



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the fourth 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 10 December 2013 at 6.35pm.

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
ACC Chair	Chew Liew
Media Group Chair	Maclej Matuszewski
OSC Chair	Charmain Li
CAG Chair	Sam Page
CGCU Welfare Officer	Juliet Kernohan
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Sunila Prasad
CGCU Academic Affairs Officer	James Murphy
ICSMSU Ed Rep 4, Biomed & Pharm	Lucinda Osborn
GSU Engineering Academic and Welfare Officer	Mohammad Hassan Ahmadzadeh
GSU Business Academic and Welfare Officer	Ruxandra Luca
LGBT Portfolio Officer	Nia John
International Officer	Nida Mahmud
Gender Equality Officer	Sarah Sturrock
Interfaith Officer	Tagore Nakornchai
C&GCU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	George Butcher
	Yulia Bulgakova
C&GCU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Richard Simons
	Stefan Nubert
RCSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	Ben Fernando
	Xiaoyu Chen
RCSU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members	Andrew Tranter
	Giulia Ferlito
ICSMSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members	Hiba Saleem Danish
	Shiqu Qiu
Permanent observers	
Governance and Administration Manager (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Apologies: CGCU President Lejon Chua, ICSMSU President Steve Tran, GSU Chair Andreas Thomik, RSMU Chair Emily Pennington, A&E Chair Alex Savell, RCC Chair Tom Wheeler, SCC Chair Jia Cheong, RAG Chair Callum Kirk, ICSMSU Education Rep Anju George, GSU Physical Sciences AWO Max Boleininger, GSU Medicine AWO Nuha Yassin, Campaigns Officer Chris Kaye, ICSMSU (Postgraduate) Ordinary Members Alan Askari, RCSU AAO Mariza de Souza ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Rahul Ravindran, Disabilities Officer Moeko Maiguma-Wilson, Interfaith Officer Tagore Nakornchai, CGSU UG OM Thomas Lim, Gender Equality Officer Sarah Sturrock CGCU Ordinary Member UG Timothy Munday RCSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members Selina Leung ICSMSU (Undergraduate) Ordinary Members John Golden

Not present:

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

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) As per the By Laws, Thomas Lim was removed as the CGCU UG OM due to missing 2 consecutive meetings.
 - i. Council moved to a vote to reinstate Thomas Lim and it was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To reinstate Thomas Lim as the CGCU UG OM.

2. MINUTES – 29.10.13

NOTED:

- a) The RCSU President stated that he was in attendance and wasn't on the register of attendance.

RESOLVED:

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

3. MATTERS ARISING – none

4. MOTION TO PUBLISH THE VOTING RECORDS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by RCSU Postgraduate Ordinary Member Andrew Tranter

NOTED:

- a) The basic principle behind the paper is accountability.
- b) Voting pads would cost approximately £1500.
- c) The minutes don't record who voted for what.
- d) Voting records could be used against people and it could be misconstrued why members have voted in a certain way and used negatively against people.
- e) It was agreed to remove 'impossible' from believes 2.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To remove '...it is impossible...' from believes 2.
- f) It was highlighted that Council is an open forum for anyone member to attend and speak and if students were motivated and interested, they would attend the meetings.
 - i. Students may not be able to attend meetings.
- g) There are implications on future employability with potentially employees judging on how people have voted.
 - i. Opinions can change between the age of University and then going out in to employment.
 - ii. The votes could be put behind a college log in.
 - iii. Positions or initials could be logged instead of names.
- h) It was highlighted that this would extend the length of the meeting where it is already a stretch on member's time. This would be an extra burden on members.
- i) Members could put a statement in the minutes as to why they voted that way.
 - i. It was highlighted that this would be a logistical challenge.
- j) It was suggested that if passed, this should be implemented next year as members stood without this as a requirement of the role to have their vote documented in the public domain.
- i. Members may resign if they feel uncomfortable having their votes recorded in a public domain.
- k) It was suggested that a working group could be set up to work out the logistics.
- l) It was agreed that resolve 1 has 'in principle added to the beginning of the sentence and resolve 2 to remove 'next meeting' and add the 'next 2 meetings of council'.

RESOLVED:

- 2) Resolve 1 to read 'In principle, to record and publish an account of how each council member votes in council, on a per-item basis, on the union website'.

