from Representatives before the document was circulated.
- b) College have received and recognised the response.
- c) Council moved to a vote on the paper and it was passed unanimously.

5. HIGHER EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT RECORD (HEAR)

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The resolves should read '3.e'.
- b) It was questioned as to what responsibility the Union will have to this.
- c) It was agreed that Believes 3.e to read 'Positions of responsibility within ICU and Constituent parts.'
- d) Council moved to a vote and the paper was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To pass the Union's Stance on The HEAR**

6. IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION'S STANCE ON IMPERIAL HORIZONS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The resolve was amended to read 'To undertake further work by consulting the wider student body to determine whether or not they think Imperial Horizons should be for credit.'

RESOLVED:

- 1) **Resolve to read**
'To undertake further work by consulting the wider student body to determine whether or not they think Imperial Horizons should be for credit.'
- b) 5.a was changed to read 'Arts & Humanities'.
- c) It was agreed that it needs to be made explicit that if students fail, this will not be published on student's transcripts.
- d) The Deputy President (Education) stated that Belief 3 suggests that the credit should be at the discretion of the faculty where it should be universal whether it be for or not for credit.
 - i. The courses are taught cross faculty which is why this should be important.
- e) It was acknowledged that a level of knowledge on the programme is required to complete the survey.
 - i. It was suggested that the survey could be completed in the Horizons classes
- f) Council moved to a vote and the paper was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 2) **To pass the Union's Stance on Imperial Horizons**

7. YEAR ABROAD POLICY

RECEIVED: The policy was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) It was questioned if this will increase the demand for year abroad places due to effectively this being a 'reduced' cost of learning.
- b) The President is to investigate the affect this will have on international students.

ACTION:

1. **The President to investigate the affect the Year Abroad Policy will have on international students.**

c) Council moved to a vote on the policy and it was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To pass the presented Year Abroad Policy (see appendix)**

8. ACCESS TO MEDICINES POLICY

RECEIVED: The policy was presented by the ICSMSU President

NOTED:

- a) Essentially this is asking drug companies to subsidise fund research.
- b) College have indicated that they may put in place aspects of the policy in an ethics policy.
- c) global access licensing framework (galf) is a restrictive framework and it is unrealistic for College to 'throw money away' by subscribing to this.
- d) Support College in a more ethical stance in how they licence out research drugs.
- e) The Union not risking a lot by organising campaigns.
- f) The Union has a responsibility as to what it should be campaigning for.
- g) It was suggested to see how other institutions have approached this.
 - i. Imperial College Union should not be mirroring other Universities; it should have its own stance.
- h) It was questioned if the impact on college would be could be quantified.
- i) The policy is restrictive and missing elements that should be explored.
- j) Open source patents could be exploited by companies who could work around the law as it is not particularly robust.
- k) The Colleges reputation could be damaged and relationship with the drug companies harmed which would impact on students ultimately.
- l) It was suggested that the resolves should be amended to reflect that Council are in general support of some way of developing world having access to medicines and that it should work with college to reflect this in a document but is not in support entirely of the GALF.
- m) It was agreed that the ICSMSU President rewrite the paper with a more Imperial College Union specific stance and reflect what can practically be implemented.

RESOLVED

- 1) **To not pass the presented policy and the ICSMSU President bring back a redrafted policy taking on board the above comments to the next meeting of Union Council.**

ACTION:

1. **The ICSMSU President to bring back a redrafted policy taking on board the above comments to the next meeting of Union Council.**

9. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Head of Catering in College is happy to work with the Union to redevelop Reynolds to develop a joint bar and catering space.
 - i. It is anticipated that movable dividers will be put in to make it a multi functional space.
 - ii. There are limitations on capacity and more infrastructure is required to make the space workable.
 - iii. The sacred ceiling will be preserved.
- b) The current proposal on Halls of Residence solutions are not the best.
- c) The paperwork is in progress to register as a charity.
- d) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

10. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) The room booking procedure is a systemic process and the timeframes are reflective of what is practically workable.
 - i. College rooms are allocated at Colleges discretion.
 - ii. The ICSMSU President requested a review of the procedure but the Council Chair stated that this is not for Council to request.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

11. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Education)

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

12. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) apologised for the delay in submitting the report.
- b) Another Ents working group will take place in the near future.
- c) There will be no charge for the 'plastic fun'.
- d) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

13. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) SES is currently open online.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

14. FELIX REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Felix Editor

NOTED:

- a) Thanks were given to Johnny Kim and Philip Kent for their work on the website.
- b) It is proving difficult in getting all editors together for a editorial meeting.
- c) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

Meeting closed 7.40pm

Approved as a correct record at a
meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2012/13

_____ Chair of the Meeting

Imperial College Union's Stance on the HEAR
A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

1. Imperial College Union Council discussed issues surrounding the Higher Education Achievement Report on Tuesday 13 October in the presence of the Pro Rector (Education).
2. Personal beliefs, ideas, issues, suggestions were taken from the floor, and the popularity of these points assessed by an online survey.

