

Imperial College Union
Union Council / 28 June 2022
6-8pm / Union Dining Hall

Council Representative (UG Medicine)	Aigun Gassanova (AG)	Apologies
Silwood Chair	Alex Auyang (AA)	Present
Council Representative (PG Science)	Ang Li (AL)	Apologies
Postgraduate Taught AWO (Medicine)	Anjola Onifade (AO)	Absent
International Officer	N/A	N/A
RCSU President	Aparna Pillai (AP)	Present
Postgraduate Research AWO (Medicine)	Aryan Niknam Maleki (ANM)	Present
CGCU (Wellbeing Officer)	Aurna Maitra (AM)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Disabilities Officer	Awais Seyyad (AS)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Sports Sector Chair	N/A	N/A
LGBTQ+ Officer	Calyste Revel (CR)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Ethics and Environment Officer	Camilla Billari (CBI)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Postgraduate Research AWO (Natural Sciences)	Ceire Wincott (CW)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Mental Health Officer	Charlotte Barot (CB)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Christina Wang (CWA)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Council Representative (UG Science)	Ding Ding (DD)	Present
Council Representative (PG Medicine)	Eman Adair Adair (EA)	Present
RSM Vice President Welfare	Emily Li (EL)	Present
Interfaith Officer	Esha Kamran (EK)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
RSM Vice President Education	George Morgan (GM)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Working Class Officer	Grace Fisher (GF)	Present
CGCU President	Hayley Wong (HW)	Apologies
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Hilliam Tung (HT)	Apologies (arr late)
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	India Marsden (IM)	Present
CGCU (Education Chair)	James White (JW)	Present
RSM President	Jasmine Crocker (JC)	Present
Postgraduate Taught AWO (Business)	Jenaifer Farhad Sethna (JFS)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
ICSMSU Academic Chair	Julia Komor (JK)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Postgraduate Taught AWO (Engineering)	Christabel Ofori-Atta	Absent
Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Lintong Li (LL)	Absent
Union President	Lloyd James (LJ)	Present
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Camellia Richards (CR)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Gender Equality Officer	Malinda Davies (MD)	Absent

Postgraduate Taught AWO (Natural Sciences)	Manasa Reddy Sanaga (MRS)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Knowledge Chair	Matthew Hamer (MH)	Present
Council Chair	Michaela Flegrova (MF)	Present
Council Representative (PG Business)	Molly Gao (MG)	Absent
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Nabeel Azuhar Mohammed (NAM)	Present
Deputy President (Welfare)	Nathalie Podder (NP)	Present
A&E Chair	Niamh McAuley (NM)	Present
RCSU Vice President (Education)	Nicolas Barykin Pankevich (NBP)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Rea Tresa (RT)	Apologies
Black & Minority Ethnic Students Officer	Rebekah Christie (RC)	Apologies
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Sam Lee (SL)	Present
ICSMSU President	Samuel Hammond (SH)	Seat lost → Present
Council Representative (UG Science)	Stefano Fiocca (SF)	Present
RCSU Vice President (Welfare)	Tianyu Wen (TW)	Absent
Postgraduate Research AWO (Engineering)	Tin Hang Un (THU)	Absent
Deputy President (Education)	Daniel Lo (DL)	Present
Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Yusen Wang (YW)	Seat lost (Byelaw A.3)
Council Representative (PG Business)	Zhun Tang (ZT)	Apologies
Recreation Chair	Stephanie Yeung	Apologies

In attendance:

Cat Turhan (CT) – ICU Representation & Advice Manager

Clem Jones (CJ) – ICU Governance & Democracy Coordinator

1. Introduction And Apologies

MF welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies/seats lost were noted as above.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 May 2022 were approved by consensus as an accurate record of proceedings.

3. Matters Arising (Action Tracking)

The progress of the actions on the action tracker were noted.

MF noted that SH had lost his seat on council due to two missed meetings, but that he had valid reasons for not attending. A vote to have his seat reinstated by a simple majority vote of Union Council as per Byelaw A.3.1 was taken (for which SH left the room), and the proposal was unanimously accepted.

4. Trustee Ratification

LJ presented the motion and commended the motion to Council.

MF moved to a vote: 17 members voted in favour, none against, and none abstained. Council duly ratified the proposed trustees to be appointed as outlined in the paper, and will be submitted to Trustee Board for final approval.

5. Democratic Structures Review (DSR)

LJ presented the motion, noting that Byelaw changes require Union Council and Trustee Board Approval.