Resolve 2 to read 'To commit to enacting the previous resolution in time for the next 2 meetings of council.'

m) Council moved to a vote on accepting the amended paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR	unanimous
ABSTAIN	2
AGAINST	2

RESOLVED:

3) To accept the amended policy – see appendix

ACTION:

1. Andrew Tranter to investigate the mechanisms to implement the policy.

5. LEGITIMISING THE INTERNATIONAL NHS FEES CAMPAIGN

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by Campaigns Officer Chris Kaye

NOTED:

- a) It was reiterated that the paper is in no way a personal attack.
- b) The campaign is undermined if all responses aren't included.
- c) The minutes states that it is resolved that 'current students' to be surveyed. However it was pointed that the minutes have the discussion stating that International Students should be surveyed.
- d) The Deputy President (Welfare) stated that Council mandated a survey targeted at International Students.
 - i. The Union doesn't have access to registry data to be able to email only International Students.
- e) It was highlighted that Chris Kaye had the option to be part of the working group and it was questioned why he wasn't when he is the Campaigns Officer.
- f) The Deputy President (Welfare) stated that she was mandated by Council to undertake a task within a restricted timeframe which she delivered with the assistance of the working group.
- g) The Deputy President (Welfare) mentioned that she was disappointed that Chris Kaye did not come and discuss the issue with her in advance and that Facebook is not an appropriate forum for professional conversations.
- h) Students felt aggrieved that their responses had not been included in the response.
- i) The point of the survey was not to survey Imperial Students, it was to get the effect on International Students of the changes to the immigration bill.
- j) Council moved to vote on accepting the paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR	2
AGAINST	Unanimous
ABSTAIN	3

Falls

6. UNION STANCE ON CYCLING IN LONDON

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by CGCU Undergraduate Ordinary Member George Butcher

NOTED:

- a) The name of the paper was changed to read 'Union stance on cycling infrastructure in London'.

- b) The paper was amended in that Union notes point 3 shall read 'According to colleges recent transport survey cycling is the second most popular method of transport after walking'
- c) There has been no response from College in regards to how they will support students cycling from Acton. The Deputy President (Welfare) stated she will follow this up.
- d) There should be more information and education given to cyclists.
- e) There was discussion in regards to the including a campaign on improving cyclist behaviour and getting college support on safe bike storage and security however it was stated that the author did not want to detract from the original purpose of the paper.
- f) It was suggested that there could be a section on the Union website on cycling safety with a feedback mechanism included.
- g) Council moved to a vote on accepting the paper and it was passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To pass the amended paper – see appendix

7. MOTION ON THE CRIMINALISATION OF STUDENT PROTEST

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by Andrew Tranter

NOTED:

- a) Fundamental to the paper is the ability for the union to be able to protest in a nonviolent manner and supporting the belief of democracy.
- b) Concern raised in regards to actively engaging with ULU and using Union resources towards other unions.
- c) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that the Union has a good relationship with College and have built up a rapport over the years which is found to be a more effective way of engaging change.
 - i. He also stated that the majority of Imperial Students are politically apathetic.
- d) It was pointed that Council doesn't have a budget and that any request for funding is best applied for through Community and Welfare Board.
- e) Concern was raised over the number of actions included in the paper.
- f) The Union Advice Centre is there for impartial advice if a student feels that they are in a compromised position or have been arrested during a protest.
- g) It was suggested that some of the resolves aren't clear enough or are too restrictive.
- h) The points in the brackets on resolve 6 were removed.
- i) Council voted on the notes and beliefs section of the paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR	Unanimous
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	3
Passes	
- j) Council voted on each resolves individually and the votes are as follows:

Resolve 1	Resolve 2
FOR Unanimous	FOR Unanimous
AGAINST 3	AGAINST 1
ABSTAIN 1	ABSTAIN 3
Passes	Passes
Resolve 3	Resolve 4
FOR 14	FOR Unanimous
AGAINST 1	AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 11	ABSTAIN 6
Passes	Passes

Resolve 5	Resolve 6
FOR Unanimous	FOR 9
AGAINST 0	AGAINST 11
ABSTAIN 1	ABSTAIN 6
Passes	Falls
Resolve 7	Resolve 8
FOR Unanimous	FOR 15
AGAINST 1	AGAINST 7
ABSTAIN 1	ABSTAIN 6
Passes	Passes
Resolve 9	Resolve 10
FOR 14	FOR 8
AGAINST 0	AGAINST 12
ABSTAIN 12	ABSTAIN 7
Passes	Passes
Resolve 11	Resolve 12
FOR Unanimous	FOR Unanimous
AGAINST 0	AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 4	ABSTAIN 15
Passes	Passes
Resolve 13	Resolve 14
FOR Unanimous	FOR Unanimous
AGAINST 0	AGAINST 0
ABSTAIN 5	ABSTAIN 1
Passes	Passes

