

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Initials</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
<b>Officer Trustee - Union President</b>	Hayley Wong	HW	Apologies
<b>Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Education)</b>	Jason Zheng	JZ	Present
<b>Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Welfare)</b>	Nathalie Podder	NP	Present
<b>Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Clubs &amp; Societies)</b>	Dylan Hughes	DH	Present from Item 6
<b>Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Finance &amp; Services)</b>	Niamh McAuley	NM	Present
<b>Council Chair</b>	Yuki Yuan	YY	Present
<b>Constituent Union President - ICSMSU</b>	Christian Oldfield	CO	Apologies
<b>Constituent Union President - CGCU</b>	Kia Popat	KP	Present
<b>Constituent Union President - RSM</b>	Josephine Onerhime	JO	Present
<b>Constituent Union President - RCSU</b>	Trinity Stenhouse	TS	Present until Item 4
<b>Constituent Union President - Silwood</b>	Danica Duan	DDu	Absent
<b>Management Group Chair - Arts</b>	Celine Driessen	CD	Present
<b>Management Group Chair - Community</b>	Vacancy	N/A	N/A
<b>Management Group Chair - Culture</b>	Vacancy	N/A	N/A
<b>Management Group Chair - Knowledge</b>	Vacancy	N/A	N/A
<b>Management Group Chair - Recreation</b>	Stephanie Yeung	SY	Present
<b>Management Group Chair - Sport</b>	Christian Cooper	CC	Present
<b>LCO - Black &amp; Minority Ethnic Officer</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	N/A	N/A
<b>LCO - LGBT+ Officer</b>	Devni Peramunugamage	DP	Apologies
<b>LCO - Disabilities</b>	Jasmine Chan	JC	Present
<b>LCO - Mental Health</b>	Aglaia Freccero	AF	Present
<b>LCO - Gender Equality Officer</b>	Nancy Yang	NY	Present
<b>LCO - Ethics &amp; Environmental Officer</b>	Riqi Zhang	RZ	Present
<b>LCO - Interfaith Officer</b>	Pratik Ramkumar	PR	Apologies
<b>LCO - International Officer</b>	Lintong Li	LL	Present
<b>LCO - Working Class Officer</b>	Jordan Elliott	JE	Absent
<b>Welfare Officer of CU - CGCU</b>	David Zhou	DZ	Apologies
<b>Welfare Officer of CU - RCSU</b>	Anthea MacIntosh-LaRocque	AML	Present
<b>Welfare Officer of CU - ICSMSU</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	N/A	N/A
<b>Welfare Officer of CU - RSM</b>	Shirley Xu	SX	Present
<b>Academic Officer of CU - CGCU</b>	Hugo Stanbury	HB	Proxy*
<b>Academic Officer of CU - RCSU</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	RW	N/A
<b>Academic Officer of CU - ICSMSU</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	RI	Absent
<b>Academic Officer of CU - RSM</b>	Shoupan Li	ShLi	Absent
<b>Postgraduate Research Academic &amp; Welfare Officer (Engineering)</b>	Kuan-Cheng Chen	KCC	Absent

<b>Postgraduate Research Academic &amp; Welfare Officer (Medicine)</b>	Aryan Niknam Maleki	ANM	Apologies
<b>Postgraduate Research Academic &amp; Welfare Officer (Science)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	GX	N/A
<b>Postgraduate Taught Academic &amp; Welfare Officer (Business)</b>	Théophile Leseccq	TL	Apologies
<b>Postgraduate Taught Academic &amp; Welfare Officer (Engineering)</b>	Swapnil Kumar	SK	Present
<b>The PGR Representation Chair</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	CY	N/A
<b>The PGT Representation Chair</b>	Shangyi Liu	SLiu	Present
<b>Council Representative (UG Science)</b>	Ding Ding	DDi	Present
<b>Council Representative (UG Science)</b>	Stefano Fiocca	SF	Absent
<b>Council Representative (UG Engineering)</b>	Vacancy	N/A	N/A
<b>Council Representative (UG Engineering)</b>	Rea Tresa	RT	Apologies
<b>Council Representative (UG Engineering)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	SCh	N/A
<b>Council Representative (UG Medicine)</b>	Sasha Lisitsyna	SaL	Present
<b>Council Representative (UG Medicine)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	HY	N/A
<b>Council Representative (PG Science)</b>	Mahmood Mubarak	MM	Apologies
<b>Council Representative (PG Science)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	TW	N/A
<b>Council Representative (UG Engineering)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	N/A	N/A
<b>Council Representative (PG Business)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	N/A	N/A
<b>Council Representative (PG Business)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	N/A	N/A
<b>Council Representative (PG Medicine)</b>	Eric Auyang	EA	Present
<b>Council Representative (PG Medicine)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	SL	N/A
<b>Council Representative (PG Engineering)</b>	Yanda Tao	YT	Apologies
<b>Council Representative (PG Engineering)</b>	Seat Lost under Byelaw A.3	XH	N/A