- i. IM asked if it is it worth amending Byelaw A to name the Arts MG to Arts & Ents MG. LJ agreed that this amendment could be included and taken forward in the documentation sent to Board for approval. Council approved the amendment.
- ii. IM queried the proposal to change the decision-making authority indicated in the Union Bar Policy will change from GIB to the President. LJ suggested that, if this was suboptimal, an alternative proposal could be 'to action the President to review a more sophisticated allocation method'. MF asked IM if she wished to accept this proposed amendment, which was rejected. IM instead moved that the decision-making authority in the Union Bar policy to change from GIB to the DPFS:
 - a. 11 voted for
 - b. 1 voted against
 - c. 5 recorded abstentions
 - d. The amendment was carried.
- iii. IM also queried the Proxy Voting section of the DSR report. IM noted that under the proposed changes to SO19, the Council Chair and Union President can't have proxies, and neither can CU presidents have proxies. IM moved that CU Presidents be able to send someone on their behalf and have proxies instead
 - a. 13 voted for
 - b. 2 voted against
 - c. 2 recorded abstentions
 - d. The amendment was carried
- iv. GF asked, with reference to LCOs having proxy votes as well, about what would happen if it becomes an issue where an LCO is a sending proxy to Council every time. LJ agreed that being on Council is an important part of the LCO role but posited that it would be better that someone that someone from a Liberation & Community group represent that constituency where possible at Council meetings, even if it's not the actual LCO themselves. ANM further asked how this interacts with members losing seats under Byelaw A.3 if missing two consecutive meetings. LJ answered that it is if the 'constituency' that fails to attend – whether the actual office holder or their proxy – two consecutive meetings that a seat is lost.
- v. SL asked how Campus Constituent Unions would work in practice in the first instance. LJ suggested they have some kind of event coordination committee. SL also asked about the implementation of campus constituent unions. LJ noted that Silwood is constituent, therefore WC and H'smith campus constituent unions remain to be set up. LJ further noted that one of the resolves of the paper is to mandate the incoming President to codesign with students a set of Standing Orders for a new Constituent Campus Union covering those campuses.
- vi. DL asked to clarify how often OT reports will be examined through the scrutiny committee, and if it would be 2ce a term. LJ confirmed that it would be, noting that OT reports are currently examined roughly 3ce a term through Council.

- vii. GF asked for clarification on making the changes to Council subcommittees. LJ noted that most of the Subcommittees (apart from CSPB) generally discuss policy and then someone brings the same sort of it items Council, so the proposal is essentially making the policy-approval at Council part the only option to avoid duplication. AA asked if subcommittees had been consulted on the proposals. LJ noted that the DSRWG has had subcommittee membership and the OTs also support and commend the recommendation.

MF moved to a vote on the motion, noting that a 2/3s majority was required:

16 votes for

0 votes again

2 recorded abstentions.

Council duly ratified the proposed changes to governing documents, and agreed to send them submitted to Trustee Board for final approval.

6. Honorary Life Memberships (HLM)

Mr Tinkles

NP presented the motion in her name proposing to give an HLM to Mr Tinkles, the Silwood Cat.

- i. A question was asked regarding what would happen if Mr Tinkles wanted to join a CSP. NP proposed that the Silwood President could decide and pay for fees.
- ii. LJ wondered whether there was alternative recognition befitting his inspirational nature without conflating his achievements with an HLM; LJ proposed awarding Mr Tinkles an Honorary Lifetime Meowmbership. IM seconded this proposed amendment. The amendment passed by a clear majority, with 16 voting in favour. MF asked CJ to ensure this is appropriately set up on eActivities.
- iii. GF asked how old Mr Tinkles is and whether this would cause any issues with the Union's policy on members under eighteen years of age. A debate ensued on whether to count Mr Tinkles age in cat years or human years. There was little co

VOTE

16 voted for

1 vote against

The motion to award Mr Tinkles an Honorary Life Meowmbership was carried.

Jill Finney

LJ presented the proposal to award an HLM to Jill Finney, outgoing Chair of the Board of Trustees. LJ noted that Jill had had a significant impact on the union during her tenure and had been an excellent supporter of Union Presidents and Deputy Presidents.

VOTE

20 voted for.

The motion to award Jill Finney an Honorary Life Membership clearly carried.

MF noted that questions relating to HLM for sabbatical officers would normally be anonymised from the minutes so that members can express thoughts freely.

[Secretary's note – anonymisation indicated by [X] in minutes below]

Lloyd James

- i. [X] asked whether Council could give LJ an honorary life membership instead of an HLM. [X] seconded this proposed amendment
 - a. 9 voted for
 - b. 6 voted against
 - c. 3 recorded abstentions
 - d. The amendment carried
- ii. [X] implored Council that the proposed HLM would be the last act of recognition to LJ's many years of service to the Union, and proposed a re-vote. MF seconded the proposal to re-vote on the original amendment.
 - a. 0 voted for the amendment on this second vote.
 - b. All voted against the amendment on this second time around of voting.
 - c. The amendment fell this time.
 - d. Therefore a decision was taken to vote on the original proposal of an HLM.

