

RSMU Constitution Changes and Amendments

Proposer: Chris Carter, RSMU President

Seconders: Megan Facey, RSMU Honorary Secretary

Anthony Onwuli, RSMU Ordinary Member

Union Notes:

1. That Constituent Unions have constitutions, amendments to which must be ratified by Union Council
2. That the RSMU's Executive (unanimously) and General Committees (18 for, 1 against) have voted in favour of amending the RSMU's Constitution to:
 - a. State that the Vice President (Clubs and Societies) becomes President *pro tempore* in the event of a vacancy for President, rather than the Vice President (Activities and Events), and to allow for temporary absences of the President (Constitution 5.3.1)
 - b. Refer only to "permanent vacancies" of the office of President (Constitution 5.4)
 - c. Slightly alter the roles of Vice President (Education) and Vice President (Welfare) so that they cannot be held jointly (Regulation 1B.3)
 - d. Refer to the official ICU resignation process (Regulation 1B.4)
 - e. Remove some lines of the 'Campaigning and Publicity' and 'Unfair Practises' sections of 'Regulation 2 – Elections' so they do not contradict the ICU Elections Rules (Regulation 2D and 2I)
 - f. Add the RSMU President to the composition of the Clubs and Societies Board (Regulation 3C.4)
 - g. Replace all references to Academic Liaison Officer and Student Welfare Officer with Vice President (Education) and Vice President (Welfare) respectively (Regulation 3D.5 and 3H.4)
 - h. Increase the number of members on the Misconduct Review Committee from 5 to 7 in line with the recent promotion of the Vice President (Education) and Vice President (Welfare) to Executive Committee roles (Regulation 3H.3)
 - i. Slightly alter the process for selecting the members of the Misconduct Review Committee (Regulation 3H.5)
 - j. Rename the role of 'Honorary Junior Treasurer' to 'Honorary Treasurer' and replace all references to 'Honorary Junior Treasurer' to 'Honorary Treasurer' (throughout)
3. That the proposed amendments and changes are outlined in Appendices

Union Believes:

1. The RSMU Vice President (Clubs and Societies) is more equipped to take on the role of President in the event of an absence or vacancy.
2. That the alteration of the roles of Vice President (Education) and (Welfare) are appropriate to bring these positions in line with other Executive Committee roles
3. The changes Regulation 2 are appropriate to limit contradictions between the RSMU Constitution and any ICU policies or bye-laws.
4. The inclusion of the RSMU President on the RSMU Clubs and Societies Board is appropriate and will allow for greater representation of the RSMU's Clubs and Societies.

5. That the RSMU Constitution should not include references to roles which no longer exist and should be altered accordingly to refer to the currently existing relevant roles.
6. The full Executive Committee should be included on the RSMU's Misconduct Review Committee to make sure decisions are made fairly and justifiably.
7. That the potential for delays to the Misconduct Review Process should be minimised
8. The RSMU reserves the right to rename its Committee roles at any time (subject to Council approval) and that the name 'Honorary Treasurer' is appropriate.

Union Resolves:

1. To ratify the constitutional changes detailed above.

Appendix 1 – Changes regarding Presidential succession and temporary absences

The RSMU Constitution currently states:

5. Officers of the RSMU

1. The Officers of the RSMU shall be the President and other Officers who shall be Full Members of the RSMU.
2. The titles and duties of the officers of the RSMU and the means by which they are elected, censured and dismissed shall be established in Regulation One.
3. In the event of a vacancy or an Officer of the RSMU being unable to fulfil his or her duties, the President may delegate those powers and responsibilities held by that Officer pending elections.
 1. In the event of a vacancy for President or the President being unable to fulfil his or her duties, the Vice President of Activities and Events shall become President *pro tempore* and hold all powers and responsibilities of the President pending elections.
4. In the event of a vacancy, nomination papers will be circulated within ten College days of the vacancy occurring.

Changes

In the event that the President is unable to fulfil their duties, the role of President will now be taken on by the Vice President (Clubs and Societies), and a pathway for temporary vacancies will be added (necessary due to fieldwork commonly undertaken by members of the Department of Earth Science and Engineering – can be up to 6 weeks)

The Vice President (Clubs and Societies) is a more Union-facing role, holding a seat on the Imperial College Union Clubs, Societies and Projects Board. They also hold financial responsibility for the RSMU Management Group.

The RSMU Constitution will be amended to state:

3. In the event of a vacancy or an Officer of the RSMU being unable to fulfil his or her duties, the President may delegate those powers and responsibilities held by that Officer pending elections.
 1. In the event of a vacancy for President or the President being unable to fulfil his or her duties, the ~~Vice President (Activities and Events)~~ **Vice President (Clubs and Societies)** shall become President pro tempore and hold all powers and responsibilities of the President pending elections **or the time at the which the President can return to their duties.**
 2. **Temporary absences in the office of President must be reported to the RSMU Executive and General Committees and can no longer than six weeks in length.**
4. In the event of a **permanent** vacancy, nomination papers will be circulated within ten College days of the vacancy occurring.
5. Officers of the RSMU and any other position within the RSMU for which a date is not otherwise prescribed shall hand over to their successor on the 1st August each year.
6. No person may hold more than one Officer of the RSMU post.

