

## Imperial College Union Council Report

Alex Chippy Compton, President

### Governance & Democracy Review

- The Constitution & Bye-Laws are being presented at today's Union Council
- If you have any comments or spot errors, please send these through by midday 14 May so I can incorporate these
- I have submitted a separate paper regarding the Constitution & Bye-Laws with some specific decisions I would like Council to make next week
- I am now working on a longer-term Governance Plan so that we can be more pro-active with our governance processes. I hope to do the bulk of the work before I finish as President. I will then take this on as my 'trustee project' as Council Chair and work with the OT team and Board of Trustees to generate a more comprehensive 3-5 year plan.
- The OT Team are working to bring the Board policies up to date with current practice and identify the Board subcommittees these sit with (where appropriate). I have generated a plan for review so that policies are reviewed on an annual cycle. This will mean most Board policies are reviewed every three years although some require annual review.

### Operations & Updates

#### Petitions

- I am working with systems on the 'back-end' of the petitions system to ensure that we have the systems functionality. Once the working group has met and determined some of the detail, we can use that to shape the final system.
- We hope that the system will be in place by the start of the 18/19 academic year

#### Union Awards

- I have been working with Tom Bacarese-Hamilton and the staff working group on the Union Awards. I am coordinating the nominations and judging panels for the event.
- This year we have tried to give greater guidance for students when nominating by giving more detailed criteria. It would be useful to know if people found this helpful and how we can aid the nomination process further.
- I will provide a verbal report and recommendation for Council on the Colours/OSA/Fellowship Awards judging panel from the working group

#### Social Mobility Consultation

- As has been previously raised, consultation in 3<sup>rd</sup> term is often limited
- Given Council needs to vote by January 2019 on the addition of a Social Mobility Liberation & Community Officer, next year's OT team will carry out the consultation. This has been incorporated into handover both with individuals and as a team. We are also looking to give incoming OTs on stakeholder management and engagement to support them in running a wide consultation process.

#### USA Trip

- I am finishing up my report from the trip and will circulate that to Council in due course

### Local Elections

- The marketing & communications team featured elections on our social media and emails as mandated by Council
- This topic has been added to the handover agenda
- Moving forward, general and local election dates will be added to the Union Year card to allow for better planning and visibility

### Appointed Student Trustee

- The Board of Trustees are about to recruit for two student trustees. This will bring Board back to full complement.
- I have attached the criteria for student trustee as an appendix for your information. I would welcome any feedback on potential criteria missed or points that could use clarification.

### Council Support & Training

- I am working with Harriet and Owen to look ahead to Council next year and start planning. We are hoping to offer a greater level of training and support to Council members next year, particularly those who have not sat on Council before.

As always, I am available in person and via email for any questions you may have on my report or the Union's work.

[union.president@ic.ac.uk](mailto:union.president@ic.ac.uk) | [@icu\\_president](https://twitter.com/icu_president) | 020 7594 8060 | IC ext. 58061

## Appendix A: Student Trustee Criteria

The Board of Trustees, the most senior governing body of Imperial College Union is recruiting two appointed Student Trustees.

The Board provides the strategic direction, values and vision of the organisation. It ensures that we are working towards *Our Strategy 2017-20*, and verifies that our staff and student leaders are conducting their activities safely and legally. It also approves Imperial College Union's annual budget and examines its financial performance, issuing our annual reports.

The Board of Trustees comprises:

1. The five Officer Trustees
2. Two elected Student Trustees
3. Two appointed Student Trustees
4. The Union Council Chair
5. Four External Trustees
6. One Alumni Trustee

External Trustees are selected from industry and academia for their expertise, external viewpoint and experience.

The Board of Trustees meets six times per year. It also has four subcommittees, which are responsible for managing areas of the charity in greater detail. The subcommittees are:

- Finance & Risk
- Communications
- Governance
- Appointments & Remuneration

Our Student Trustees are expected to attend all meetings of the board, and of one of the subcommittees. Each subcommittee meets about 4 times a year.

The time commitment for this post is expected to be at least 7 days per annum plus preparation time, including attendance at all Board of Trustee meetings (1/2 day each, 6 per annum), membership of one Board Subcommittee (1/4 day each, approximately 4 meetings per annum), attendance at annual trustee away day and residential (3 days per annum) and optional attendance at other events, meetings and planning days as required.

### Key responsibilities

Trustees are accountable for delivering the responsibilities detailed in the Constitution & Bye-Laws and Board of Trustees Policy. All Trustees have a duty to:

- Ensure that Imperial College Union acts in accordance with its charitable objects, constitution and other guiding documents and remains true to its Mission, Vision and Values.
- Help Imperial College Union achieve its objectives and improves the lives of its members
- Ensure that Imperial College Union complies with all relevant legislation and regulations, including relevant Charities Acts and Education Acts, and related regulatory requirements

- Ensure that Imperial College Union does not undertake activities that put its financial stability, members or reputation at undue risk.
- Work with other Trustees, staff and volunteers in a constructive manner and for the greater good of the Union
- Participate fully in Board meetings and join one of the Board's subcommittees
- Use their personal skills and experience to ensure Imperial College Union is well run and efficient
- Seek professional external advice where there may be material risk to the Union or where the Trustees may be in breach of their duties, or at any other appropriate moment.
- Add value to the Board and the Union through generating ideas, challenging the status quo, broadening thinking and supporting and promoting innovation and creativity

Student Trustees are in post for one year, from the date of appointment by the Board, and can be reappointed.

Becoming a Student Trustee is an invaluable opportunity to gather real-life experience in a high-performing and complex organisation at the most senior level. Your time on Board will give you a chance to develop your strategic thinking capabilities, understanding effective governance and its purpose as well as oversight of commercial and financial operations, communications strategy and human resources management of a £9 million turnover charity. You will learn how to play a meaningful role, help shape the direction of the Union and develop your critical business thinking skills

You will be paired with an external trustee with 20+ experience in their field to mentor and support you through your term. They will support your personal development and any projects you want to drive forward during your time as a trustee.

To find out more about this role, you can contact one of the current Student Trustees:

Eric Suen: [ho.suen14@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:ho.suen14@imperial.ac.uk)

Thomas Waite: [thomas.waite14@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:thomas.waite14@imperial.ac.uk)

Lynn Zheng: [lingru.zheng10@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:lingru.zheng10@imperial.ac.uk)

When applying, you must meet and/or demonstrate the following criteria:

- A current and continuing student of Imperial College London
- Understanding of the issues affecting students in the UK and at Imperial College London, particularly those with [protected characteristics](#) or under-represented groups at Imperial.
- Awareness of the systems and structures in, and issues affecting, Higher Education
- Understanding of, and passion for, the students' union movement
- The ability to challenge the status quo, test perceived wisdom and question authority
- An interest in strategic planning and governance
- Strong communication skills with the ability to relate to and communicate effectively with people at all levels
- A leader on equality of opportunity who values diversity and removes barriers to equality

- An excellent role model who promotes the highest standards of probity, integrity and honesty