

Motion to Prevent the Union's Lobbying of its Own Members

Proposer: Oliver Ford (OM UG Engineering); Seconder: Sina Lari (Chair, SCC)

Union Notes:

1. To further its Objects, which include but are not limited to “promoting the interests and welfare of Students” (C 4.1) the Union may “seek to influence public opinion; and ... influence governmental and other bodies and institutions” (C 5.4.2-3)

Union Believes:

1. The Union has a responsibility to defend its Members' interest in legislative matters affecting them as – or their welfare while they are – students
2. In democracy
3. The Union does not exist to pool votes on significant external matters; particularly where the impact is wider-reaching than student affairs alone
4. The Union's Members form a diverse group with a range of sometimes opposing interests;
 - a. who should not feel pressured to vote against their own opinion in the interest of the Union or fellow Members
 - b. an official Union stance may place undue pressure on Members to vote 'in line' with that stance
 - c. a campaign affiliated or sponsored by the Union would have no other purpose but to serve such 'pressure'

Union Resolves:

1. Not to lobby its Members to vote in a specific direction:
 - a. prior to, or in any way anticipation of
 - i. general or by-elections
 - ii. national referenda
 - b. by any form of communication with, near, or on behalf of its Members; regardless of whether the outcome would benefit
 - i. The Union
 - ii. (Other) Members of the Union
 - c. and to amend the Constitution to that effect by
 - i. the addition to *E. Powers* of A1 below
2. To support campaigns for each option equally, or not at all; ensuring:
 - a. campaigns are equally funded
 - b. campaigns are, as far as reasonable, presented with equal gusto
 - c. the lack of a volunteer for one stance should not mean a single Union-funded campaign goes ahead
3. Not to take a public stance on matters of the resolved (R 1.a) nature
 - a. and to amend the Constitution to that effect by
 - i. the amendment to *D. Object 4.1* to add the exclusion A2 below

Appendices

1. Amendment to *E. Powers*

- a. the addition of the section to appear immediately following E5 (“To further its Objects, but not to further any other purpose, the Union may”):

1. In furthering its objects, the Union may not:
1.1. seek to influence Members’ opinion

2. Amendment to *D. Objects 4.1*

- a. by amending

- 4.1. promoting the interests and welfare of Students at Imperial College London during their course of study and representing, supporting, and advising students;

to read, with the addition-only amendment in boldface

- 4.1. promoting the interests and welfare, **except in matters relating to or in anticipation of [R 1.a]**, of Students at Imperial College London during their course of study and representing, supporting, and advising students;

to give the section, *mutatis mutandis*:

4. The Union’s objects are the advancement of education of Students at Imperial College London for the public benefit by:
- 4.1. promoting the interests and welfare, except in matters relating to or in anticipation of [R 1.a], of Students at Imperial College London during their course of study and representing, supporting, and advising students;
- 4.2. being the recognised representative channel between Students and Imperial College London and any other external bodies; and
- 4.3. providing social, cultural, sporting, and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its Students