

 **Imperial College Union Board of Trustees**

**26/02/2020**

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| **AGENDA ITEM NO.** |  |
| **TITLE** | Council Chair Report |
| **AUTHOR** | Lloyd James (Council Chair) |
| **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** | There have been two Ordinary Meetings and one Extraordinary Meeting of Council since the last Board meeting.OM (Jan 21): Rejected the College’s halls rent proposal, accepted the DPW’s Liberation Reform proposal, approved changes to CU Constitutions, partly accepted Chair’s proposed amendments to Standing Orders.EM (Feb 4): Rejected College’s revised halls rent proposal, approved creation of a ‘cut the rent’ campaign.OM (Feb 18): Accepted Chair’s proposed amendments to Standing Orders, endorsed supportive stance of UCU strike action. Rejected Chair’s proposed amendments to Bye Laws regarding CU Constitution approval.Policy Review process is still underway, with good progress being made. |
| **PURPOSE** | To inform Board of the activities of Council since the previous meeting. |
| **DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED** | None |

**January Meeting:**

There were four matters for decision:

1. Liberation Reform: Council considered this proposal put forward from CWB, which would create ‘student networks’ for each Liberation and Community Officer, to ensure they are well supported. It also proposed to create a new Liberation Officer, the ‘Working Class Officer’. Despite reservations around the name of the new officer, Council resolved to endorse the paper as proposed by CWB in its entirety.
2. Halls Rent: Following an initial discussion around Halls Rent in December, Council received an amended proposal from College, which involved some smoothing over the first few years. Council felt that College had not been transparent in sharing information, and could not justify the proposed changes, and so declined to endorse the proposal.
3. Constituent Union Constitutions: Council ratified RCSU & ICSMSU’s proposed Constitutional amendments.
4. Standing Orders: Council was asked to amend the Standing Orders of the Education and Representation Board and the Community and Welfare Board to reduce the committee voting membership, making it easier for these committees to be quorate. Council approved this request for CWB, but rejected for ERB as it was felt there was insufficient consultation.

**February Extraordinary Meeting:**

This meeting was called to allow further discussion around Halls Rent. Council received a further amended proposal from College, but still felt that College was refusing to be transparent with financial information and was not able to justify the significant rent increases. Council voted to not endorse College’s proposal, and further voted to endorse the creation of a Union campaign against rent increases.

**February Meeting:**

There were 3 matters for decision:

1. Standing Orders: Following consultation with ERB, the proposal to amend the Standing Orders was brought back by the Chair and approved by Council.
2. UCU Action Stance: Council heard a proposal to take a stance supportive of the UCU Strike action, similar to the proposal presented during the last UCU strike action 2 years ago. While concerns were expressed around the immediate impact of the strikes on students, Council agreed that staff taking strike action in defence of their pay & pensions is in the long-term best interests of students, and so resolved to approve this proposal.
3. Constituent Union Constitution Approval: Currently, approval of all changes to CU constitutions, such as amendments to committee roles, must be approved by Council. The Chair presented a proposal which would delegate much of this responsibility to the Governance and Identity Board. However, some members felt that this reduced broader oversight over these important committees, and others felt the opposite - that CU’s should have full responsibility for their own committee composition, and so the proposal failed to attain the required 2/3 approval of Council.

There was also discussion around renewing the Publicity Policy, and a discussion proposed by the Chair which sought advice on why fewer Council members are proposing papers to Council than in previous years.

**Policy Renewal Update:**

Review of Policies is currently in progress by Council subcommittees. All subcommittees have had their assigned Policies distributed, and have either discussed these Policies collectively or assigned individual/group responsibility for redrafting the Policies. Clubs & Societies Policies have now all been approved, and Governance and Identity Board Policies will be approved at a meeting next week.