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

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.**

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

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The Student Survey is now open.
- b) Council moved to a vote on accepting the report and it passed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

Meeting closed 8.20pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2013/14

_____ Chair of the Meeting

**Motion to Publish the Voting Records of Council Members
Proposed by RCSU PG Ordinary Member Andrew Tranter
Seconded by John Selby - Physics department**

ICU Notes:

1. Council meetings are open to all members of ICU.
2. There is no present mechanism for members to check the voting records of their representatives, short of attending the relevant council meeting.
3. Article L.100.1 of the constitution, which states that “[Council shall have the authority to] represent the voice of students”.

ICU Believes:

1. That students are often unable to attend lengthy council meetings solely to monitor their representatives voting records.
2. That for council to be truly representative or democratic when students cannot monitor their own representatives voting records.
3. That the publication of council members voting records is thus a democratic necessity.

ICU Resolves:

- 4) In principle, to record and publish an account of how each council member votes in council, on a per-item basis, on the union website.¹
- 5) To commit to enacting the previous resolution in time for the next 2 meetings of council.

¹ A note on implementation: this will probably be easiest through the use of electronic voting pad things, often used in lectures. I imagine college has some that we can use.

Union stance on cycling infrastructure in London

A paper by George Butcher, Ordinary Council Member for the Faculty of Engineering
Seconded by Thomas Bealing

Background

This paper aims to give the union a stance on cycling infrastructure in London, particularly on roads commonly used by its students including Queensgate, High Street Kensington, Brompton/Lillie Road and Cromwell Road.

The Union Notes

- Between the 5th and the 18th of November 2013, six cyclists died in London: Brian Holt, 62; Francis Golding, 69; Roger William De Klerk, 43; Venera Minakhmetova, 24; a 21-year-old man from St John's Wood and a man believed to be in his 60s (BBC News)
- Lories account for over half of cyclist fatalities despite making up just 5% of London's traffic (London Cycling Campaign)
- According to colleges recent transport survey cycling is the second most popular method of transport after walking.
- Imperial College is committed to aiming to increase the number of its staff and students cycling as part of its 'StepChange' campaign
- The road infrastructure should allow for the needs of all its users including drivers and pedestrians, but the current infrastructure does tend to provide these groups with their needs

The Union Believes

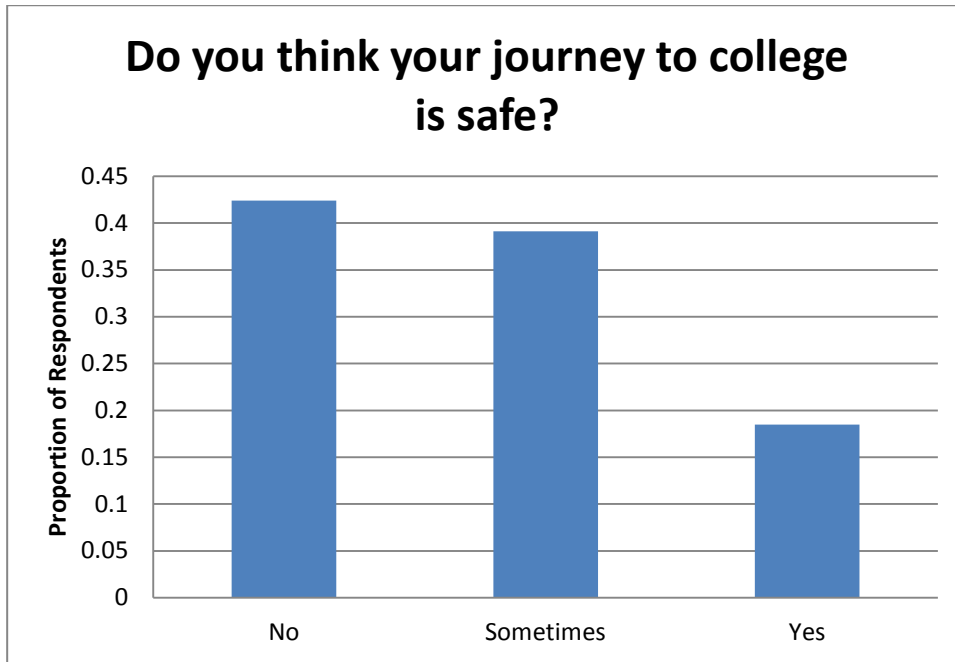
- Cycling should be a safe means of transport, accessible to all
- People who want to cycle to college, should not be deterred by dangerous roads, HGVs and junctions
- Cyclists deserve cycling infrastructure which is consistent along routes and which separates them from motor traffic at the most dangerous junctions

