



**Imperial College Union Governance Committee**

**Tuesday 10 July 2018**

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO.</b>	10
<b>TITLE</b>	Governance Review Update/Handover
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Alex Chippy Compton, Union President
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	This paper provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Next steps for Governance at Imperial College Union</li></ul>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To update the committee on the Governance Review</li><li>- For the committee to give guidance on the direction of disciplinary support for investigating staff/officers</li></ul>
<b>DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED</b>	None

## Governance Review Update

The [Constitution](#) & [Bye-Laws](#) have been circulated to the committee previously and are available on the website. Unfortunately we have not had a quorate Union Council in which to pass the new Governing Documents. As Council Chair, I will present these to the second Council meeting next year (as recommended at the inquorate Council on 19 June 2017). I will then bring these to Board. The Constitution will then be presented to College Council. A plan between the Chair of College Council, myself and my successor, Rob Tomkies, has been created to ensure the appropriate people are in the room at College Council.

Below I have broken down some areas that still require work. Some of these will be completed before I handover while others will require Governance Committee oversight next year.

### **Disciplinary**

A separate paper is provided as part of the agenda with the current (basic) guidance given to investigating staff and the Board complaints policy. I am working to flesh this out at the moment so that my experience is not lost. I would appreciate guidance from the committee on any gaps within it or where the guidance needs to be pulled into formal policy.

We currently have no formal structure for complaints from external groups/staff/alumni. Currently we follow the procedure to that of student complaints. I think this would be a useful discussion item for Governance Committee next year as we continue to build our disciplinary procedures and guidance.

### **Union Council**

I believe the Union could benefit from a quick bench marking exercise with other Students' Unions. If completed next year, this would give Governance Committee a strong steer as to the areas of improvement within our governance structures. This would need to be a co-owned piece with Communications Committee as I believe this would throw up some recommendations around communicating our structures and processes as well as improvements in the governance itself. Governance and Communications Committees would need to draw up a brief for the review to ensure it doesn't overlap too far with the current work around brand and Union image.

### **Policies and Renewal**

Alongside the work on the Constitution & Bye-Laws, the Officer Trustees and *Felix* Editor have worked to update the Board policies. This work is attached as a separate paper. Some of these will be presented at the first subcommittee meetings of the next academic year due to timing of meetings. While staff leads and subcommittees have been allocated for each policy, I believe Governance Committee should take responsibility for ensuring that these are reviewed and renewed on time. The timeline should be included as part of the paper pack (as a tabled item) for every Governance Committee and updated as appropriate. Next year I hope to renew the relevant Council policies.

The Union needs to decide how it communicates the contents of these policies, when appropriate, to the membership and (particularly) volunteers/staff. This committee should decide whether this lies with Governance Committee or Communications Committee. I would also like guidance on how to best ensure incoming sabbatical officers are aware of appropriate policies.