

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

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on 15 January 2013 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
ICSMSU President	Shiv Vohra
GSA Chair	Maryam Habibzay
RSM President	Lewis Ryan
RCSU President	James Tsim
Silwood Park Chair	Isabel Fenton
ACC Chair	Jake Woods
A & E Chair	Adam Funnell
CAG Chair	Alihusein Kapasi
OSC Chair	Wasim Khouri
RCC Chair	Joe Rumer
International Officer	Jialin Li
Disabilities Officer	Moeko Maiguma – Wilson
Gender Equalities Officer	Marisa Lewis
CGCU Welfare Officer	Carol-Ann Cheah
RCSU Welfare Officer	Fredrick Barker
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Steve Tran
GSA Life Sciences Academic and Welfare Officer	Helen Pennington
ICSMSU Education Rep 12 & GEP	Ken Wu
GSA Physical Sciences Academic and Welfare Officer	Ross Webster
CGCU Ordinary Member UG	Thomas Lim
Non Faculty Ordinary Member	Jasper Montana
CGCU Ordinary Member PG	Marianne Kordab
RCSU Ordinary Member	Mariza de Souza
RCSU Ordinary Member UG	Stuart Haylock
RCSU Ordinary Member PG	James Bannock
RCSU Ordinary Member PG	Xiaoran Lai
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Co-Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Felix Editor Tim Arbabzadah

Apologies: CGCU President Temiloluwa Ladega, UG Johannes Hoenigl, CGCU Ordinary Member UG, Joseph Gibbs, RCSU Ordinary Member UG Jason Parmar, ICSMSU Ordinary Member UG Tagore Nakornchai, Interfaith Officer Aemun Reza, RAG Chair David Goldsmith, , , Media Group Chair Joe Letts, CGCU Ordinary Member

Not present:

BME Officer Bilal Khan, RCSU Academic Affairs Academic Affairs Cecile Borkhataria, Campaigns Officer Chinemelu Ezech, LGBT Portfolio Officer Elizabeth Campbell, CGCU Academic Affairs Officer Leonardo Paoli, ICSMSU Education rep 4, Biomed and Pharm Matthew Hutchins, GSA Medicine Academic and Welfare Officer Natalie Kempston, GSA Engineering Academic and Welfare Officer Nicholas Ng, GSA Business Academic and Welfare Officer Simon Schillebeeckx, ICSMSU Education Rep 359 Sybghat Rahim, CGCU Ordinary Member PG Tianyun Ye, ICSMSU Ordinary Member UG Shrawan Patel, ICSMSU Ordinary Member

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) Thanks were given to those present for attending Council at a busy time of the year.
- b) Constituent Union's and the Felix reports will be presented at the next meeting of Council.

2. MINUTES – 04.12.12

NOTED:

- a) The Council Chair had made minor amendments to the minutes prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

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

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) The President contacted the International Officer with the fees for International Students doing a Year Abroad programme. The fees are £3500 for a year abroad in industry and £4500 for a year abroad.
- b) In regards to the 'Access To Medicines Policy', The ICSMSU President has passed on the comments on to the author of the paper.

4. UNION'S STANCE ON PEDICABS

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

NOTED:

- a) TFL want to bring the Pedicabs under regulations.
- b) It was questioned how IC students, who potentially are Pedicabs drivers and use this as a source of income to support their studies, would be affected.
 - i. The Deputy President (Welfare) stated that the risk is posed to IC Students outweighs the reduction in a student's income.
 - ii. If the student is a reputable driver, they should have no fears that they will lose income.
- c) Council moved to a vote on the paper and it was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To support the TFL legislation to bring pedicabs under the same regulations as taxis.**

5. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FEES

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the OSC Chair

NOTED:

- a) It was made explicit that the paper is not asking for a decrease in fees, it is requesting advanced notice on increases and transparency as to why the increases are so large.
- b) Ultimately the price of International Student fees may dissuade students from applying of which the knock on effect is detrimental to all students.
- c) It was suggested that a protest could be mobilised.

