

Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 23 June 2021

Council Chair Update

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Purpose: To inform Board of the activities of Council.

1. Executive Summary

The last Council meeting was on the 15th of June. It was a full agenda and I feel like much was achieved. Before this meeting, I organized the awards panel, and we met to decide on the General Union Awards. This meeting is often very long, but this year it only took about three hours.

2. Council Updates

15th June Council Meeting:

- i. No report from the Felix Editor or GSU President: Two of our sabbatical officers, who only submit reports once a term (3 total per year) failed to submit a report in time for the meeting despite ample reminders. This is especially concerning because this violates the mutual expectations work that went into Felix earlier this year, and the GSU president who is set to continue his role next year.
In the same meeting, the Constituent Union Presidents who have full time degrees, managed to submit their reports. I have asked the Felix Editor and GSU president to bring their reports to the next Council meeting.
- ii. Awards paper passed: The Union Awards have been ratified by Council. The awards will be presented during the SCAs on the 24th of June.
- iii. A paper regarding the college's relationship with Lockheed Martin has been passed: With the Huawei paper that passed earlier this year, many students have taken an interest in bringing discussions to Council regarding the companies that have research deals/investments with the college.

Primarily driven by the recent conflict between Israel and Palestine, the paper has multiple resolutions, including that there is additional clarity from the college on research funding and investments that it has with Lockheed Martin. There is also a call to "terminate any research or investment partnership with Lockheed Martin as soon as possible, including any existing research partnerships, until such a time as they are not abetting human rights abuses." If you'd like to read the whole paper, it can be found through the link below.

For more detail and to see some of the business currently being discussed at Council, you can find the papers here: https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/how-were-run/committees/20-21/Union_Council

3. Observations & Ongoing priorities for Council Chair

Fewer people attended the most recent meeting (approximately 22 voting members). I'm hoping that the July meeting (20th) may be able to occur in person, given that all restrictions are set to end on July 19th.

Some people pointed out during the previous meeting that there should be a more immediate way of holding Council members to account, as motions of no confidence and censures require at least a weeks' notice. When the reports were not submitted by the GSU president and Felix Editor, there was nothing to vote on, and therefore no codified way for Council to express disapproval. Despite this, Council voted on the reports that didn't exist and rejected them. I hope to bring a paper to the next Council meeting that allows for immediate votes that can show the approval or disapproval of Council. Any ideas or thoughts would be appreciated.