

**Imperial College Union  
Board of Trustees / 28 February 2024**

**Union Council Chair Update**

Author: Anthea MacIntosh-LaRocque (Union Council Chair)

Purpose: To report on the work of the Union Council Chair and Union Council

Decision: To note

### **1. Introduction**

As of writing, three Council meetings have been held this year, with the fourth being held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024. In December, a new form of Officer Trustee scrutiny was trialled at Council.

### **2. Feedback Survey**

An anonymous survey was circulated to all Council members on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to gauge opinion on the following topics:

- The new format of Officer Trustee scrutiny,
- Confidence in speaking up during meetings,
- Effectiveness of the Council Mentor Groups introduced this year,
- In-person/hybrid/remote Council meetings,
- General feedback.

The idea of holding Council meetings in hybrid or remote format was raised at the last meeting, leading to a lengthy discussion. Considering this, it was deemed appropriate to review the format of Council meetings.

The feedback gathered from this survey will be used to guide the running of Council for the remainder of the year.

### **3. Union support difficulties**

As noted in the Council Chair update from the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the limited staff support for Union Council decreased the efficiency of operations and increased the workload for volunteers and Union staff. I'm very happy to say that with the return of Helena Schofield as Representation Manager and Clem Jones as Governance & Executive Manager, this issue has been resolved. I would like to say thank you to both Helena and Clem for all their help so far.

### **4. Council Chair Goals Update**

My key objectives as Council Chair this year are:

- To increase student engagement with Council,
- To increase Council member engagement with Council,
- To trial, evaluate, and report on a new format of Officer Trustee scrutiny.

*Successes:*

- 4 new Council members authored papers.
- 5 non-Council members authored papers.
- Survey to evaluate OT scrutiny.

*Points of improvement:*

- No articles in student newspaper yet.
- Council Forums not yet organised.