

### Council Attendance

Role	Name	Initials	Attendance
Officer Trustee - Union President	Camille Boutrolle	CB	Apologies
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Education)	Yi Yang	YY	Present
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Welfare)	Andreea Cojocsa	AC	Present
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Christian Cooper	CC	Present
Officer Trustee - Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Stephanie Yeung	SY	Present
Council Chair	Anthea MacIntosh-LaRocque	AML	Present
Constituent Union President - ICSMSU	Haider Nazerali	HN	Present
Constituent Union President - CGCU	Daniel Zhuo	DZ	Present
Constituent Union President - RSM	Trinity Stenhouse	TS	Present
Constituent Union President - RCSU	Reha Chandresh	RC	Present
Constituent Union President - Silwood	Jack Arthur	JA	Present
Management Group Chair - Arts	Celine Driessen	CD	Present
Management Group Chair - Community		N/A	N/A
Management Group Chair - Knowledge	Dhishan Mane	DM	Present
Management Group Chair - Recreation	Ethan Beech	EB	Apologies
Management Group Chair - Sport	Vaibhav Chetty	VC	Apologies
LCO - Black & Minority Ethnic Officer	Comfort Oluwakoya	CO	Apologies
LCO - LGBT+ Officer	Avi Kaura	AK	Present
LCO - Disabilities	Emmanuel Lawal	EL	Present
LCO - Mental Health	Aglaia Freccero	AF	Apologies
LCO - Gender Equality Officer	Wendy Song	WS	Apologies
LCO - Ethics & Environmental Officer	Yuxi Liang	YL	Present
LCO - Interfaith Officer	Ariba Azam	AA	Absent
LCO - International Officer	Yuanze Xia	YX	Present
LCO - Working Class Officer	Jordan Elliott	JE	Apologies
Welfare Officer of CU - RCSU	Julia Purrinos De Oliveira	JPO	Apologies
Welfare Officer of CU - ICSMSU	Lilia Evans	LE	Present
Welfare Officer of CU - RSM	Jay Haley	JH	Present

Academic Officer of CU - CGCU	Linmo Lin	LL	Present
Academic Officer of CU - RCSU	Chloe Lee	CL	Apologies
Academic Officer of CU - ICSMSU	Yasmin Baker	YB	Absent
Academic Officer of CU - RSM	Olivia Cai	OC	Present
Postgraduate Research Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering)	Xiang Yan	XY	Apologies
Postgraduate Research Academic & Welfare Officer (Medicine)	Nan Fletcher-Lloyd	NFL	Present
Postgraduate Research Academic & Welfare Officer (Science)	Michaela Flegrova	MF	Present
PGR Representation Chair	Jordon Millward	JM	Present
Council Representative (UG Science)	Edward Bird	EB	Present
Council Representative (UG Science)	Qingyu Liu	QL	Present
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Ling Liu	LLiu	Present
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Kang Yang	KY	Present
Council Representative (UG Medicine)	Yuki Agarwala	YA	Present
Council Representative (UG Medicine)	Kavyesh Vivek	KV	Apologies
Council Representative (PG Science)	Alex Auyang	AA	Present
Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Guoxuan CUI	GC	Present
Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Jing Xu	JX	Present
Council Representative (PG Business)	Ka-Chun Liu	KCL	Apologies

In attendance [Students/Staff]

Helena Schofield (HS) – ICU Representation Manager [Union Staff]  
 Annette Ma (AM) – ICU Governance and Representation Assistant [Union Staff]

**1. Welcome**

AML welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies & Chair's Business**

Apologies

Noted as above.

Quorum check

*Confirmed.*

### 3. Council Seat Reinstatement

#### NFL

NFL stated she is happy to attend today's council and hopes to continue attending in the academic year.

*Seat reinstated by Union Council majority (22 votes) in favour.*

Quorum count	Majority (50%+1)	For	Against	Abstain	Outcome
25	14	22	1	2	For

For	Against	Abstain
QL, AC, YA, JM, GC, JX, JH, JA, LL, EL, CC, DM, MF, AK, HN, CD, LL, OC, SY, EB, RC, YL		DZ, AA, KY

#### LE

LE noted she would love to continue representing the Imperial medics on welfare issues.

