



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

of the fourth ordinary meeting of the Council of Imperial College Union in the 2016/17 Session

The meeting of Union Council was held in RSM G.01 on Tuesday 24 January at 18:30.

Present:

| Role | Name |
|--|-------------------------|
| Council Chair | Abigail de Bruin |
| Union President | Nas Andriopoulos |
| Deputy President (Welfare) | Emily-Jane Cramphorn |
| Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) | James Cox |
| Deputy President (Finance & Services) | Rachel Blythe |
| CGCU President | Milia Hasbani |
| ICSMSU President | Alex 'Chippy' Compton |
| A&E Chair | Jack Steadman |
| SCC Chair | Sina Lari |
| Media Chair | Rob Garside |
| CGCU Academic Affairs Officer | Claudia Caravello |
| ICSMSU Academic Officer – Clinical Years | Rhys Smith |
| Ordinary Member – UG Engineering | Andrew Olson Gallardo |
| Ordinary Member – UG Engineering | Luke Granger-Brown |
| Ordinary Member – XX Engineering | Tom Shakespeare |
| Ordinary Member – XX Natural Sciences | Joshua Renken |
| Ordinary Member – UG Natural Sciences | Michael Edwards |
| Ordinary Member – PG Natural Sciences | Stephen Ball |
| Ordinary Member – PG Engineering | Theresa Davey |
| Ordinary Member – UG Medicine | Eric Suen |
| Ordinary Member – ICSMU | Kai Matthews |
| CGCU Welfare Officer | Fintan O'Connor |
| RCSU Welfare Officer | Kate Chandler |
| RSM Welfare Officer | Simran Kukran |
| Postgraduate Academic & Welfare Officer – Physical Science | Alexandre Adler |
| Environment & Ethics Officer | Dijana Spasenoska |
| Interfaith Officer | Andy Li |
| International Officer | Thisara Vinella |
| Campaigns Officer | Andrew Tranter |
| Vice-Provost (Education) | Prof. Simone Buitendijk |

Apologies: Lloyd James (RCSU President), Noah Hawkins (RSMU President), Elinor Winstanley (ACC Chair), Cynfelyn Nancarrow-Lei (RAG Chair), Dominic Price (RCC Chair), Jin Yoo (CAG Chair), Abhijay Sood (Ordinary Member – UG Natural Sciences),

Not present:

Minute-taker: James McDonald, Administration Support Coordinator

1. Chair's Business

- a. None

2. Minutes

- a. No changes

3. Teaching and Learning Strategy Presentation

- a. Presentation held by Vice-Provost (Education) Prof. Simone Buitendijk
- b. Aimed at innovating the learning and teaching at Imperial
- c. This started with an online consultation, the pop-up consultation stands, Town Hall meetings and meetings with Faculty heads.
- d. A lot of coherence between staff and students. Ideas focused around a wish to increase critical thinking, an opportunity to learn through failure, interdisciplinary learning and thinning the curriculum
- e. Vice-Provost (Education) wishes for there to be more of a shared community between students and staff which will likely require increased social space on campus
- f. Highlights that this innovation is happening to improve, just to innovate
- g. Have focused a lot on the teaching learning methods of the University of British Columbia.
- h. There is a lot of innovation already at Imperial, but these are in pockets that aren't cohesive
- i. Aim is to make student more engaged in the classroom, potentially in very small learning groups based around discussion
- j. There could be small lecture sessions as well as question and answer sessions with fewer 'cookbook labs' with the aim of not following a recipe, but to encourage learning through mistakes
- k. Vice-Provost (Education) states that they have a very vague objective to try to engage discussion
- l. Alex Alden asks about a potential for changing the way students are tested. Vice-Provost (Education) states that it is unlikely that Imperial will ever get rid of the paper exam, but the way in which it is conducted may, notably in group work to engage the skill of discussion.
- m. Stephen Ball asks how they will engage the most resistant departments. Vice-Provost (Education) states that typically, if 50% of the staff in a department adopt the changes, then more staff will follow. Vice-Provost (Education) also states that it is important to note that this will be incremental change, not a complete overhaul.
- n. Claudia Caravello states that many lectures don't want to be filmed in class, so why would they agree to a completely different style of teaching. Vice-Provost (Education) states that there needs to be a clear vision from the top of each department and that the carrot (i.e. more funding) and stick approach may be used.
- o. Andrew Olson Gallardo states that Academic Representatives have been requesting change for a long time and work like to work with College to help. Vice-Provost (Education) welcomes this. Andrew Olson Gallardo also asks about how to push further cohesion within departments, notably between staff and students. Vice-Provost (Education) will focus on space and atmosphere within a classroom, and wishes for suggestions from the student body, not just from Academic Representatives and Imperial College Union.

