

Updated Constitution & Bye-Laws

A note from the Union President, Alex Chippy Compton

Background

This document supports the proposed Constitution & Bye-Laws. The documents were circulated on Wednesday 2 May. A version with tracked changes was provided and a final version for ease of reading. The clause numbers, cross-referencing and formatting was only completed after the tracked changes accepted throughout the document. The documents have been sent out again with the Council papers however no changes have been made since 2 May. Please send through any more corrections by midday Monday 14 May.

There are papers coming which would require Bye-Law changes. These will be considered after the new Constitution & Bye-Laws but, if approved, those changes will be made before the governing documents are presented to the Board of Trustees.

The Constitution provides us with a legal framework in which to operate as a charity. Upon approval of this Constitution, the Bye-Laws will no longer require approval from Imperial College Council. College Council has a duty to ensure we adhere to our objects as a charity however we have the right to determine our policy setting procedures. This has resulted in large amounts of the Constitution moving to the Bye-Laws, hence the significant shift in the size of the documents.

Discussion

There will be some updates to the Constitution & Bye-Laws at Council based on decisions made in the meeting. I have outlined the particular areas that have been suggested for discussion and decision in the Council meeting.

Constituent Union Officer Role Descriptions

- Currently the Bye-Laws give role descriptions for CU Presidents, Academic Officers and Welfare Officers
- I would like Council to consider whether it is necessary to dictate the responsibilities of these roles when they are outlined in greater detail in each CU Constitution

Management Group Chair Elections/Seats on Council

- At Clubs, Societies & Projects Board and Union Council, there have been several discussions around the elections of Management Group (MG) Chairs and their seats on Council
- MG Chairs are currently elected at an MG Meeting, with a 'one club, one vote' system
- These meetings often have little support from the Union and, in the past, some have had poor attendance
- Previous discussions have suggested that if MG Chairs are to sit on Council, they should be elected by cross-campus ballot with all their MG members voting

- I would like Council to consider whether we should change the election of MG chairs from 'one club, one vote' to election by all students within an MG voting

Year Representatives Nominations

- To make year representative roles more accessible (particularly for first years), it has been suggested that Year Representative roles should not require a seconder
- Currently we require all candidates to be seconded by one other full member
- I would like Council to consider whether there is benefit in requiring a seconder for Year Representative roles (within both Academic and Wellbeing Rep Networks)

Appendix A: Draft Standing Orders for New Council Subcommittees

Services & Sustainability Board

Purpose

- To act as a discussion forum for commercial services activity and policy
- To discuss and develop new ideas and improvements to the Union's Commercial Services
- To discuss and promote sustainability within the Union and its services
- To discuss and develop sustainability policy to be presented to Union Council

Membership

- The Officer Trustees
- Ethics & Environmental Liberation & Community Officer
- Up to 5 elected Representatives to Council (elected by Council- like that of Health & Safety Committee)
- 1 elected student staff member from each of the following:
 - o Beit Bars
 - o H bar
 - o Reynolds Bar
 - o Shop/Shop Extra

Commercial Services staff members be invited to the meeting as observers where appropriate and at the discretion of the Chair. They are not voting members

Structure

- The Deputy President (Finance & Services) shall chair the meeting

Governance & Identity Board

Purpose

- To act as a discussion forum for Constituent Union Activity
- To discuss and develop good governance processes across Constituent Unions
- To discuss and develop good governance processes and policy to be presented to Union Council
- To raise and discuss issues affecting Constituent Unions and their governance processes

Membership

- The Officer Trustees
- Constituent Union Presidents

Structure

- The Union President shall chair the meeting

Power

- Any policy discussed and developed at this meeting must be presented to Union Council for decision