

## DISCUSSION PAPER: Implementing Postgraduate Representation in Constituent Unions

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Seconded by: -----

### Union Notes:

1. At the Union Council meeting of October 24th 2017, Council voted with a 2/3 margin in favour of the proposed 'Postgraduate Representation in Constituent Unions' paper (Appendix A). This paper proposed 'to recognise PGs in the Faculty of Natural Sciences as Full Members of the RCSU' and 'to recognise PGs in the Faculty of Engineering except those in the Departments of Earth Science & Engineering and Materials as Full Members of the CGCU'.
2. These proposals have not been implemented for the 2018/2019 academic year.
3. Instead of granting 'Full Membership' of Faculty Unions to Postgraduate students, the draft ICU Bye Laws presented to Council at the meeting of May 15th 2018 only grant 'social' membership.
4. Two particular concerns that have been expressed regarding these proposals are:
  - a. 'Full Membership' of Faculty Unions for PGs might imply a responsibility of those FUs to provide academic and wellbeing representation for PGs, which may be challenging and would overlap with representation provided by the GSU.
  - b. Full Membership might, without appropriately specified exceptions, allow PGs to vote in the elections of, and stand for, positions in the UG representation network.

### Union Believes:

1. To ensure this previous decision of Council can be implemented, amendments should be made to the draft Bye Laws to remove the specification that RCSU, CGCU, RSMU, and ICSMSU represent Undergraduate students only.
2. The aforementioned concerns should be addressed by appropriate modification to the Constitutions of the Faculty Unions.

### Union Resolves:

1. To replace Section A.22 of the draft Bye Laws with the text presented in Appendix B.
2. To mandate the RCSU, RSMU, ICSMSU and CGCU to amend their constitution such as is necessary to establish the 'Postgraduate Member' membership category, which grants all the rights and privileges of Full Membership except:
  - a. The right to stand for, or vote in the election of, a position in the Undergraduate Academic and Wellbeing representation networks.
  - b. The right to Academic and Wellbeing representation within the framework of the Faculty Union.
3. To automatically grant Postgraduate Membership of the relevant Faculty Union to all Postgraduate Students from the start of the 2019/2020 academic year.

## **Appendix B**

22. There shall be the following Constituent Unions:

22.1. The Graduate Students' Union for postgraduate students.

22.2. The City & Guilds College Union for the students of the Faculty of Engineering, excluding students of the Earth Science Engineering and Materials Departments.

22.3. The Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union for students of the Faculty of Medicine.

22.4. The Royal College of Science Union for the students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

22.5. The Royal School of Mines for the students of the Earth Science Engineering and Materials Departments.

22.6. Silwood Park Students' Union for the students of Silwood Park Campus.