*Seat reinstated by Union Council majority (21 votes) in favour.*

Quorum count	Majority (50%+1)	For	Against	Abstain	Outcome
25	14	21	2	2	For

For	Against	Abstain
QL, AC, JM, GC, JX, JH, JA, LL, EL, CC, MF, AK, HN, CD, LL, OC, SY, KY, EB, RC, YL	YA, DM	DZ, AA

#### YX

YX explained he was unable to attend the previous meetings due to exams, and noted he is looking forward to attending the next Council meetings.

*Seat reinstated by Union Council majority (22 votes) in favour.*

Quorum count	Majority (50%+1)	For	Against	Abstain	Outcome
26	14	22	1	3	For

For	Against	Abstain
YY, QL, AC, YA, GC, DZ, JX, JH, JA, LL, EL, CC, DM, HN, CD, LL, OC, SY, KY, EB, RC, YL	MF	JM, AK, AA

- i. CC asked whether hybrid Council meetings will be held going forward. AML noted that they are currently offering hybrid options on an individual basis in exceptional circumstances.

#### 4. Proxies

*No proxies raised.*

#### 5. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

Corrections were raised by MF and SY.

*Corrections were made and minutes of the previous meeting were approved by general consensus.*

#### 6. Action tracker

AML noted the update of the action tracker and thanked everyone for sending in updates.

- i. AML noted action 1.1 is completed.
- ii. AML asked EL to confirm completion of actions 1.2 and 1.3. EL confirmed their completion.
- iii. AML noted written updates for action 1.4 added in the tracker.
- iv. AML relayed a response from Ioana for action 1.6, who stated that rectifications have been made on the endowment holdings at Imperial's investment profile during the last academic year. IB also clarified that they would like the Council to add extra pressure and a reminder to ensure the endowment holdings are consistently updated every quarter to prevent the events from the last academic year. Lastly, IB noted to direct queries to her.
- v. AML noted no further progress on action 1.7.
- vi. AML noted regarding action 1.8 that the SRI working group is reconvening within the College to lobby the university to end its investment in fossil fuel companies.
- vii. AML relayed an update from CB on action 1.9, who asked Council to mark it as complete as there is consistent ongoing progress with ICA. The action was marked as complete as approved by general consensus.
- viii. AML noted regarding action 2.1, that the College SRI engagement monitoring panel has been closed, therefore there is no upcoming meetings for it. AML asked whether Council would like to mark it as complete or add further actions. CD asked whether there are any replacements for the panel. AML said not that she knows of. SY also replied no, and added that CB is working with people who

ran the panel for alternative options, but follow ups for the Council will be reported from CB herself. AML asked whether a new action is needed regarding a report from CB. SY noted it would be included with previous action points. AML noted action 2.1 as complete from general consensus.

- ix. CC and RC marked action 2.3 as complete, and noted that the RSMU Standing Orders will come to an upcoming Council.
- x. AML gave an update regarding action 2.4 on postgraduate representation within CUs, that she sent out an email to PG reps in Council for those interested in the PG representation. AML thanked everyone who gave a reply, and stated that in the upcoming democracy review, an external consultant will take on the responsibility instead of her. The democracy review will take place in the next few months. AML noted that anyone who has expressed interest will be involved in the postponed discussion. AML marked the action as complete, as approved with general consensus.
- xi. AML asked for update on 2.5 from the Education and Welfare chairs of CU. LE noted she's working with the Vice Chair (Representation) to send surveys out this term, which is currently in progress. AML asked CU Chairs to remind Education and Welfare Chairs to give formal responses to feed back to CB. AML reminded that the reasons on having that action item is included in the previous Council minutes.
- xii. AML asked for further updates on action 2.6. CC said he will meet with DZ next week as part of a wider meeting. The action was marked as in progress.
- xiii. AML noted regarding action 2.7 that she is currently discussing it with CC through emails, and will bring a further update in the next Council meeting. CC shared that the regular elections have been on pause for now, but they will be allowing the co-op process even with resignation, as there may be cases where resignation causes issues.
- xiv. AML noted regarding action 2.8 that they hope to finish SOs in the next Council meeting, or at the latest by the end of the academic year.

## **7. Call for AOB**

JM asked to discuss the mode of Union Council meetings moving forward (online, hybrid, or in person).

## **8. Silwood Report**

JA noted that he was absent at the last Council meeting, so he will present the Silwood Report now.