In attendance [Students/Staff]

Alex Auyang (AA) – Silwood Union Treasurer [Student]

Emma Mattin (EM) – Education Projects Coordinator [Imperial College Education Office]

Clem Jones (CJ) – ICU Governance & Democracy Coordinator [Union Staff]

Annette Ma (AM) – ICU Governance & Representation Assistant [Union Staff]

Alex Owusu (AO) – proxy for HS\* [Student]

Isabella Ward (IW) – Co-Editor-in-Chief, Felix Newspaper [Student]

Kacper Neumann (KN) – Observing student [Student]

Shaheer Chaudry [Student]

Hao Ze Yang [Student]

Tianyu Wen [Student] – until Item 6

## 1. Welcome & Sherfield Level 3 Consultation

YY welcomed everyone to the meeting.

EM presented the presentation on  [Sherfield Education Spaces - ICU Council March 23 .pptx](#)

EM noted the ICL Education Office wished to receive feedback for the utilisation of space, and the most suitable methods to consult students on this project, such as academic reps or other student roles. EM further noted that, realistically, construction will start in the summer.

- i. NP asked whether accessibility will be factored in. EM noted there are over-arching requirements at the moment, having to sort out rough details then design specifications, but accessibility will be an important factor they will account for.

YY noted the slides will be circulated to Council.

*Council duly noted the presentation.*

## 2. Apologies & Chair's Business

### Apologies

Noted as above, as well as from Silvia Mijangos (Gender Equality Welfare Officer) re their apologies for absence in being unable to be present for Item 8.

### Proxies

Request for AO to proxy for HS was approved by Union Council.

*15 in favour, 4 against, the rest as abstention.*

AA noted the proxy should be as equally qualified and was uncertain whether the Guildsheet Editor should be eligible to vote as proxy.

JZ asked for why the CGCU Education Officer was unable to make it instead, and KP responded she reached out to her first, but she couldn't make it.

## 3. Motion on Mitigating the Effects of the Cost-of-Living Crisis

TS presented the paper as its author.

TS noted the paper mandates a free ticket scheme for students with financial burdens in light of the cost-of-living crisis, with resolves listing Union's agreement on giving access to events for financially burdened students through discounted tickets.

- i. CC noted there is typo in 3.3. YY noted the correction is made in the second circulated papers.
- ii. NM added context that ICU struggles to get hardship fund data and demonstrates full support to the paper but noted there may be also a lot more work. NP added it is an ongoing work to see where College and Union can share their information, and stated it is a work in progress.
- iii. CC asked whether they are voting on individual points of the paper or on the paper as a whole. TS responded the entire paper.

- iv. JZ noted the paper title mentioned 'cementing it into Union Constitution' and asked for clarification. TS noted this was an oversight and had not been changed from a previous version of the paper. NM asked for specification whether the final title will be changed. TS affirmed this.

YY asked the Council to vote on the paper and noted the voting to be on all three resolves.

*The motion was carried by a show of hands with a majority voting in favour.*

*Secretary's Postscript: 24 hands were raised in favour during the count, however, 4 persons in attendance who voted in favour were ineligible to vote; the total number voting in favour was therefore 20.*

#### **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 07 February 2023

*Approved by consensus as an accurate record of proceedings.*

#### **5. Institutional Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy Consultation**

NP presented the paper as its author alongside a Menti presentation.

NP noted the paper is to develop a strategy inclusive of all needs of students and encourage wellbeing at Imperial.