4. Matters Arising

- a. Sina Lari requests that if there is to be a presentation in the future, that the length should be specified due to other commitments. Alex Compton highlights that it has been well received that the Vice Provost for Education has taken time to share plans for teaching reform with Union Council.
- b. CU Mascots has been resolved.
- c. Council Reform Working Group – the Chair recognises that this has been a slow start and will be putting more time in to make this work from now on.
- d. Lack of minutes and papers available online for all committees – Nas Andriopoulos and Stephen Ball have met to discuss this in more detail. The action plan is to make sure no historic documents are missing from the website, make sure Committee member lists are up to date and establish clear staff responsibilities for uploading and minute taking, focus on a 10 day turn around for minutes and to review and evaluate procedure before the end of Nas' term in office.

5. Creation of a Mental Health Officer – Presented by Ariana Sadr-Hashemi (Chair of Mentality)

Received: The report was presented as tabled

Noted:

- a. Michael Edwards asks when this position would go to election. Nas Andriopolous states that this could go to the Leadership Elections 2017 but an amendment to add a 'Mental Health Union Welfare Officer (commonly known as Liberation officer)' to bylaw A28.9.
- b. Andrew Olson has concerns defining what the role will entail, especially if this is to be elected in such a short time period, especially getting someone to run. Emily-Jan Cramphorn says the issue historically has not been finding someone willing to run, but rather with Liberation Officer engagement.
- c. Alex Adler asks if mental health a long term illness. Ariana Sadr-Hashemi states that it can be and that flexibility in the role will be essential.
- d. Alex Compton states that this has been an issue for ICU for a while but as soon as ICU drop it as a focus and then pick it up again, College's priorities have changed.
- e. Decided the discussion as to who this officer would report to will be sent to CWB

***Resolved:* To accept the report with amendment to add A28.9 Mental Health**

Approve: 100%, *Reject:* 0%, *Abstain:* 0%

6. Petition to College To Review the Careers Service – Presented by Eric Suen (Ordinary Member – UG Medicine)

Received: The report was presented as tabled

Noted:

- a. Eric Suen is very keen to state that this is not a petition against College, but rather to gain more information from the Careers Service

- b. Eric Suen highlights that the Careers service is in very high demand at particular points in the year, notably in October. He feels there are two ways to solve this. One way is to try to get students to have further foresight and attempt to get students to see the Careers Service in the summer term. The other is for the Careers Service to bolster their staff/increase opening hours in the busy periods.
- c. Alexandre Adlen wishes to amend proposal to add 'with the aim of improving the Careers Service'. Eric Suen wishes not to as currently no one is aware of the problem and so would rather start a consultation as the first step.

Resolved: To accept the report

Approve: 86%, Reject: 0%. Abstain: 14%

7. Management Group Restructure – Presented by James Cox (Deputy President (Clubs & Societies))

Received:

- a. The report is attempting to make a change that has been repeatedly proposed since 2012
- b. The aim is to try to even out the size of Management Groups, which causes difficulty, especially when it comes to Budgeting
- c. The proposed changes will reduce the number of Management Groups from 8 to 6 and within each Management Group there would be sub-groups with a Vice-Chair
- d. This will likely reduce the amount of time that Management Group Committees spend time helping CSPs, freeing time for them to study and play

Noted:

- a) Stephen Ball wants clarification that the proposal will free time for people to have more spare time and rather they would still continue what they are doing currently. James Cox confirms this is the case due to expanded Management Groups with a more specified job role.
- b) Nas Andriopoulos states that an amendment to byelaw A25 will be required. This means it will now read:

25. There shall be the following Management Groups:

25.1. Arts & Entertainments

25.2 Community & Faith

25.3 Culture

25.4 Education & Careers

26.5 Recreation

26.6 Sports



- c) James Cox also feels that the extra 2-3 people each management group committee will have will have no problem being filled as there are so many people engaged already.

Resolved: To accept the report with the aforementioned amendment to A25
Approve: 90%, Reject: 3%, Abstain: 7%

8. DPFS Role Review – presented by Rachel Blythe (Deputy President (Finance & Services))

Received: The report was presented as tabled

Noted:

- a. Stephen Ball queried the removal of '11.8 Be responsible for supporting the postgraduate student experience, in conjunction with the relevant Union committees' stating that he feels it was appropriate to have a named Officer Trustee specifically in charge of postgraduates. Emily-Jane Cramphorn and Rachel Blythe reply stating that in the new role description all Officer Trustees need to represent all students at Imperial College London.