The Union Resolves

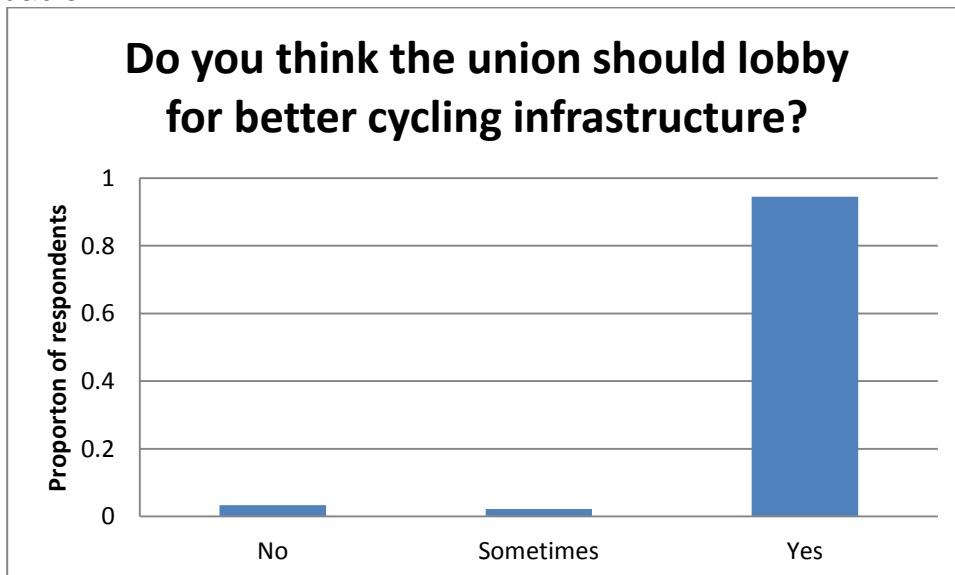
1. To lobby the college to take a public position pro improving the cycling infrastructure in London for the safety of its students and staff.
2. To lobby local authorities and MPs for improved cycling infrastructure across London including
 - a. Consistent cycle infrastructure on routes, particularly those most used by Imperial students
 - b. Compulsory proximity sensors and other cyclist safety devices on all HGVs
3. To liaise with the London Cycling Campaign to see what role it can play in lobbying for better cycling infrastructure

Appendix

To support this paper, members of the bike users group were asked for their answers to four questions, how often do you cycle to college, do you think your journey is safe, should the union lobby for better cycling infrastructure and what would you tell policy makers about your experience of cycling in London? The full results are available upon request from the author on george.butcher11@imperial.ac.uk. These are some of the results.



Of the respondents who replied sometimes or yes, they tended to describe the actions they took to make their route safe. Some respondents cycled through Hyde Park. The author is struck by how many seemed to accept a certain level of danger as understandable.



The sample was inherently biased towards cyclists. They are never going to say that the union should care for cyclists, but the very high number of respondents who said yes, clearly shows the demand for union action.

Free Text

Highlights of the free text are as follows. Ninety four responders wrote over 11 000 words between them so I didn't include all of them. They are available upon request.

"Yes, I think that if roads were safer, more people would cycle, without any fear. I have got used to it by now, but I know a few people who do not cycle because they are scared it would be too unsafe."

" Road architecture in London is not very well suited for increasing cyclist numbers and this needs to be addressed. Other European cities can manage wide sea changes and I don't understand why London cannot."

"It is the union's role to be a voice for it's [sic] students on important issue. Many students (and staff) currently cycle and cycle safety is an important issue for them. Cycling offers great benefit to one's health and one's wallet, not to mention being lots of fun and so doing anything to increase the likelihood of students cycling would fall within the union's remit (and one of the primary reasons people don't cycle is safety fears)."

"Nearly died 4 times"

"I love cycling, London and cycling in London but the statistics show that it really is an unnecessarily dangerous pastime and gives the city a bad reputation - the terror on my mother's face when I told her I was cycling to Uni said it all! Cycling is great for the health (and would be better if the air was better), mood and a sense of connection to the city."

