

## **Council Report**

*Paul Beaumont – Council Chair*

The last two Councils of the year concluded with discussion around the upcoming EU Referendum, and the position the Union should/shouldn't take on this issue; CSP Budgeting proposals and Postgraduate Accommodation issues.

As is customary, HLM for the sabbaticals was awarded, as well as the Union Awards confirmed.

To review this year, just over 40 papers have been considered (excluding reports). To put this into context, just less than 40 were considered last year and just over 60 the year before. It is positive to report that an increased number of papers came from non-officer trustees this year, though a few were notably from the same member, and normally always from a Member of Council.

It is still my opinion that the Union needs a different forum for discussion and policy making – it is a shame that the Democracy Review was not completed this year. Although I won't be involved next year, I would urge the Union to do away with Council, instead empowering ERB, CWB and CSPB to enable faster policy making and relevant local discussions with interested parties. I would perhaps even propose going further, and splitting ERB between undergraduates and postgraduates. It was disheartening (particularly as a Postgraduate Student) that the Council spent 5 minutes talking about Postgraduate Accommodation, but 30 minutes on the Union Flagpole.

I wish my successor, Richard, and the whole Trustee Board the best for next year.