Appendix 2 – Changes to the roles of Vice President (Clubs and Societies) and Vice President (Activities and Events)

The RSMU Constitution currently states:

B. General Provisions

1. No person may hold more than one post as an Officer of the RSMU.
2. There shall be two Ball Officers, two Regalia Officers and two Pit and Publicity Officers.
3. All posts may be held jointly except the:
 1. President,
 2. Vice-President Activities & Events,
 3. Vice-President Clubs & Societies,
 4. Honorary Secretary,
 5. Honorary Junior Treasurer.

Changes

Last year, the RSMU Committee promoted the roles of Academic Liaison Officer and Student Welfare Officer to Vice President (Education) and Vice President (Welfare) respectively, such that they now sit on the RSMU Executive Committee. These changes have been beneficial to the RSMU, but there remained some inconsistencies in the Constitution between the treatment of these new Executive roles and the rest of the Executive Committee.

This change aims to remedy this discrepancy, so that each role may be held by only one member (in line with the rest of the Executive Committee roles).

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2. There shall be two Ball Officers, two Regalia Officers and two Pit and Publicity Officers.
3. All posts may be held jointly except the:
 1. President,
 2. Vice President (Activities & Events),
 3. Vice President (Clubs & Societies),
 4. Vice President (Education),
 5. Vice President (Welfare),
 6. Honorary Secretary,
 7. Honorary ~~Junior~~ Treasurer.

Appendix 3 – Changes to the resignation process

The RSMU Constitution currently states:

4. An Officer of the RSMU may resign in writing to the President. The President may resign in writing to the President of the ICU.

Changes

While notification of the RSMU President (or ICU President) is helpful and encouraged, practically the ICU Activities team must also be notified – this change constitutionalises that.

The RSMU Constitution will be amended to state:

4. An Officer of the RSMU may resign in writing to the President. The President may resign in writing to the President of the ICU.
5. Resigning Officers must also follow Imperial College Union resignation procedure.

Appendix 4 – Changes to ‘Regulation 2 – Elections’

The RSMU Constitution currently states:

D. Campaigning and Publicity

13. The Returning Officer will determine the allowance for publicity available to each candidate for each election,
14. All candidates in each election shall have an equal publicity allowance,
17. Campaign publicity, including flyers, shall be removed from the line of sight and six metres of all ballot boxes or other voting terminals,

G. Unfair practises

36. Any complaint must be submitted using the online Elections Complaint Form available at imperialcollegeunion.org/elections/complaint.
37. Only completed Elections Complaint Forms will be considered by the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officers.
38. Complaints should be submitted within 24 hours of the incident in question or at the earliest possible moment.
39. All complaints must be received within two (2) hours of the close of the voting period.

(fyi. the numbering system breaks down in the Constitution slightly before this point, that's why there's some discrepancies – I've fixed it in the new version)

Changes

Some points in this Regulation directly contradict the ICU Election rules – these have been removed to avoid confusion.

The RSMU Constitution will be amended to state:

D. Campaigning and Publicity

1. All campaigns and publicity must adhere to the ICU Elections Publicity and Campaigning Policy, which will be made available to candidates
2. The Returning Officer will determine the allowance for publicity available to each candidate for each election,
- ~~3. All candidates in each election shall have an equal publicity allowance,~~
- ~~6. Campaign publicity, including flyers, shall be removed from the line of sight and six metres of all ballot boxes or other voting terminals,~~

I. Unfair Practices

1. Any complaints must be made in line with the ICU Elections Complaints process.
2. Only completed Elections Complaint Forms will be considered by the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officers.
- ~~3. Complaints should be submitted within 24 hours of the incident in question or at the earliest possible moment.~~
- ~~4. All complaints must be received within two (2) hours of the close of the voting period.~~

Appendix 5 - Changes to the composition of the RSMU Clubs and Societies Committee

The RSMU Constitution currently states:

C. The Clubs and Societies Committee

1. The Clubs and Societies Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the operation of the Clubs and Societies of the RSMU.
2. The Clubs and Societies Committee shall consider best practice on the running of student activities.
3. The Clubs and Societies Committee shall report its business to the Executive Committee and the Committee.
4. The Clubs and Societies Committee shall consist of the: ,
 - i. Vice-President Clubs & Societies,
 - ii. The Chairs of all RSMU Clubs and Societies,
 - iii. The ICU President (*ex officio*)

Changes

The composition of the Committee has been altered to include the RSMU President (this is, currently the only RSMU Committee that the President does not have a seat on) and remove the ICU President (who, frankly, has bigger fish to fry).