Resolved: To accept the report
Approve: 90%, Reject: 7%, Abstain: 3%

9. Higher Education Policy (as mandated at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council) – presented by Nas Andriopoulos (President)

Received: aim is to create a working group to create a paper for 2 councils time

Noted:

- a. Andrew Tranter does not feel that 2 months will be enough time to gain sufficient data. Nas Andriopoulos wishes for this to happen quickly as the situation surrounding this is moving too quickly.
- b. Stephen Ball suggests an amendment to 1D, which would make it read 'Return the proposed new policy to Council by the March meeting of Council'. This proposal is accepted by Council
- c. Luke McCrone has nominated himself to be Chair of this working group

Resolved: To accept the report with the aforementioned amendment to 1D
Approve: 72%, Reject: 7%, Abstain: 21%

10. Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) – Report

Received: The report was presented as tabled

Noted: Nothing to note.

Resolved: To accept the report
Approve: 86%, Reject: 7%, Abstain: 7%

11. Deputy President (Education) – Report

Received: The report was presented as tabled

Noted:

- a) Andrew Tranter asks when TEF will be released to the public. Luke McCrone states he is unsure and will look into it

Resolved: To accept the report

Approve: 79%, Reject: 3%, Abstain: 17%

12. Deputy President (Finance & Services) – Report

Received: The report was presented as tabled

Noted:

- a. Michael Edwards asks why the Union does not have a current environmental policy. Rachel Blythe says that for this reason the Union is meeting with College to give influence
- b. One voting pad did not register on this vote, and so they have mathematically been added to Abstain.

Resolved: To accept the report

Accept: 86%, Reject: 0%, Abstain: 13%

13. Deputy President (Welfare) – Report

Received: The report was presented as tabled

Noted:

- a. Stephen Ball asks why CWB have not been successful or having meetings and why this hasn't been brought to Council's attention previously. Emily-Jane Cramphorn replies saying that they just haven't been meeting as regularly as other committees. Emily-Jane will update next month's Council on the progress of CWB.
- b. Ariana Sadr-Hashemi asks that there has been a lack of mental health training that was promised at the beginning of the year. She has issues with the vagueness of the timeline proposed and wants to know who the relevant CSPs who would qualify are. Emily-Jane Cramphorn states the timeline is limited as the people hosting the training are doing it for free and it is difficult to book them in and that any club who wishes to receive the training will qualify. Emily-Jane Cramphorn is hoping to have some training by the end of Easter term.
- c. Claudia Caravello refers to the Union Strategy and wants to know the timeframe for the creation of Welfare Representatives. Emily-Jane Cramphorn states there is nothing currently confirmed.

Resolved: To accept the report



Approve: 83%, Reject: 7%, Abstain: 10%

14. President – Report

Received: Nas Andriopoulos states College's response to Bursaries is in the appendix. He wants to gain more evidence of the impact of bursary success.

Noted: Nas Andriopoulos states the price of Life membership will go down.

Resolved: **To accept the report**

Approve: 93%, *Reject:* 0%, *Abstain:* 7%

15. Any Other Business

- a. Sina Lari states that Kensington & Chelsea Council have purchased some further education residences from Kensington & Chelsea College without public consultation. Sina Lari wishes for the Union to condemn this move as a voice of educational solidarity. James Targett mentions that students do not pay council tax so questions whether our voice will get heard. Sina Lari will bring a paper on this to next Council.
- b. Abigail de Bruin states that Council's aim is to primarily discuss issues that affect students and areas of local concern so there is scope for Council to speak about the local community. However, this is up to Council to decide case by case.
- c. Nas Andriopoulos wishes to thank Stephen Ball for his longstanding commitment to Union Council as it is his last meeting. Nas Andriopoulos proposes the motion to accept Stephen Ball as Honourable Life Council Member. This motion is accepted (*Accept:* 97%, *Reject:* 0%, *Abstain:* 3%)
- d. Alex Compton states that ICSMU have rewritten their constitution and officer review. Abigail de Bruin agrees to have an email vote.
- e. The issue of location of Union Council is raised, notably to have access to somewhere which every student can access. Abigail de Bruin states that many Council bookings this year happened after the rooms were opened up to CSP bookings. Occasionally the only suitable space to hold Union Council will have to be outside of the Union Building.