- i. Many International Students have approached the OSC Chair expressing concern and dissatisfaction with the fee increase for this year. Many of these were not aware of the size of the increase until the invoice.
- d) It pointed that currency fluctuations make it impossible to set the fees at the beginning of the degree for its duration.
- e) It was suggested that resolve 2 read to say 'for the length of College degree'.
 - i. The OSC Chair stated that College would most probably veer on the higher side of a projected increase and the student would have to take that cost.
- f) The President stated that the fees for 13/14 were set only a few months ago .
- g) The ICSMSU President suggested that the Union lobbies for a cap on International fees each year; student would be given a maximum that they may be and so will help with their budgeting.
- h) It is indicated that the increase each year is not relate to inflation – it is higher.
 - i. It was suggested that the Union could lobby for inflation on increase on fees.
- i) It was highlighted that Edinburgh University Union have recently led a campaign against the high International Fees and that they could be able to give some information.
- j) The President suggested that Beliefs 2 should be reworded as it does not fit in the context of the paper.
- k) It was suggested and agreed that Resolution 2 to be reworded to read as follows:
 - 2. *To lobby the College to:*
 - a. *give applicants information about the cost of their entire degree at the point of applying;*
 - b. *give students already enrolled on courses information on the cost of the rest of their degree.*
- l) Council moved to a vote on passing the amended paper and it was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1) To pass the amended policy (see appendix)

- m) It was agreed that the OSC Chair will work with the Sabbaticals to put an action plan in place in regards to the lobbying of College and report this back to Council.

ACTION:

1. The Sabbatical team to work with the OSC Chair to draft an action plan in regards to lobbying of College and report back to Council with the outcomes.

6. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

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

RESOLVED:

1) To accept the report.

7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

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

RESOLVED:

1) To accept the report.

8. 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.**

9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

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

RESOLVED:

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

10. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

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

RESOLVED:

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

Meeting closed 7.20pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2012/13

_____ Chair of the Meeting

International Tuition fees - a major concern
A paper by the OSC Chair – Wasim Khouri
Seconded by the Deputy President (Welfare) – Becky Lane

Imperial College Union notes:

1. Tuition fees have been the subject of many papers this year, especially due to the rise in home fees.
2. International students have suffered a similar issue this year with overseas fees reaching an average of £25,000.
3. International tuition fees rise incrementally each year.
4. The increase in international tuition fees from 2007/2008 to 2008/2009 was 5.13%, whilst UK inflation was 3.6% in 2008.
5. Similarly, 2008/2009 to 2009/2010 saw a 4.88% increase compared to 2.2% inflation that year. For more figures please refer to the appendix.
6. This year's tuition fees are higher than all UK universities and have become close to MIT who charge \$40,372 (£25,047 – exchange rate on 27/12/2012), remembering that expenses in London are much higher.
7. Two articles on this matter have been written in Felix last term, highlighting the growing student concern.
8. The Head of International Student Support, Sharon Bolton, at a meeting in December with myself, Union International Officer, Jialin Li, and Chief Executive of UKCISA (UK Council for International Affairs), Dominic Scott, all expressed their concern and agreed that students require more transparency.
9. This year saw the largest number of international students applying to the hardship fund as a result of the financial problems they suddenly faced.
10. It is usually assumed overseas students are wealthy, when in many cases students are living on a very strict budget.
11. Other universities in the UK have suffered a similar issue. For instance, Edinburgh's Student Association met the University Principal after a campaign and is now negotiating a solution.
12. Many international students have approached me this year questioning whether students can do anything to get justification from College as to the fee rise.

Imperial College Union Believes:

1. High fees may turn away many International Students as sponsors and parents would be unable to pay, especially in today's economic conditions.
2. This will affect the prestige and brand name of the university, reducing the worthiness of our degree.
3. The incremental rise in tuition fees with sudden changes, as experienced this year, is affecting students on tight budgets. This causes student dissatisfaction, again affecting university prestige (according to league tables).
4. International students should have transparency by either having fixed fees from year 1 (even if it means higher fees at the start) or knowing in advance what the fees will be over the 3-4 years, allowing students, sponsors and/or parents to budget accordingly.
5. College should implement the above system without spreading the risks to the students.
6. ICU should organize a protest or sign a petition that will be forwarded to higher authorities if College does not respond to this major concern.

Resolves

1. To lobby College to give students information on how they come up with the increase and where the money is distributed.
2. To lobby the College to:
 - a. give applicants information about the cost of their entire degree at the point of applying;
 - b. give students already enrolled on courses information on the cost of the rest of their degree.