



Board of Trustees

The second ordinary meeting of the Board of Trustees for the 2017/18 session, was held on Wednesday 12th December 2018 in Meeting Room 3, Beit Quad at 3pm.

Unconfirmed minutes

Present:	Jill Finney	Board of Trustees Chair
By Phone	Paul Beaumont	External Trustee
	Kate Owen	External Trustee
	Rebecca Neil	Deputy President (Welfare)
	Alejandro Luy	Deputy President (Education)
	Robert Tomkies	Union President
	Abhijay Sood	Student Trustee
	James Medler	Deputy President (Clubs and Societies)
	Dorothy Griffiths	External Trustee
	Madina Wane	Student Trustee
	Claudia Caravello	Deputy President (Finance and Services)
	Stephen Naulls	Student Trustee
In Attendance:	Jarlath O'Hara	Managing Director
	Jomana Al Ahmad	Administration Support Officer
Apologies:	Hafiza Irshad	Student Trustee
	Alex 'Chippy' Compton	Council Chair
	Graham Parker	External Trustee

3. KO mentioned that a summary report of the progress made will be discussed during the next meeting

Item 08 - Communications Committee minutes

1. AL summarised the meeting minutes by mentioning the discussion on Internal/staff comms and SMG updates as a response to the request from staff to know about the work of other teams/directorates in the Union
2. Additionally, the hackathon data science event was discussed as a way to progress on membership data analysis, in addition to election cycles communication plans
3. JF enquired about whether Board should have oversight for PG engagement, the Committee agreed that this should be added to the agenda for each sub-committee
4. CC pointed out that there should be a mechanism to notify people who are on the action tracker when they are not a member of that Committee, JA will look into adding a process to resolve this.

**JA to update forward agendas
JA to address action tracker issue for committee non members**

Item 09 – Governance Committee Minutes

1. RT summarised the minutes by mentioning the Sports hub discussion, in addition to the updates to Union council organisation
2. RT added that Council reform, Elections and Business school as a target for elections were also discussed
3. Finally, Policies including Conflict of interest were updated and approved
4. CC requested that her title is corrected on the Governance minutes

JA to correct DPFS role title

Item 10 – Vision Statement and Student Consultation

1. JOH mentioned that Board discussed the strategy during the September Board away day, however, no there is no explicit vision statement in the strategy
2. Recently, conversations around the Union’s vision have been taking place, and there may be an opportunity to consult students on a vision statement for the next strategy and for the remainder of the current strategy
3. RT pointed out that this consultation cannot be included in this year’s student experience survey as this has already been published
4. AS commented that it will not be hugely beneficial to consult on a vision statement, as there are other areas which affect the students to a larger extent and where a consultation would be more useful
5. JOH responded that the material difference would directly impact staff as this will unite the vision in which the organisation is working towards
6. SN enquired about the cost required to run the consultation, if the it’s a small resource then it may be worth going ahead for the benefit

7. MW commented that having students involved means that the Union is working towards a goal that students are happy with, which is a benefit to the consultation as it is building a level of trust towards the Union
8. JM added that the need for a consultation depends on the statement, the current statement is difficult to disagree with, DG agreed that there may not be much to achieve if the current statement does represent what the Union should be working towards
9. KO enquired about how this vision will specifically change the Union and the work being done, KO pointed out that it may be better to phrase the consultation as the following: this is what we currently do, do you agree/disagree
10. PB recommended having a more encompassing consultation with Council about this before consulting the student body
11. AL pointed out that currently the strategy is a foreign document and the student body does not know what we are working towards, DG commented that this may be a communication piece rather than a consultation one
12. AS agreed that the Union must be better at communicating its actions
13. JF concluded that the majority agree that we need a consultation, however more clarity is needed as to what feedback is required from it, therefore the questions need to be revised,
14. Additionally, we should take the consultation question to Council first
15. JF added that we will be challenged about whether we always consult on things that matter, and we must have a more meaningful question than the Union vision statement

**JOH & AL to take to
Feb 12 Council**

Item 11 – Vision for Union Spaces

1. MM joined the meeting to present the consultations taking place to put together a Vision for Union spaces, MM asked for a steer from Board regarding the Union's position around space
2. MM added that for College, student numbers are the main driver, and Board is asked to consider whether the Union supports College's vision despite the impact it may have on the integrity of the student experience
3. JF firstly asked the question: do we need space strategy? And should we resource it?
4. JOH responded that we must consider our main principles with regards to space at this stage. Management will then formulate a strategy around these principles if necessary
5. SN mentioned that it is important to consider all Non-SK campuses, not only White City
6. JM added that the student survey is also consulting students on space

