

**Imperial College Union  
Board of Trustees / 18 May 2022**

**Under 18s Policy**

Author(s): Lloyd James (Union President)  
Tom Flynn (Managing Director)  
Rob Scully (Director Finance & Resources)  
Tom Newman (Director of Membership Services)  
Clem Jones (Governance & Democracy Coordinator)

Purpose: To update the Union's policy on Members Under Eighteen

Decision(s): To approve

### **1. Background Information**

In December 2021, Board approved an updated version of the Associate Membership Policy. A question arose during the discussion on the Union's approach to members who are under eighteen years of age.

### **2. Context**

Board adopted a Members Under Eighteen Policy in January 2014. Some outdated terminology in the document requires updating (e.g. "Faculty Unions"). The 2014 policy also prohibits members who are 16 or 17 years old from being able to access ticketed events at the Union which involve the potential for the purchase of alcohol. Management Committee considered this on 16 April 2022 and supported enabling these members to attend ticketed events (as our licence allows) whilst ensuring such members cannot purchase alcohol. As such we propose updating the wording of the policy as follows:

*Where allowed within the license, the Union will make provisions for members aged sixteen or seventeen to attend our venues (for ticked events, non-ticketed events and during general opening times). The Union's venues policies will reflect this and include appropriate provision to ensure that anyone under the age of eighteen cannot purchase alcohol. It may be necessary for some events to be restricted to those over the age of eighteen, and for the avoidance of doubt, complying with the conditions of our licenses will take precedence over this policy.*

Members under 16 would still not be able to attend ticketed events, but we propose a more positive framing of their ability to access our venues during general opening hours in the wording of the updated policy: *'the Union will make provisions for members aged under sixteen to attend our venues during general opening times (but not for events). The Union's venues policies will reflect this and include appropriate provision to ensure that anyone under the age of eighteen cannot purchase alcohol.'*

An approach to regularly reviewing and updating other Board of Trustees policies will be considered as part of the Governance AOP (Annual Operating Plan) as per the annual planning round proposal.

### **3. Recommendation**

The existing policy and a proposed/updated version of the policy are attached as appendices to this paper. Board is asked to approve the updated version of the policy.