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2. The Clubs and Societies Committee shall consider best practice on the running of student activities.
3. The Clubs and Societies Committee shall report its business to the Executive Committee and the Committee.
4. The Clubs and Societies Committee shall consist of the:
 - i. **President**
 - ii. Vice President Clubs & Societies,
 - iii. The Chairs of all RSMU Clubs and Societies,
 - iv. ~~The ICU President (ex-officio)~~

Appendix 6 – Changes to the composition of the RSMU Academic and Welfare Committee

The RSMU Constitution currently states:

D. Academic and Welfare Committee

1. The Academic and Welfare Committee will oversee representation of RSMU students within their departments and is responsible to The Executive Committee.
2. The committee shall be co-chaired by the Student Welfare Officer and the Academic Liaison Officer.
3. The committee shall discuss recent meeting of ICU Council, ICU Representation and Welfare Board and Student-Staff Committee Meetings
4. The Academic and Welfare Committee will also act as a body for the promotion of social integration between students of The Departments.
5. The Academic and Welfare Committee will consist of:
 - i. President
 - ii. Academic Liaison Officer
 - iii. Student Welfare Officer
 - iv. Departmental Representatives
 - v. Departmental Society Chairs as permanent observers

Changes

As previously specified, the Academic Liaison and Student Welfare Officers have been promoted to an Executive level role and renamed – this change reflects that.

The RSMU Constitution will be amended to state:

D. Academic and Welfare Committee

1. The Academic and Welfare Committee will oversee representation of RSMU students within their departments and is responsible to The Executive Committee.
2. The committee shall be co-chaired by the Vice President (Education) and the Vice President (Welfare).
3. The committee shall discuss recent meeting of ICU Council, ICU Representation and Welfare Board and Student-Staff Committee Meetings
4. The Academic and Welfare Committee will also act as a body for the promotion of social integration between students of The Departments.
5. The Academic and Welfare Committee will consist of:
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice President (Education)
 - iii. Vice President (Welfare)
 - iv. Departmental Representatives
 - v. Departmental Society Chairs as permanent observers

Appendix 7 – Changes to the composition of the RSMU Misconduct Review Committee

The RSMU Constitution currently states:

H. Misconduct Review Committee

1. The Misconduct Review Committee, hence forth referred to as The Committee, shall consider cases of misconduct from Full Members at RSMU events as described in Regulation 5.
2. The Committee shall be convened when the criteria laid out in Regulation 5 are met.
3. The quorum of Misconduct Review Committee shall be 5 members and maximum number of members shall be 5.
4. The members of the Misconduct Review Committee shall be the members of the RSMU Exec Committee which are:
 - i. The President
 - ii. The Vice President (Activities and Events)
 - iii. The Vice President (Clubs and Societies)
 - iv. The Honorary Secretary
 - v. The Junior Treasurer
5. Should there be a conflict of interest between a member of The Committee and the investigation or quorum not be met the RSMU ordinary member shall stand in place of the missing or conflicted member. Should the ordinary member not be able to stand the RESMU Welfare Officer shall stand in place of the missing or conflicted member. Should the committee shall delay meeting until such a time as quorum is met.
6. The Committee shall be chaired by The President, should the President not be sitting on The Committee, the chair position shall be elected from The Committee members present.

Changes

H3 states an incorrect number of members – this has been amended to reflect the change in composition of the Executive Committee.

H4 contains an inaccurate description of the Executive Committee – this has been amended to reflect the change in composition of the Executive Committee.

H5 refers to the 'RESMU Welfare Officer' (excuse the typo), a role which a) no longer exists and b) is now already included on the Misconduct Review Policy. The second replacement for an individual has been amended to allow a second replacement to be chosen by the remaining members of the Misconduct Review Committee, which will hopefully reduce delays in this process.

The RSMU Constitution will be amended to state:

H. Misconduct Review Committee

1. The Misconduct Review Committee, henceforth referred to as The Committee, shall consider cases of misconduct from Full Members at RSMU events as described in Regulation 5.
2. The Committee shall be convened when the criteria laid out in Regulation 5 are met.
3. The quorum of Misconduct Review Committee shall be **7 members** and maximum number of **members shall be 7**.
4. The members of the Misconduct Review Committee shall be the members of the RSMU Exec Committee which are:
 - i. The President
 - ii. The Honorary Secretary
 - iii. The Honorary ~~Junior~~ Treasurer
 - iv. The Vice President (Activities and Events)
 - v. The Vice President (Clubs and Societies)
 - vi. **The Vice President (Education)**
 - vii. **The Vice President (Welfare)**
5. Should there be a conflict of interest between a member of The Committee and the investigation or quorum not be met the RSMU Ordinary Member shall stand in place of the missing or conflicted member. Should the Ordinary Member not be able to stand ~~the RSMU Welfare Officer~~ **a nominee chosen by the remaining members of the Misconduct Review Committee** shall stand in place of the missing or conflicted member. Should the committee shall delay meeting until such a time as quorum is met.
6. The Committee shall be chaired by The President. Should the President not be sitting on The Committee, the chair position shall be elected from The Committee members present.