JA summarized that elections occurred on October 16, 2 weeks after the Silwood academic year started. He noted all positions except one ran uncontested, and they currently have three entertainment officers and an international officer. JA noted all updates on student-led societies are included in the report.

JA stated they have sorted out minibus driver eligibility issues, and three people currently have minibus licenses. JA noted they are currently working with ICU to increase the number of drivers for added flexibility.

Lastly, JA noted they are currently planning SilFest, the annual celebratory festival held every summer. He added that the last SilFest was run in 2022, and SilFest in previous years (2020, 2021) were cancelled for various reasons. JA stated there is a subcommittee of 7 people that are currently working on budgeting and applying for permits and working closely with ICU departments alongside.

- i. AA asked for further detail on the minibus driver licenses. JA explained that the problem arose when they were told that minibus drivers needed 2 years of clean driving experience and a UK or EU driving license before completing the minibus driver test. However, they were later told by the ICU Activities department that EU licenses were not accepted, as they would not be able to check their driving history. JA noted there were a few volunteers holding EU licenses, and were able to solve the problem by obtaining clean driving records from the issuing country.
- ii. AA asked for further detail on the discussions with ICU on the future of minibuses. JA noted he received mixed messages, but it seems that ICU is not against transferring minibuses to faculties. JA noted no indications on ICU removing the minibuses.
- iii. CC added that the initial plan to remove minibuses has now shifted to discussions on minibus replacements in the next 5-10 years. CC explained that managers are working on options of fully electric or hybrid vehicles, and CSPB will be the main source for consultation. CC noted their minibus insurance is good, and ensured that ICU will not remove the minibus services unless safety issues arise. He also said that a minibus will be given to faculty. CC noted discussions will be included in the CSPB minutes, and is happy to follow up over private conversation.
- iv. AML thanked JA for presenting and noted the good work.

## **9. CSPB Report**

CC said the last CSPB meeting was held last Thursday, and noted that everyone is now fully trained to support CSP annual budgeting, noting big improvements from previous years.

CC noted regarding other updates, that the funding subcommittee has not met since the last Council meeting, but there are several societies in the new CSP incubation process, and a few that are closed down.

CC noted the next meeting will be held in February with discussions on usual operations.

## **10. AOB**

JM raised to have a discussion on whether Council meetings should be hybrid.

- i. JM noted that hybrid mode Council meetings will be beneficial and can increase accessibility and representation, as long as there are valid reasons for people to

attend online. AML asked for examples of valid reasons on attending online. JM replied that it is excusable if students are based in other campuses, or if they are at conferences or events where they cannot commute back to university back in time.

- ii. AML noted that there will need to be a change of standing orders if the meeting mode is changed. AML also noted possible issues with efficiency if Council meetings are hybrid. AML noted that she will be sending out a survey next week to Council members to receive feedback.
- iii. CC noted that the Democracy Review will likely encompass this topic. He also noted that considering the possibility of online meetings, meetings on the College level often meet online, and they could be more productive where everyone is given the opportunity to raise their hand, and there are no problems with hearing members speak, or anyone not being able to attend in person. CC noted he is open to hybrid meetings.
- iv. JA noted the benefits for someone like him that is based on another campus (Silwood), where he can avoid long commutes, while he is still getting used to technology. He suggested that members' reasons for not attending in person could be given to and accepted or rejected at the discretion of the Council Chair.
  - i. TL noted that hybrid meetings are easier, as having classes in White City or Hammersmith campuses can cause issues with attending Council in the evenings, especially when postgraduate students could have job applications or interviews that occur elsewhere in London.
  - ii. AA noted that hybrid meetings are beneficial for specific cases, such as students being based on other Imperial campuses, however, he voiced concerns that adapting to a hybrid mode may change Council meetings. AA noted from his experience of being Council Chair during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are inherent differences that he personally thinks is negative. He noted that there should be strict rules around the circumstances and reasons for attending Council meetings online. AA noted that while this Council meeting had a short agenda, it could have been held online, but that there have been compelling meetings in this academic year that would have had fundamentally different discussions if some people were online.
  - iii. HN acknowledged AA's point that there is value in in-person Council meetings, but noted that his experiences of in-person or online Council meetings were similar, and that online meetings don't necessarily detract from conversations, but could even increase efficiency in discussions. HN pointed out that students working from home or in placements have to spend more time or money on travel, and also noted that he would still attend Council meetings even if it was held online. Lastly, HN also preferred purely online meetings over hybrid meetings as it would cause even more problems.
  - iv. MF voiced agreement with AA, noting that many students have turned off their camera and were distracted by other tasks in the online Council meetings that she has been in. MF said that she personally finds it more difficult to focus in online meetings, and noted that this issue may affect Council votes when members are not as attentive to the items discussed. MF explained that they should still encourage in-person presence over online attendance, and be strict

with reasons on attending meetings online if they are to continue with hybrid meetings.