NP asked the Council for the first 3 words that come to mind when thinking of wellbeing at Imperial and asked the extent to which the Council agreed on statements regarding the timeframe, scope of support services, access, and signposting to services at Imperial.

NP noted the low scores on continuity of services, and acknowledged that with Council members being student volunteers, they may have been exposed to more signposting and access to services at Imperial than the average student.

NP further asked the extent to which the Council agreed on statements regarding stigma around wellbeing and mental health, on articulating stigma, speaking to staff or other students, and Imperial potentially perpetuating culture on procrastination and burnout.

- i. CC asked for clarification on the two questions regarding stigma around wellbeing, as some students may find it easier to speak to staff about it, or easier to process it internally. NP noted the first question focuses more on internal stigma, the emotional aspects of wellbeing, and students' own perception of mental health, while the second question focuses more on EQ and how one understands their own mental health.

NP asked questions regarding the amount of money spent on wellbeing activities or events, and the main products or services that are being used.

NP noted high scores on social activities and noted that analysis conducted for the paper showed students deprioritised social activities first when facing financial hardship. NP stated this demonstrates the link between the cost-of-living crisis and how it affects wellbeing.

NP asked the Council whether there are any barriers for seeking support at Imperial and any suggestions on minimizing these barriers.

NP noted that while Manchester or other UK cities have established collaborations with the NHS trust for student support, it is more difficult to set them up in London, as there are

multiple NHS trusts in London and numerous universities, but noted they are making steps to build a better relationship with NHS to get the support that students need.

NP noted they are currently forming mental health strategy steering groups made up of staff and 1 minimum student representative per faculty, and asked members that are interested to participate to speak to her. She noted it is a good opportunity with great student impact and a positive learning experience on forming institutional strategies.

## **6. External Trustee Ratification**

NM presented the paper as its author.

NM noted the paper details the reappointment of Dot Griffiths as an external trustee in the Board of Trustees, where she has been a member for two terms and would like to keep her on for a third term. NM noted this has already met Board approval and only needs Council approval.

YY asked the Council to vote on the motion: 20 persons present voted in favour, 1 person present voted against and 2 persons present recorded abstentions.

YY noted the votes will be verified and results notified via email to the Council.

*[Secretary's postscript: 3 persons in attendance who voted in favour were ineligible to vote. The final voting outcome was therefore 17 in favour, 1 against, 2 recorded abstentions. The motion still carried with the required quorate two-thirds majority].*

YY took a moment to explain that the Felix co-editors and Scrutiny Committee had prepared respective written reports updating on their work (as noted in the paper circulation sent via email) in replacement of their items previously listed on the first draft of the agenda, for ease of time-management, due to the number of agenda items.

## **7. Installation of Water Boilers in the Central Library**

NY presented the paper as its author.

NY noted having received feedback from students and other connections that installation of water boilers in the library would assist with period cramps, and for making hot beverages in wintertime. NY noted there are water boilers in other buildings on campus and would like to see them also installed in the Central Library.

- i. CC asked whether they have plans to lobby for funding, and what the health and safety aspects considerations are in confined spaces, especially if it is potentially dangerous in a library. NY responded the exact locations and the electric plugs used will be decided in further discussions with the library staff for safety considerations. NY noted that there are no plans regarding funding for now, but mentioned NP's work of a similar nature, and mentioned she hoped to see whether NP could provide any help for this item as well. NP noted the Estates Management suggested having clearer signposting for locations with hot water available and noted this may be one resolve for the motion, which is to improve signposting for currently available hot water.
- ii. AA expressed uncertainty on the necessity for a water boiler to be made available on every floor of the Central Library and noted it may be easier to ask for 1-2 water boilers in the library first. NY noted it is a good point but raised that students facing period cramps may find it difficult to walk to different floors in the library.
- iii. SaL expressed uncertainty on the practicality of the motion and noted students can ask for hot water from the Library Café if needed. NY stated there are 5 floors in the

Central Library with high student traffic and may experience long queues at the café especially during lunch hours. NY noted it is time consuming and would be more convenient if there are at least 1-2 water boilers inside the library within the gates. NY also emphasised on many students or officers offering general advice that hot water or staying warm with hot water bottles often help with period pain relief.