7. AL pointed out that we must consider what the space looks like as we move to the online digital space and we must challenge College on their growth in terms of numbers as all departments say they don't have enough space
8. BN added that it is important that the Union is involved in the conversations which are shaping what the student body will look like in the next 10 years
9. KO added that College Council primarily discuss accommodation and buildings and there's vulnerability around student numbers, therefore the Union must get into these discussions and raise the student experience issue
10. RT agreed that the aim for College is to make more money, however the Union voice must be there to push for proactiveness in improving the student experience
11. AS added that the student experience should be the main consistent message and the Union should represent the student voice in that regard
12. PB pointed out that the policy and vision statement should also be raised at Council as it is a political discussion
13. JF concluded that Board members should focus on raising the questions around the integrity of the student experience, Board members must raise the challenge: if the organisation is changing in a certain direction, how does it maintain/improve the student experience?
14. AL added that it is important to say the same things at every level and consider the stakeholder engagement plan and narrative for the Union
15. JOH pointed out that some stakeholder mapping has been done, however the second wave of communication needs to be consistent
16. JF also recommended researching other organisations and Redrafting the strategy paper for next Board

MM to redraft the strategy paper for next Board

Item 12 – Barriers to inclusivity

1. JOH summarised the paper and asked Board to consider the proposed actions and provide any other comments/feedback.
2. BN commented that the Liberation review identified key areas of weakness, and this has led to strategic thinking about the liberation zones and how they should be structured in the future
3. BN added that the Appendix presents a student's EDI experience focus points during their time at Imperial
4. DG recommended carrying out a more detailed analysis on the statements made
5. BN pointed out that a paper is written, one section outlines all barriers and it is clear that certain students feel let down as we do not celebrate them
6. DG added that there must be a clearer statement about who we are targeting

1. As tabled

Item 18 – DPE report

1. AL pointed out that the College have not been chosen to participate in excellence framework award
2. AL added that there is currently a large administrative burden on curriculum review in College and a draft paper will roll out in 2019/20, this review promises to give a different educational experience, implement changes on policies and expects to have positive impact on NSS scores in the future

Item 19 – DPW report

1. BN updated the Committee that the Student Support Strategy consultation piece has generated a lot of replies from students and the next step is taking this feedback to the learning and teaching committee, however the dates for this meeting are constantly postponed
2. BN would like to issue a statement about the consultation to let students know that the comments were read and were appreciated and to add a promise that we at Board are working for students to address as many issues as we can
3. BN pointed out that she was concerned that 50% said their experience should be rigorous, however, there may be a difference in understanding what is rigorous and what could lead to mental health issues
4. JF pointed out that the timelines for the wellbeing map seem too long and should be challenged

Item 20 – DPCS report

1. JM updated Board that the framework for the Sports Hub is currently being finalised, CSPB are happy with it and the next step will be to approve by Council and then Board
2. JM added that currently, we have received 829 Student responses and 682 partial responses on the student survey
3. The Board thanked James for the considerable work he had undertaken to substantially improve this survey.

Item 21 – DPFS report

1. CC updated the Committee about the meat-free Monday trial in January which is a result of a consolidated effort from Veg soc, envirosoc, and other societies, PhD and UG students, greening imperial etc
2. CC is also looking into getting a food ordering app where students can order from their tables with Orbis

Item 22 – Council Chair report

1. In ACC's report, it is mentioned that several papers that don't lie within Council's remit have been submitted recently, work on clarifying this to Council is being done, especially

regarding financial impact decisions. PB, ACC and RT are jointly working on this

2. AS pointed out that Council decisions are two types: statements, or resource implications, he added that the wording in ACCs paper indicate that Council cannot make any decision that affect resourcing and this may take away from the democracy value of the Union, as Council should still be able to discuss and make decisions on any matter
3. JOH mentioned that we must be explicit about the ability to mandate officers as this is currently not well defined

Item 23 - AOB – Commercial Strategy

1. SN enquired about the direction that the Union will take with regards to Reynolds as the commercial strategy states that the opening hours will be reduced, he added that this is against the Union vision of having more presence at other campuses, this change may also result in a reputational damage and it merits a proper discussion at Board. Additionally, the ICSMSU president should also be involved in the decision on Reynolds
2. JM also enquired about spaces and activity, JOH responded that the best place for this discussion is at F&R, SN and the ICSMSU President will be invited to attend the meeting
3. JM enquired about whether there is a general strategy about policies and where they belong? As there has been recent confusion about the Bar Staff policy, RT responded that this is done on a case by case basis and is generally decided at the governance committee
4. JOH responded that we need to define the process regarding policies at governance Committee
5. AL mentioned that he has pushed for extra questions on the NSS survey and it will look different next year.

Define a process regarding policies and where they belong at governance