- v. JA said regarding MF's comment on students commuting from other campuses, that Silwood agreed to reimburse train tickets specifically for him to attend Council meetings only. JA noted that if ICU has a requirement for students to attend online, it is unreasonable not to offer everyone compensation for travel costs, and urged ICU to consider expanding the budget to reimburse Council members, as this is a volunteer position and students should not be doing this out of their own financial costs.
- vi. LE suggested regarding concerns about engagement and attentiveness in online meetings, to impose online etiquettes, noting that students are all fully engaged with their cameras on in online EGI Forums for the Faculty of Medicine, and she doesn't see why people that have taken on student volunteer positions wouldn't want to engage in Council meetings.
- vii. HN noted that he has noticed members sorting through emails or completing other tasks while attending Council meetings in person, and raised that students will pay attention to the conversations that particularly engage them. HN also raised that students may be less tired or stressed due to commutes to campus and thus be more engaged.
- viii. AA pointed out that a train ticket from Silwood is over £20 and takes three hours, including a 0.5 hour walk to and from train stations. AA noted that everyone is here to volunteer their time and effort, and they should be more selfless in supporting fellow students as representatives. AA noted that discussing financial compensations feels wrong to him, and everyone is making a sacrifice, including taking time out from completing coursework or exam revision, for Council meetings, and it is inappropriate to view Council to be an easy task.
- ix. SY asked NFL, who is attending online, her experience of attending Council online today. NFL noted that it is smooth to join Council meeting online from her end, and there were no audio or visual issues once the setup was in place and tested prior to starting the meeting. NFL acknowledges the possibility of students being less engaged and turning off their cameras, but from her perspective as a disabled, chronically ill student, she wishes to attend Council and be a voice for medics and disabled students. NFL highlighted the importance in providing access for her and other students to do so. NFL appreciates the idea of people being selfless as everyone is holding a voluntary position, but noted it should not be done at the detriment of personal health, finance, or wellbeing. NFL supported setting up hybrid Council meetings.
- x. YB noted that although they are holding voluntary positions, finance is a key issue especially amidst the Cost-of-Living crisis, so financial issues should not be disregarded and students should not make personal financial sacrifices to hold their Council positions.
- xi. LE noted that sometimes members are unable to attend Council because they are upholding other responsibilities of their voluntary positions, such as her role requiring her presence at Reynolds with a quick response time.
- xii. JE noted they are taking on voluntary roles in order to help other students, and paying travel costs does not necessarily help students. He explained it is not



- about the work or sacrifices they make, but having constructive impact towards Imperial students.
- xiii. JA suggested that if ICU offers financial compensations for travel costs, it may increase student engagement. JA noted that almost all of the positions for the Silwood Union committee ran uncontested, and if students were offered options such as hybrid meetings or travel compensations, it would make it easier to uphold their responsibilities and increase morale, and likewise for students based in campuses outside South Kensington. JA restated that if they are required to attend Union Council in person, it is fundamentally wrong for ICU not to offer travel reimbursement, at least for those that are not paid to attend in person.
  - xiv. EL noted from a disabled person's perspective, the Union Building is accessible with wheelchair lifts, but if Council meetings become hybrid, it negates disabled people's issues, and could even increase accessibility and representation within Council itself.
  - xv. YB noted that it is important to recognise that some students may be commuting from outside of London that have to pay similar costs as Silwood-based students. YB noted that as long as there are proper regulations set in place to make sure Council meetings are still productive, and ensure that every member's needs are met in terms of accessibility, hybrid Council meetings are plausible.
  - xvi. AML thanked everyone for their comments, and concluded the discussion. AML noted that further comments can be given through the survey.

#### End of Union Council

AML thanked everyone for attending Union Council.