"Striking the balance between a car-friendly environment and a cyclist-friendly one is a very difficult task. There is no clear resolution that leaves both parties happy. However, the current set-up overwhelmingly accommodates for cars over cyclists and in the short-term, this balance needs to be redressed."

"Hammersmith roundabout is hell"

"Most of the time, cycling in London feels safe. However, it is the occasions where 'luck' seems to play a part in survival which need to be assessed. By improving cycling infrastructure, you would be removing this reliance on luck, and giving all road users the means to be FULLY in control of their own, and others, safety."

"I love cycling in London and I want to be able to feel safe to do it"

Motion on the Criminalisation of Student Protest
Proposed by Andrew Tranter RCSU Ordinary Member PG
Seconded by Dan Goldwater – Physics

ICU Notes:

1. The arrest of the President of the University of London Union (ULU) under Section 11 of the Public Order Act, which requires “advanced notice of a public procession”.
 - a. That no such procession was planned in advance.
 - b. That the procession that did occur did not leave the university campus.
 - c. That the bail conditions subsequently imposed on the ULU president require them “not to engage in protest [...] within half a half mile boundary of any University”.
2. The dispersal of a nonviolent sit-in protest at the University of London Senate House building on 4th December 2013 by the Metropolitan Police.
 - a. That no injunction or eviction order was issued against the protestors.
 - b. That the policing tactic used has been described as “incredibly violent”², with police officers “punching people indiscriminately”³ and “pulling [protestors] hair and clothes”.⁴ Video evidence exists seemingly showing a police officer punching a protestor in the face.⁵
 - c. That this dispersal resulted in at least three arrests.
3. The suspension of five students at the University of Sussex for engaging in a nonviolent sit-in protest.
4. That the events described in 2. And 3. have been condemned by the National Union of Students⁶
5. That many Imperial students may have colleagues, family and friends at these Universities. That furthermore, many Imperial students may be jointly supervised by academics at these Universities.
6. That a demonstration against violent policing on Thursday 5th December 2013 resulted in a further 36 arrests.
7. That those arrested included journalists, legal observers, and at least one ICU member.
8. That the bail conditions imposed upon those arrested prevent many students from attending their own university in any capacity.
- 9.

ICU Believes:

1. That freedom of nonviolent protest is a cornerstone of democracy.
2. That nonviolent protest is a key method by which ICU and other student unions can achieve organisational objectives.
3. That the use of force to suppress nonviolent protest is unacceptable.
4. That it is our duty to protect our students against abuse, harassment and violence, whoever the perpetrator.
5. That the violent policing perpetrated recently against peaceful student protest is a threat to not only students’ health and welfare, but also to ICU and student unionism as a whole.
6. That the arrest of a student union president and the imposition of disabling bail conditions represent an attempt to suppress nonviolent student protest.

² <http://libcom.org/news/wave-repression-against-students-05122013>

³ <http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2013/dec/05/three-arrests-student-protest-university-of-london>

⁴ <http://www.independent.co.uk/student/news/students-punched-and-dragged-to-the-ground-by-their-hair-as-police-break-up-demonstration-8985397.html>

⁵ See 2.

⁶ <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/press-releases/nus-responds-to-incidents-at-student-protests/?load=6&top=317>

7. That the use of violent policing and internal disciplinaries by Universities to curtail nonviolent protest is both against the spirit of higher education and a threat to the independence of our student unions.
8. That the arrest of journalists and legal observers clearly suggests that the arrests were arbitrary and not based on the actions of the individuals concerned.
9. That imposing bail conditions preventing students from studying is clearly disproportionate.

ICU Resolves:

1. To declare our refusal to be intimidated by these recent events.
2. To condemn and campaign against violent policing perpetrated against peaceful student protests.
3. To condemn and campaign against the arrest of the president of ULU and the imposition of disabling bail conditions.
4. To condemn and campaign against any University's use of violent policing and internal disciplinaries to curtail nonviolent protest.
5. To support and defend any ICU member subjected to violent policing or internal disciplinary for nonviolent protest.
6. To release a statement describing this policy.
7. To write to the Metropolitan Police informing them of this policy.
8. To write to the president of ULU, informing them of this policy, expressing our solidarity and requesting further coordination to enact this policy.
9. To form a working group to enact this policy.
10. To condemn the aforementioned mass arrest of protestors, journalists and legal observers.
11. To condemn the use of bail conditions to suppress nonviolent protest.
12. To condemn the use of unnecessary bail conditions which prevent students from studying.