HLM vote taken anonymously – to be announced in due course.

Daniel Lo

- i. [X] noted DL had advanced the efforts of predecessors, establishing positive relations with College.
- ii. [X] noted DL has been very productive, commenting on ERB meetings.
- iii. [X] asked [X] if they could identify which stakeholder relationships DL had improved specifically. [X] noted relations with the business school.
- iv. [X] noted DL's work to introduce a feedback board.

HLM vote taken anonymously – to be announced in due course.

Nathalie Podder

- i. [X] noted NP's great work with the LCOs and commended her as an all round great person.
- ii. [X] noted he had worked with her on at least 3 things and all had been a positive experience.
- iii. [X] noted NP's work around the disciplinary review had been particularly commendable.

HLM vote taken anonymously – to be announced in due course.

India Marsden

- i. [X] noted the hard work India had undertaken in relation to the Imperial Athletes scheme.
- ii. [X] noted IM was always there to answer queries and deal with the large number of CSP requests for assistance.
- iii. [X] commented that IM had been dealt a bad hand by DPCS's past and she had worked remarkably hard to improve things.

HLM vote taken anonymously – to be announced in due course.

Sam Lee

- i. [X] noted SL had done a phenomenal job with summer ball this year.
- ii. [X] noted SL had helped students and union volunteers implement many changes to improve things.

HLM vote taken anonymously – to be announced in due course.

Sam Hammond

- i. [X] noted that SH had had a wide impact across FoM.
- i. [X] noted SH's work on the Reynolds refurbishment.

HLM vote taken anonymously – to be announced in due course.

Sam Lovatt

- i. [X] noted that SLo dealt a bad hand, starting the year with no money or writers for Felix but ending the year in an excellent position.

7. Stance on South Kensington Road Access

JW presented the motion in his name noting that, regarding activity on Dangor Plaza, it used to be possible for vehicles to go all the way around but now College have changed it so it is mixed mode pedestrian. JW argued students were told that this would be temporary, but now it seems like these traffic lights have become permanent. JW further argued that this it impacts the ability for CSP minibuses drivers to get signed off.

- i. AA asked if the new ALERT statue is going to block the road for vehicles anyway. NM responded that the statue is massive and definitely leaves no room for cars.
- ii. LJ suggested that College Council is not right forum for raising the issue, suggesting instead it would be better to raise the issue with the Director of Estates Operations. LJ proposed the following amendments: remove UR1; changing UR2 from Union President to DPFS and College Council to the Director of Estates Operations.
- iii. ANM asked for further clarification regarding what is the union resolves is actually asking for. JW noted it is asking for greater transparency in decision-making from the College when issues affect students.

VOTE on motion as amended

17 voted for

1 voted against

3 recorded abstentions

The motion carried.

8. Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme

MF noted RT had withdrawn the paper. DL noted the union resolves 1 as included in the paper was controversial within the Working Group, with not all agreeing that we should have a stance of banning all unpaid UROPs as this would stop some people having a UROP opportunity.

MF asked if her understanding that Union Resolves 3 will happen anyway was correct. DL responded that it was.

JW commented regarding UR1 that there could be some unintended consequences since, as DL noted, such a stance might prevent some from undertaking a UROP, whilst still acknowledging that some students would not be able to undertake a UROP without a bursary in any case.

GF commended that the issue requires way more research and looking into and a need to talk to individual departments about why they have or have not 'banned' unfunded UROPs.

MF suggested, as someone who has applied for PhD, that the Union should include in the data collection how students are chosen to be accepted for PhDs at Imperial, noting that UROPs make a big contribution to an individual's experience of research, and therefore an inequality of access to UROPs may contribute to an inequality of opportunity for PhD studentship.

SL suggested that whilst the sentiment of UR1 may be correct it is very negatively phrased and suggested a more positive phrasing may lead to more effective in lobbying.

Union Council noted that the paper will return to a future Union Council meeting in 2022-23. Due to time constraints, the following reports were taken as read, with little time for questions

9. Union President Report

Received.

10. DPFS Report

Received.

11. DPCS Report

Received.

12. DPW Report

Received.

13. DPE Report

Received.

14. Felix Report

Received.

15. CGCU Report

JW presented the report as HW unwell. Report received and HW thanked *in absentia*.

16. RSMSU

Received.

17. RCSU

Received.

18. ICSMSU

Received.

19. Silwood

Received.

20. AOB - President's Awards

Noted that four would be awarded at President's Dinner to two members of staff (Neil Alford; Richard Martin) and two students (Samuel Lovatt; Grace Fisher).