

**Imperial College Union**  
**Minutes of The first ordinary Meetings of Union Council**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 - 12:00pm – 2:00pm**

**Present**

Role	Name
Union Council Chair	Alex Auyang (AAu/Chair)
Union President	Abhijay Sood (AS)
Deputy President (Welfare)	Shervin Sabeghi (SS)
Deputy President (Education)	Michaela Flegrova (MF)
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Ross Unwin (RU)
Deputy President (Finance and Services)	Sam Lee (SL)
Arts and Entertainment Sector Chair	India Marsden (IM)
BME Officer	Deborah Adegoke (DA)
CGCU President	Hayley Wong (HW)
CGCU Vice President (Wellbeing)	Matthew Scott (MS)
Community and Faith Sector Chair	Joshua Afengbai (JA)
Culture Sector Chair	Tin Hang Un (TU)
Disabilities Officer	Adya Rao (AR)
Ethics and Environment Officer	Stephanie Yeung (SY)
Gender Equality Officer	Priantha Pretheshan (PP)
GSU President	Zixiao Wang (ZW)
GSU Vice President (Representation)	Lintong Li (LL)
GSU PGR Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering)	Abderrahim Boualam (AB)
ICSMSU Academic Chair	Rachel Kwok (RK)
ICSMSU President	Muntaha Naeem (MN)
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Natania Varshney (NV)
Interfaith Officer	Safi Thanya Siamwalla (SS)
International Officer	Isabelle Zhang (IZ)
Knowledge Sector Chair	Alexander Nielsen (AN)
LGBT Officer	Keir Logan (KL)
Media Chair	Matej Genci
Mental Health Officer	Lauren Wheeler (LW)
RCSU President	Aparna Pillai (AP)
RCSU Vice President (Education)	Daniyar Ghani (DG)
RCSU Vice President (Welfare)	Maria Borc (MB)
Recreation Sector Chair	Adam Turner (AT)
RMSU Vice President (Education)	Katie McCann (KM)
Sports Sector Chair	Geoffrey Sheir (GS)
Working Class Officer	Grace Fisher (GF)

**Observers:**

Governance Officer	Victoria Agbontaen (VA)
ICSMSU Academic Officer for Early Years	Varja Cuculovic (VC)
ICSMSU Academic Officer, Clinical Years	Conor Wisentaner (CW)
Student Trustee	Christopher Carter (CC)

Felix Editor	Calum Drysdale (CD)
RSMSU Vice President Clubs and Societies	Jessica Dring-Morris (JD-M)
Head of Membership Services	Tom Newman

**Apologies:**

RSMSU President	Jasmine Crocker (JC)
RSMSU Welfare Officer	Emmeline Poole (EP)

**Absent:**

CGCU Vice President (Education)	Aleksander Ziolkowski (AZ)
PG FoE Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG FoE Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG FoM Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG FoM Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG NF Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG NF Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoM Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoM Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoNS Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoNS Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoE Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoE Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoE Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoE Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
UG FoE Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG FoNS Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG FoNS Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
Silwood Park President	Conor Nicoll (CN)

Item	Actions
<p><b>1. Chair's welcome and Chair's business</b></p> <p>1.1. Chair welcomed the Council to the first 2020-21 Council Meeting and gave a brief presentation of Council including an introduction to the governing documents, Council structure and overview of Council 'rules'.</p> <p>1.2. Chair confirmed that there would be an opportunity for members of Council to attend more in-depth thorough training in late October.</p> <p>1.3. AS and the Chair suggested it would be useful for all members of Council to introduce themselves.</p>	
<p><b>2. Apologies:</b></p> <p>2.1. Apologies from: Jasmine Crocker (JC) Emmeline Poole (EP)</p>	
<p><b>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>3.1. Chair confirmed with Council if there were any changes required to be made to the minutes.</p> <p>3.2. No dissensions were put forward</p> <p>3.3. Chair confirmed the minutes as accepted as consensus.</p>	
<p><b>4. Action Tracker</b></p> <p>4.1. AOB – BLM Update - SS noted that a History working group has been created at College which is in its early stages. An updated report will be available at the end of the year.</p> <p>4.2. 6.5 Liberation &amp; Community Policy – SS will bring a paper to the next Council Meeting regarding the requested title change of LGBT+ Officer.</p> <p>4.3. 9.5 - Policy Review Updates – Chair requested for CWB and SSB policies to be provided. SS confirmed policies had been sent and SL to sent policies over once received from previous DPFS.</p>	<p>SS to provide paper of LGBT+ Officer to next Council meeting.</p> <p>SL to provide chair with updated SSB Policies.</p> <p>AAu to bring an update and outline on policies to next Council meeting.</p>
<b>Matters for Decision</b>	
<p><b>5. Election Rules &amp; Regulations and Appointment of Returning Officer</b></p> <p>5.1. AS explained that there had previously been some consternation around election rules including inconsistencies within the rules and rules that are specific which consequently lend themselves to complaints.</p> <p>5.2. AS added that Returning Officers are required to adjudicate complaints, the outcome of the elections and confirm due process has been followed.</p> <p>5.3. TN gave a brief overview, highlighting the purpose of the paper is to obtain approval from Council of the election rules and to approve the approach to the RO and DRO.</p> <p>5.4. TN noted that the main difference from previous years is that rather than having the RO as an external Chief Executive in the Autumn and Summer Elections. ICU's current Managing Director, Tom Flynn will be appointed RO.</p> <p>5.5. TN added that highly qualified Chief Executives from other Student Unions' will be approached for the RO's position for the upcoming Leadership elections.</p> <p>5.6. HW questioned whether there were any amendments in the paper to include the differing levels of offences being dealt with differently i.e. not using the hashtag will not be met with the same consequence as maliciously targeting an opponent's campaign.</p>	

