



Minutes of the Imperial College Union
Governance Committee
13 January 2016
Meeting room 6, 16.30

Present:

Alumni Trustee	Andy Heeps (AH)
President – Chair	Lucinda Sandon-Allum (LSA)
Council Chair	Richard Cameron (RC)
Student Trustee	Serena Yuen (SY)
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Ben Howitt (BH)
Deputy President (Education)	Chun-Yin San – (CYS)

Permanent Observers

Head of Student Voice and Communications	Alex McKee (AMK)
Governance Manager – Clerk	Rebecca Coxhead (RJC)

Observers: Lay Trustee – Jill Finney (JF)

Apologies: Managing Director – Joe Cooper

- 1. CHAIR'S BUSINESS – none**
- 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST – none**
- 3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – 23 September 2015**

NOTED:

- a) The minutes were passed at the meeting of Board on 29 October 2015.

4. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) In regards to the Felix Policy discussion, it was highlighted that the Constitution clearly states that the Union is responsible for publications. Currently there is no mechanism to manage the risk of publication operations.
 - i. The Felix Editor is an employee of the Union and is also a Club Chair.
 - ii. Board needs to show that it is support of Felix but also that that is managing the risk of its operations and consider what its risk appetite is for publications.
 - iii. It was suggested that an independent journalist to assist the editor with the publication may be a sound resource to invest in.
 - iv. Currently there are no editorial guidelines.
 - v. The Communications Committee is the best place to consider this issue.

5. ELECTIONS UPDATE

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by RJC

NOTED:

- a) The long term goal is to empower CSP's to undertake elections online.
- b) It was reiterated that CSP's over 150 members will continue to be involved in the elections.
 - i. CSP's who do not have over 150 members will also be included should they wish to.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the update.**

6. RATIFICATION OF RETURNING OFFICER

NOTED:

- a) Jim Dickinson has returned the past 3 Big Elections and it is felt that he is highly competent to act in this role again for the elections period.
- b) The Committee moved to a vote on accepting Jim Dickinson as Returning Officer for the Elections 2016 and it was passed unanimously.

7. APPEAL FROM SINGAPORE SOCIETY FOR OMISSION FROM ELECTIONS

NOTED:

- a) The Singapore Society were excluded from the Big Elections 2015 citing the same argument presented. The society were excluded on the proviso that they were to change the production date to bring it in line with the elections 2016. The current committee have stated that they were not told this during handover.
- b) Concern was raised that one of the reasons stated for candidates to go for other roles if not successfully elected.
 - i. This practice of 'jumping roles' during results isn't the most fair in itself, leading to confusing voters on who is a suitable candidate and who is just there to make the numbers up.
 - ii. This also dilutes the committee positions; if a candidate is not fully engaged to fulfil the duties of the role but rather is just after a committee position.
- c) The Committee were of the opinion that the grounds that you outlined did not put the society in an exceptional position in that the points put forward could be said for any other Clubs, Societies and Projects.
- d) The Committee were sympathetic to the fact that the agreement made between the Union and last year's committee to move the musical production to bring the dates in line with the election period was not passed on to the new committee.
 - i. Taking that in to consideration, they have agreed to allow the society to run an election outside of the elections period. The proviso of this allowance is that this is the last time the exception will be made and that this year's committee must ensure that the production dates are set to guarantee that they work with the elections 2017 timeframe. Also, the election this year must take place using the Union's voting software. BH and LSA will contact the club to inform them of the outcome.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee agreed that the Singapore Society may run it's election outside of the elections period. The proviso of this allowance is that this is the last time the exception will be made and that this year's committee must ensure that the production dates are set to guarantee that they work with the elections 2017 timeframe.**

ACTION:

- 1. BH and LSA to inform the Singapore Society of the outcome and to work with them to set the timetable and positions loaded in to evote.**

CLOSED SESSION

Suspension of a Union Officer

NOTED:

- a) College Tutors contacted the President in November to recommend that an officer be suspended due to the risk to the student body. The President referred this recommendation to the Governance Committee.
- b) The Governance Committee considered the advice of the College Tutors and were of the opinion that the student should be suspended whilst the investigation by the College is taking place.
- c) The College Secretary has contacted the Union to inform them that there has been discrepancies and misadministration in the investigation undertaken by the College Tutors and as such the suspension has been removed from the officer.
- d) The committee were positive that the decision made to suspend the officer was the correct action following the advice from the College Tutors. It was reiterated that the Committee was not the body responsible for investigating and charging the officer.
- e) It has highlighted a flaw in the College's disciplinary systems and a discussion should ensue between the Board Chair, Managing Director, President and College Secretary to discuss actions going forward.

Meeting closed 18.10