



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the second ordinary meeting of  
the **Council** of the  
Imperial College Union in the 2013/14 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on the 29 October at 6.40pm.

**Present:**

Council Chair	Richard Bennett
President	David Goldsmith
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Yas Edwards
Deputy President (Education)	Nat Kempston
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Kieron Creagh
Deputy President (Welfare)	Marissa Lewis
CGCU President	Lejon Chua
GSA Chair	Andreas Thomik
ICSMSU President	Steve Tran
RSMU Chair	Emily Pennington
ACC Chair	Chew Liew
A&E Chair	Alex Savell
Media Group Chair	Maclej Matuszewski
OSC Chair	Charmain Li
RCC Chair	Tom Wheeler
SCC Chair	Jia Cheong
CAG Chair	Sam Page
RAG Chair	Callum Kirk
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer	James Murphy
ICSMSU Education Rep	Anju George
GSU Engineering AWO	Mohammad Hassan Ahmadzadeh
GSU Physical Sciences AWO	Max Boleininger
GSU Medicine AWO	Nuha Yassin
Campaigns Officer	Chris Kaye
LGBT Portfolio Officer	Nia John
International Officer	Nida Mahmud
C&GCU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	George Butcher
	Timothy Munday
	Yulia Bulgakova
C&GCU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Richard Simons
	Stefan Nubert
RCSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	Ben Fernando
	Selina Leung
	Xiaoyu Chen
RCSU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Andrew Tranter
	Giulia Ferlito
ICSMSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	Hiba Saleem Danish
	John Golden
	Shiqu Qiu
ICSMSU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Alan Askari
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

**Apologies:** RCSU President Plabon Saha, CGCU Welfare Officer Juliet Kernohan, ICSMSU Welfare Officer Sunila Prasad, RSMU Welfare Officer Hayley Meek ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Rahul Ravindran, GSU Business Academic and Welfare Officer Ruxandra Luca, Disabilities Officer Moeko Maiguma-Wilson, Interfaith Officer Tagore Nakornchai, CGSU UG OM Thomas Lim, Gender Equality Officer Sarah Sturrock

**Not present:**

Silwood Chairs Claire Bankier, Shorok Mombrikotb, GSU Life Sciences AWO Marta Sawicka, BME Officer Mohammed Riyaz, Interfaith Officer Tagore Nakornchai RCSU Welfare Officer Douglas Imrie

## 1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) Ordinary Members of Council were welcomed.

## 2. MINUTES – 07.10.13

RESOLVED:

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

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) In regards to the events for the under 18's, it was stated that the majority of Union events and activities are inclusive and that the Constituent Union also initiate these.

## 4. STANCE ON CHANGES TO THE IMMIGRATION BILL

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President stated that some of the information contained within the report was from the NUS Campaign against the changes.
  - i. Some of the statistics are from BIS, Migrant Rights Network, the NUS and Imperial College International Office.
  - ii. The figures pertaining to the Government are vague and it is difficult to get more conclusive figures. The Government are giving token figures that are not representative of the costs.
  - iii. There are no justification for the costs and how they will be used and the Union should be pushing for the government to be giving justification for these.
- b) It was suggested that International Students opinion should be sought as they are the ones that are best placed to offer opinion based on experience.
- c) The Union should be looking in to what accommodation provisions are for International Students within College and lobbying for better provision if deemed inadequate.
- d) It was stated that the resolves were not strong enough and they should be more robust.
- e) International Students pay tax through VAT and National Insurance.
- f) The Government hasn't confirmed that actual amount that students will be charged.
- g) Anecdotally, students numbers from South East Asia are coming to study in the UK are declining.
- h) It can't be quantified that the £200 is significant enough to cover the NHS deficit.
- i) Anyone can access free healthcare through A&E.
- j) The argument that students would be choose not to study in the UK because of the £200 NHS levy can't be quantified by fact.
- k) The USA has levies that are applied to International students and they don't have issues with International students being put off.
- l) It was highlighted that the segregation of International students is unfair.
- m) Health Tourism is not the issue that this bill is addressing as this is targeted at International Students only.
- n) It was agreed that the resolves should be changed to as follows:
  - To oppose and actively campaign against the immigration bill in its present form.
  - To request input from the student body (via email) about how the proposed changes will negatively affect them.

- To coordinate with other organisations opposing the bill in its present form.

