

## 1/2/17 - Council Chair Report

Union Council has now met five times this year and all of the meetings have met quoracy. One of these meetings was an Extraordinary meeting called by Council itself to discuss the TEF. The membership of Council has been committed and engaged, producing a good level of interesting discussion at meetings and I am particularly pleased with how well Council seems to be running this year in terms of membership engagement. The only real negative to report has been a number of complaints relating to the uploading of papers to the internet making it more difficult to engage as a non-voting member and late receipt of minutes of previous meetings which will hopefully disappear with the settling of the changes in staff support to Council for this year. That said, the receipt of complaints about papers going online was a pleasant reassurance that we actually have other students interested!

Of particular note from the meetings thus far this year is that we had the new Vice Provost (Education) Simone come and present to Council about the new Teaching and Learning Strategy. The opportunity to engage with this new strategy, ask questions and provide feedback was exciting to be involved in.

The papers of most obvious relevance to Trustee Board will be coming to this meeting since they involve Bye-Law changes including creation of a mental health liberation officer, DPFS role review and Management Group Restructure.

There have been a variety of papers relating to Council Reform, the discussion for which has been moved to a working group. If any of Trustee Board has any advice on current parts of Council's current set up that they know to have historic background or particular advice on how they feel Council may be improved that I can feed into this discussion I'm sure the working group would really value this input.

Other papers discussed this term, any of which I will be more than happy to update on verbally, include:

- Bursary Stance
- CU Mascotry Policy
- Management Group Elections
- College Careers Service

The only other point to mention here is the ongoing work to try and facilitate a way for council members, particularly those based on other campuses, to be able to get involved with the discussion without being physically present. This has been a particular focus lately as there are a few students that are finding it difficult to get to the South Kensington campus but would still like to uphold the Council aspect of their roles. If anyone on Trustee board has particular experience of methods, in particular systems used, to include people in discussion during large meetings I would greatly appreciate any advice.