

Imperial College Union

Council Chair Report

A note by the Council Chair – Richard Bennett

7th October 2013 – First Ordinary Meeting of Council

With this being the first official Council meeting, I stressed what my expectations were for the behaviors of members during Council meetings which were mostly commonsense and aim to create a pleasant environment for everyone involved in these meetings. These include things like promptness to meetings, no drinking of alcohol and deadlines for papers/reports.

Except for the Sabbatical Reports and Faculty Union Reports, there were no items on the agenda. These mostly outlined efforts and activities taken place over the summer and were all received as tabled.

Further discussion was had on union rules with regards to under 18's accessing the bars. It was suggested that events should not be promoted as "non-drinking"; they should be inclusive to everyone, and to that end the union should put equal resources into events not involving alcohol and those involving alcohol.

Elections have now been undertaken for the vacancies for Ordinary Members of Council which are proportional across faculties and UG/PG. All vacancies were filled and as such the next meeting will be fully populated. Turnout was unprecedented for this round of elections with 4597 members casting their vote for their year/course reps, liberation officers and ordinary members of Council.

29 October 2013 – Second Ordinary Meeting of Council

The second meeting of Council initiated with 30 minute training for all members. Due to a mixture of course deadlines and illness, we received 15 apologies. Apart from the standard reports from Sabbatical Officers, Council were asked to take a stance on the proposed changes to the Immigration Bill and also changes to the use of the old football pitches at Hyde Park. Council also received a report on the NSS results.

Immigration Bill

The agenda began with an animated discussion on the Union's stance on the proposed changes to the Immigration Bill and the effect that this will have in International Changes. After an hour of discussion, it was agreed that a working group will be formed to further investigate the issue and get feedback from international students. The revised paper will come to the next meeting of Council.

Hyde Park

The Royal Parks are in a consultation period in regards to the charging of the use of Old Football Pitches and making these only available through a booking system. It was agreed that the Union will take a stance on the lack of consultation in regards to these proposed changes and the Deputy President Clubs & Societies will be submitting a letter along with questionnaires that have been filled in by users of the space.