**RESOLVED:**

**1) To change the resolves on the form to as follows:**

- i. **To oppose and actively campaign against the immigration bill in its present form.**
  - ii. **To request input from the student body (via email) about how the proposed changes will negatively affect them.**
  - iii. **To coordinate with other organisations opposing the bill in its present form.**
- o) Anecdotally, landlords may be put off letting to International Students if they have to do extra work.
  - p) Some landlords and estate agents ask to see passports as part of their checks.
  - q) Landlords may have an incentive to house International students as they may demand a sizeable amount to rent if the student is unable to provide a UK based guarantor.
  - r) The Union should be working with College to see how they can support students and potentially become an accredited guarantor.
  - s) There are sections in the whole Bill that potentially may also affect students.
  - t) It is vague as to what the process is for landlords and penalty is for landlords if they do not comply.
  - u) It was suggested that the paper as needs further expanding and made to be more robust.
    - i. A working group was suggested to be created with the mandate to be the creation of a survey of current students and to redraft the paper to be more robust.
    - ii. The Deputy President (Welfare) agreed to head and coordinate the working group.
    - iii. The redrafted document will be presented at the next meeting of Council.
    - iv. Council moved to a vote on mandating the working group and the vote is as follows:
 

FOR	30
AGAINST	1
ABSTAIN	3
Passed	

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To create a working group of Council members to redraft the presented paper and for them to create a survey on the topic to be sent to current students.**

**ACTION:**

- 1. The Deputy President (Welfare) to bring back the redrafted paper to the next meeting of Council.**

- v) Council voted on passing the amended paper presented at this meeting, and the vote is as follows:
 

FOR	7
AGAINST	22
ABSTAIN	5
Falls	

**5. HYDE PARK OLD FOOTBALL PITCHES CONSULTATION**

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President Clubs & Societies

NOTED:

- a) Many student groups use the grounds, not just clubs.
- b) It is unknown as to if the charges are applied, how much they would be and what the money would be used for.
- c) Council moved to a vote on passing the presented paper and it was passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED**

- 1) To accept the presented paper (see appendix)**

**6. PRESIDENTS 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 AND SOCIETIES)**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Clubs and 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)**

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

NOTED:

- a) 85% of UG year reps are filled.
  - i. The election for Horizons reps are currently taking place.
  - ii. 50% of PG reps are filled however information is still coming in.
  - iii. The Union offers the facilities for Year and Course rep elections to be undertaken online but they are not forced to use this.
  - iv. It was asked that an update on Year and Course rep vacancies come to the next meeting of Council.

**ACTION:**

- 1. The Deputy President (Education) to bring an update on Year and Course Rep vacancies to the next meeting of Council**

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.**

**9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES)**

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

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) apologised for the late submission of his report.
- b) 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:

- a) 2 Campaigns were approved at the last meeting of Community and Welfare Board.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.**

## **11. NSS Response**

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 apart from 1 abstention.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.**

## **12. SUMMARY OF UNION COUNCIL 2012/13 ACTIVITY**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) It was requested that an update on the Beit redevelopment come to the next meeting of Council.
  - i. The Deputy President Clubs & Societies stated that there is nothing to report on as yet and student consultation will occur and she will bring an update of any changes and summary of activity when this happens.
- b) The NUS debate may arise again this year.
- c) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the report.**

Meeting closed 8.05pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2013/14

## **Appendix**

### **Hyde Park Old Football Pitches Consultation**

*A paper by Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), Yas Edwards*

#### **Background**

Towards the end of the 2012/13 academic year, signs began to appear on the Old Football Pitches in Hyde Park. These displayed a notification that soon the area would have to be booked and paid for by groups of people wishing to use the space. This space is used by various groups of Imperial College Union's members throughout the year and for many different purposes. These groups include Clubs, Societies & projects, Halls of Residences' sports teams, and many informal groups of students.

On September 6 2013 the Royal Parks decided to suspend charging for the space to hold a second consultation period, though Imperial College Union was not informed of or aware of the first consultation period. During this period booking to use the space is still mandatory by submitting a form via email or telephoning Will to Win, who are managing this booking system and also manage the tennis courts in Hyde Park. This second consultation period began on September 30 and will end on October 31 2013. During this time, the Royal Parks are inviting users to submit a consultation questionnaire (Appendix 1) by post or in person and they held a Public Open Day on Saturday 12 October.

I have been informing Clubs, Societies & Projects through their club officers and other users through the warden system about this situation, and encouraging anyone to fill out a consultation questionnaire and hand it in, or send to me to hand in on their behalf. On October 31 2013, Anthony Crowther, our Student Activities Manager at Imperial College Union and I will take all of the consultation questionnaires and a covering letter covering the various reasons behind our stance to Hyde Park. We also hope to secure a meeting from someone at the Royal Parks before then to discuss the situation.

#### **Beliefs**

- The first consultation period was not publicised enough to allow Imperial College Union to take a stance on whether the area should be booked and paid for at all.
- Many Union Clubs, Societies & Projects, halls of accommodation football teams and other groups of students will be negatively impacted upon by the booking and charging system, causing them to move their activities to a different location, cease their activity altogether or increase the financial cost of taking part which may exclude or deter individuals from participating in their activities.
- Activities that take place on the old football pitches are an important part of our members' time at University. Recreation that takes place there is important for physical and mental health and wellbeing, building friendships with others and developing skills such as communication, teamwork and leadership.
- This area is described as public and has been perceived to be for many years.
- The area should not have to be booked or paid for by Imperial College Union members.

#### **Resolve**

- For the Union to take a stance on this situation based on the background and beliefs in this paper.