- iv. AML asked for clarification on the type of water boiler, whether it is a portable kettle or a physical boiler. NY noted it should be similar to the water machines currently available at the library for cold or room temperature drinking water, as kettles may be more dangerous.
- v. NM clarified that the Library Café is not open 24 hours, which is another reason for having more access points for hot water. NM also asked the reason behind only installing it in the Central Library and not, for example, Charing Cross Library. NY noted they would like to start with installations at the Central Library, and noted they are putting out surveys for suggestions with gender-related issues or period products.

YY asked Council to vote on the motion: 16 persons present voted in favour, 4 persons present wished to record an abstention and 2 voted against.

- vi. SY asked whether they are accepting the amendment of installation of water boilers in the Central Library building instead of specifying installation on every floor of the Central Library. AML also asked whether sub-resolves will be considered for the paper to specify plans around funding. YY noted the voting procedure has started so the Council is voting on the paper as presented. YY acknowledged the suggestions raised during discussion but noted they have not been incorporated in the current resolves.

*[Secretary's postscript: 3 persons participating in the poll who voted in favour were ineligible to vote; the total number voting in favour was therefore 13.]*

## **8. Proposition for Period Products to be Available in All Floors and Receptions of the Central Library**

NY presented the paper on behalf of the Gender Equality Welfare Officer.

NY noted the investigation by the officer on availability of period products in toilets and noted no access to free period products on Levels 2-5 of the Central Library. NY noted the proposition for period products to be available in gender neutral toilets or men's toilets with consideration for transgender students at Imperial. NY noted having spoken to NP and realised the importance of emergency period products in every toilet, where students do not have to go to level 1 for period products in the Central Library.

- i. NM raised an amendment for the proposal to be suggested to College management, noting the Union's stance and role, as the Central Library is not under administration of the Union.
- ii. AA asked whether the period products machine on Level 1 Central Library is usually well stocked. NY responded that the machine had both pads and tampons available during their checks. AA followed up and asked whether it is needed to specify that every single floor has the same quality and that the machine is always full and pointed out it does not seem relevant. AA then suggested to remove Union Resolve 2 and remove the specification of having 'the same quality as level 1' in Resolve 1. NY noted safety as the most important point about period products. YY clarified AA's question on the frequency of stocks and not quality of stocks and asked NY whether specifications on the same frequency of stocking is needed. AA noted the College will most likely supply products of the same brands and thought the dispenser

machine was of the same quality. NY provided reason behind Resolve 2 noting their initial thoughts on wanting to maintain the same frequency of refills and quality as level 1.

- iii. SY asked whether they are aware of the frequency of refilling period products for level 1 and asked for clarification whether that is used as a reference for the proposition. NY responded the librarians replied every 1-2 days. SY raised a suggestion of changing the wording of Resolve 2 to 'every 1-2 days' instead of using level 1 as a reference. NY accepted the suggestion to reword to "update and check the stock of period products once a day in all levels 2, 3, 4, and 5 in the women's toilets". AA suggested simplifying it that dispensers should not run empty. NM raised her opinion to remove Resolve 2, noting that the dispensers are already managed by cleaners, and they will manage all other floors the same.
- iv. NY accepted the removal of Resolve 2 and amendment of wording of Resolve 1 to 'given that the cleaners will check and refill period products the same as level 1'.

YY asked Council to vote on the paper with amendment of wording of Resolve 1 to 'given that cleaners will check and refill period products the same as level 1' and removal of Resolve 2. *The motion was carried unanimously by a vote on the Mentimeter poll.*

*[Secretary's Postscript: 23 votes were received in favour during the count, however, 3 persons participating in the poll who voted in favour were ineligible to vote; the total number voting in favour was therefore 20. The motion still carried unanimously by Council members present and voting.]*

## **9. Discussion of the proposed mural on the Physics building**

AML led the discussion, as appointed by the RCSU President.

AML noted that Physics students and staff was informed a week ago about the planning application by the College about a mural to be painted on the side of Blackett building. AML posted the details of the mural on the Union Council Teams channel, noting the design was prepared by the UN Environment Programme as part of the Ecosystem Restoration Mural series with the objective to raise awareness of climate change and environmental destruction; the application also notes the objectives to reflect on humankind's relationship with nature and is highly relevant to Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. AML emphasised that this was told to students a few days before the acceptance of comments on the decision was closed, and they did not receive students' approval.