<p>5.7. TN said that the appointment of the RO and DRO should assist in alleviating some of the issues caused by such rules for the Autumn and Summer Elections.</p> <p>5.8. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on with the results as follows: 29 approve 2 abstain</p> <p>5.9. Paper was approved and passed by Council.</p>	
<p><b>6. Improving OT accountability</b></p> <p>6.1. Chair explained that due to a conflict of interest in the current paper which he submitted if a member of Council would be willing to temporarily Chair Council so he could recuse himself.</p> <p>6.2. AN agreed to act as Council Chair for the duration of the next two papers for decision at Council.</p> <p>6.3. AAu described that this paper was proposed to look at ways OT's can be held accountable to Council throughout the year.</p> <p>6.4. AAu said it would be helpful for OTs to go through their manifestos to review their objectives and priorities and provide Council with an explanation as to why they have not have not been able to fulfil the promises outlined in their manifestos.</p> <p>6.5. AS explained that OT's would usually provide individual updates at every Council meeting and these reports are what Council use to hold all OT's to account and mandating that these include certain updates and information is sensible.</p> <p>6.6. AS also shared with Council that there is an ongoing piece of work around how work in the Union will be tracked, especially with the Officer Trustees which will be shared with Council.</p> <p>6.7. GS questioned why manifesto points are limited to the first report of the year and not in every report submitted throughout the year as it helps Council track status and progress being made as opposed to having to formally request updates on specific items.</p> <p>6.8. AS said that it is likely that the first Council meeting will include actions from the manifesto against realistic and achievable goals that are set in November. Progress will then be tracked from the set of goals described in November.</p> <p>6.9. SS added there is more work to be done, i.e. the Chair should consider whether the OT reports should be voted on during Council meetings.</p> <p>6.10. RU added that it is key Council members undertake sufficient training in how to prepare and write Council Papers which will allow for higher levels of engagement from Council members. AAu confirmed that once Council Reps are elected in October, there will be Council training available for all members.</p> <p>6.11. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on with the results as follows: 31 approve.</p>	<p>AAu to consider and confirm whether OT reports should be voted on this year during Council.</p> <p>AAu to ensure that Council members are trained on how to write papers and engage during Council meetings.</p>
<p><b>7. Amending Bye-Laws – ‘Virtual’ Council Meetings</b></p> <p>7.1. AAu explained that as Council meetings are supposed to be in person, electronic votes in the bye-laws is actually in reference to votes being done via email.</p> <p>7.2. Having Council meetings online presents issues with intricacies of documents of the Union.</p> <p>7.3. AAu said that paper expressed that he would like to set-up a working group with the Union President, International Officer, one new Council member and one other Council member to be a part of the WG.</p> <p>7.4. AS highlighted that it was sensible for the International Officer to be a part of the WG as Imperial has a high number of International students</p>	

<p>who are working from different time zones. IZ confirmed she was happy to join the WG.</p> <p>7.5. HW suggested the paper be amended to include the Disabilities Officer to offer more inclusivity for virtual meetings. AAU accepted this amendment for the paper.</p> <p>7.6. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote pending the amendments. The results are as follows: 31 approve. Paper was passed by Council.</p>	
<p><b>8. Renaming the Departmental Society for Geology</b></p> <p>8.1. CC gave a brief overview of the paper and described it as being a result of a process whereby the aim is to rename the departmental Society for Geology.</p> <p>8.2. CC presented the paper as tabled and requested for any thoughts, questions or feedback.</p> <p>8.3. AN questioned the wording of the paper, stating it would be beneficial to make it clear that in the vast majority of cases, societies should be able to make changes to change their own constitutions without bringing it to Council excluding the most exceptional cases.</p> <p>8.4. AT explained that the 'Union believes' should stress the amending of societal constitutions should not be routinely carried out by Council but it is up to the individual Societies to govern themselves and amend their own constitutions. AT added that the 'Union Believes' section of the paper should emphasise this is an exceptional circumstance and a unique circumstance.</p> <p>8.5. CD asked if Council members felt the amended wording in the paper was acceptably binding or loose and unjustifiable. AS stated that Council has the ability to vote on these things if they wish according to the bye-laws. AN added that he was happy with the use of the word 'exceptional' as Council are able to make changes when required.</p> <p>8.6. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on pending the amendments confirmed. The results were as follows: 27 approve 3 abstain Paper was passed by Council.</p>	
<b>Matters for Report</b>	
<p><b>9. Officer Trustee Updates</b></p> <p>9.1. SL gave an overview of the OT paper, highlighting the ongoing work he is currently focused on including the White City redevelopment work.</p> <p>9.2. SL added that NSS has been a key part on ongoing work and there have been several recommendations coming from the Union.</p> <p>9.3. MF thanked the Academic Reps and Faculty Officers who were involved in the NSS for their hard work.</p> <p>9.4. RU said he was happy to answer any queries or provide feedback to members of Council during the meeting or at a later date.</p> <p>9.5. GS questioned when the ACO is coming out to clubs and societies. RU confirmed it would be tomorrow, but he would provide an update to all Committee Officers by the end of the day.</p>	<p>RU to send update to CSP's regarding in-person activities.</p>
<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>1. AS thanked all members of Council for attending the first meeting of the year and reminded members of the upcoming training in October.</p>	