Beliefs

1. Imperial College Union is broadly supportive of an academic transcript that records more than currently recorded.
2. The option to choose what extra information is recorded on the transcript (out of the available options) should be at the discretion of the student.
3. Available options should include:
 - a. College awards
 - b. Imperial College Union awards
 - c. Graduate/Undergraduate Teaching Assistant posts
 - d. Papers and accreditations received whilst at the College
 - e. Positions of responsibility within Imperial College Union and constituent parts.
 - i. With detail explaining the size of the operation, scale of events
 - ii. And only after a certain level of commitment has been achieved from a CV2012 style accreditation scheme, that records the participation
 - f. Rector's Ambassadors
 - g. Imperial College Outreach Mentoring
4. Available options should not include:
 - a. Clubs, Societies & Projects membership
5. Imperial College Union has concerns over the introduction of this report without proper controls in place to ensure students do not – to the detriment of their academic studies – 'overbear' themselves with extra-curricular activities.
6. Imperial College Union would like to encourage the ability for students to access this report during their degree, so as to help with applications for internships and jobs.

Resolves

7. The Union should incorporate a CV2012 style accreditation scheme to make 3.e possible into its new Accreditation System

Imperial College Union's Stance on Imperial Horizons

A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

1. Imperial College Union Council discussed issues surrounding Imperial Horizons on Tuesday 13 October in the presence of the Pro Rector (Education).
2. Personal beliefs, ideas, issues, suggestions were taken from the floor, and the popularity of these points assessed by an online survey.

Beliefs

1. Imperial College Union is supportive of Imperial Horizons and its purpose of diversifying the curriculum, offering **choice** for students **who wish** to broaden their field of study.
2. Imperial Horizons should not be compulsory.
3. Subject to caveats on compulsory courses being integrated into the Horizons programme, any attempt by College to make Imperial Horizons **for credit** should be a College wide decision.
4. Imperial College Union would like to see Imperial Horizons fulfil the dual aims of:
 - a. Offering breadth and variety for students who wish to experiment with different modules
 - b. Offering progressional modules that allow students to build on previous year's courses

And suggests that entry to all strands, courses be open to students of all year groups is encouraged, though accepts the logistical and resourcing issues this brings. Imperial College Union, beyond all else, believes students should be offered the widest choice possible.

5. Imperial College Union suggests the course offerings should be diversified to include:
 - a. Arts & Humanities
 - b. Computer programming
 - c. Teaching
 - d. Design
 - e. Patent Law
 - f. British culture
 - g. Sport science
6. The Union believes there is a larger problem with the College's curriculum to be addressed, but strongly believes that Imperial Horizons is not *the answer*.
 - a. Students come to the College to pursue their chosen discipline and adding Imperial Horizons courses *solely* will not solve these problems
 - b. The College should consider thoroughly the appropriateness and 'point' of work set
 - c. Other recommendations set out in the Union's NSS Response should be considered

Resolves

1. To undertake further work by consulting the wider student body to determine whether or not they think Imperial Horizons should be for credit.

Year Abroad Policy

A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

Background

In July, HEFCE published *Student number controls and teaching funding in 2013-14 and beyond: Summary of responses to consultation and decisions made*. A stated objective of Government within this document was to encourage the uptake of placements both in Industry and Abroad. Government intends to do this by making the courses attractive to students through the introduction of a fee cap intended to limit the cost to the student.

	Paid by student	Paid by HEFCE	Total
Abroad (Non-ERASMUS) (2011-12)	£1,680	£1,713	£3,393
Abroad (Non-ERASMUS) (2014-15)	£1,350	£2,250	£3,600
Abroad (ERASMUS) (2011-12)	-	£3,393	£3,393
Abroad (ERASMUS) (2014-15)	£1,350	£2,250	£3,600

As offered by the College, years abroad typically take the form of a substitution year, rather than an additional year. Hence, students undertaking a year abroad will typically study for four years; the same period of study as a typical undergraduate student. On this basis, and in light of the Government recommended fee cap, the total fees to be charged to a student undertaking a year abroad for their entire degree will be less than for a typical student.

The estimated cost of provision for the year abroad though is higher than the total amount the college would receive though.

This is partly because, on *average* it costs the HE sector very little to put on a 'year abroad' – Arts courses are much cheaper to run than science or engineering courses, even when they include a year abroad. The Government figures have been worked out on the *average* institution that offers a wider range of courses than Imperial does.

Given Imperial is STEM only though, this provides a disincentive to college to offer years abroad.

Resolution

1. Imperial College Union urges the College not to reduce numbers as this is a disadvantage to students.