- i. JZ noted that Officer Trustees were told about the mural during Summer 2022 but were not made aware of the specific mural design.
- ii. AML observed that most of the comments submitted noted that people are happy with a mural, but not with this specific design.
- iii. CC asked for the thoughts of the College on the design and raised a suggestion to add a plaque to explain the meaning of the mural. AML responded she does not know anything regarding opinions of the College.
- iv. AML noted she is happy to hear feedback from the Council; YY noted that the feedback can be incorporated into an official resolve if needed.
- v. AML challenged CC's suggestion of a plaque, clarifying that the mural should not happen. AML and IW further clarified that the mural will be present until April 2028.
- vi. SaL asked for clarification whether the specific mural design will be put up until 2028. AML affirmed it will.
- vii. YY asked when the decision will be made. AML responded it will be happening next month without any consultation to students or staff.

- viii. DH asked whether a donation to Imperial is associated with the mural's installation. JZ responded it is a UN charity mural and no one is donating money to them. NM clarified the Blackett Building was chosen as it was a large white space available in South Kensington, additionally noting that as an Officer Trustee, she can raise with the College that they/students did not have enough consultation.
- ix. YY asked the Council for a consensus of opinion on the mural:

*3 members like the mural design; 12 are ambivalent towards the design; 6 are strongly against the mural design.*

## **10. College Strategy Discussion**

JZ led the discussion.

JZ noted the College had asked for Council's feedback on the new College strategy currently being developed. The strategy states Imperial's aim to maximise the potential to do good in the world and will set the ambition and vision for Imperial for the next 20 years, and College decisions will be based on this strategy.

JZ noted the consultation period will run from 20 February to 31 March, including this discussion consulting Council. Students are sent a survey via email, and the consultation findings will be compiled during the review stage, followed by finalising and publishing over the summer.

JZ explained the strategy is structured around 3 pillars – 1) education and student experience, 2) research and enterprise, and 3) societal and global engagement.

JZ presented a Menti with questions:

- These three pillars encompass the key directions and ambition I would like to see from Imperial in the next 10-20 years: *A majority of those present voted 'somewhat agree'.*
- If there was one signature initiative you'd like to see from Imperial in the next 10-20 years, what would it be?

JZ also asked "Should we [Imperial] continue to offer only STEM subjects, or should we be adding others?"

- i. AA asked for clarification of the societal engagement mentioned in the description of the third pillar. JZ responded he does not fully understand this either, but refers to the impact of Imperial on society, and on a local and international level. JZ noted he will double check the consultation paper for any definitions, but the document mentions 'supporting local economic growth, breaking down barriers, progressing science and technology globally ... local, national, and international reach of society'.
- i. NP noted the focus should be more on the people of Imperial, with outreach and more student consultation, rather than what they do, such as excellence and outputs. NP noted the clinical tone of the strategy and expressed a higher appeal for people to come to Imperial if the College can support things that students can enjoy.
- ii. AML agreed with NP, noting the frequent use of clinical buzzwords such as 'inclusive', and expressed the reality does not seem to fit the descriptions. AML noted every university can use this strategy and there is nothing specific to Imperial.
- iii. AF further expressed it feels very formal or business-like, and suggested the focus can be moved towards the experience.
- iv. AA noted regarding courses that are offered, one of the unique things about Imperial is that it only offers STEM courses, making it a 'specialised' university.



- v. NM noted Imperial should focus on getting the STEM subjects right. DH agreed, noting they should do it right and do it better.

### **11. Union Strategy Consultation Request**

DH encouraged Council members to get involved in focus groups on the Union's next Strategy which is being developed. JZ noted he is running such at Taught Academic Rep Forum and Research Academic Rep Forum, to be held on Thursday and Friday respectively, and noted those who are interested should email him. DH also noted focus groups on the Union Strategy will be run by HW in the next few weeks and is a good opportunity to shape the direction of Imperial College Union over the next few years.

DH asked for a rough list of members that would like to get involved:

AA, JO, KP, AF, CC, SX, AML, AO, SK

DH noted they will be in touch.

### **12. AOB**

YY asked whether members would find the similar use of an overhead projector to be useful for future Council meetings and received agreement by consensus.

End of Union Council

YY thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 8pm.