

Imperial College Union

NUS AFFILIATION

A note by John Collins, IC Union President & Jon Matthews, IC Union DPFS

Background

In a referendum held between 14th and 16th November 2006 that broke all previous records for voter turnout; the Members of Imperial College Union decided that their Union should affiliate to the National Union of Students.

Of the 13,252 eligible voters, 4007 ballots were cast giving a turnout of 30.24% with the votes being as follows:

No: 1,873 (46.74%)
Yes: 2,134 (53.26%)

The ICU NUS Affiliation policy shall now read as follows:

“Imperial College Union shall affiliate to the National Union of Students.”

ICU Council notes

1. The referendum result, given above.
2. The terms and conditions of NUS membership, as set out in Appendix A and B.
3. That ICU will, as all other members of the NUS, retain its own autonomy with regard to its policies and can pursue them without sanction by NUS.
4. That the NUS affiliation fee shall be £35,020.83 for 2006/07, £43,766.04 for 2007/08 and £52,531.25 for 2009/10 subject to inflationary increases.

ICU Council resolves

4. To mandate the Union President to make an application on behalf of Imperial College Union to affiliate to the National Union of Students.

JM & JC 28/11/06

APPENDIX A

NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS CONSTITUTION

Constitution

7. Organisational Membership

- (a) Constituent Membership shall be open to any representative organisation, union, guild, common room or representative council in the United Kingdom to which all the full-time students in post-sixteen education or a post-sixteen education establishment belong. In the absence of any representative student organisation, constituent membership shall be open to any student body of a post-sixteen educational establishment which is approved by the Conference of the National Union.

11. Rights and Obligations of Organisational Membership

- (a) Organisational members are obliged to abide by the Constitution of the National Union and are requested to contribute to the carrying out of the decisions of the Conference.
- (b) Only Constituent Members shall have any rights in the property or assets of the National Union or any part of such property or assets in the event of the dissolution or otherwise.

12. Individual Members - Rights and Obligations

- (a) Subject to the legal assistance fund, all privileges, facilities and benefits provided by the National Union shall be available to all individual members of the National Union. Individual associates shall be eligible for those privileges, facilities and benefits that are not restricted to individual members of the National Union.
- (b) A charge may at the discretion of the Conference or National Executive be made for any particular facility provided by the National Union from time to time and in such amount as the Conference or National Executive may decide.
- (c) In the event that a Constituent Member does not fully represent the students at a post-sixteen educational establishment the above facilities and benefits may be extended to all full-time students at the post-sixteen educational establishment, but only at the discretion of the Conference and if the Constituent Member agrees.
- (d) No rights, benefits or privileges shall be extended to any associate and members of organisations in association with the National Union except at the discretion of the National Executive or the Conference.

13. Expulsion

- (a) Organisational members and associates may be expelled by a resolution of the Conference by a two thirds majority.

14. Suspension

- (a) If an organisational member or organisation in association takes action which, in the opinion of the Conference, discriminates between its members on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin, religion, age or creed, Conference may by resolution deprive that organisation and/or its members of some or all of its or their rights, privileges, facilities or benefits. Suspension shall be for as long and upon such terms as may be determined by the Conference. The Conference may vary the terms of or lift any such suspension of rights.
- (b) The Conference or, between its sessions, the National Executive, may at any time after a subscription or any part of it is in arrears, withdraw from the defaulting organisation all or any of the rights and privileges of membership.

15. Default

- (a) A Constituent Member shall be liable to pay the National Union the annual subscription and other dues more explicitly stated in the schedules. The Conference or, between its sessions the National Executive, may at any time after a subscription or any part of it is in arrears, withdraw from the defaulting organisation all or any of the rights of representation to the Conference. If any subscription or any part of it is in arrears for more than two years the membership of the defaulting organisation (and its rights and privileges) shall automatically cease without prejudice to any unsatisfied claim of the National Union against such organisations.
- (b) If associates and organisations in association fail to pay the subscription within ninety days of it becoming due, they shall be deemed to have ceased their association with the National Union.

16. Transfer of status/non recognition

- (a) If a Constituent Member has as its members less than one-half of the full-time students registered at its institution, the Conference may, by a two-thirds majority, change its status to student organisation.
- (b) Where an Area Organisation fails to satisfy the National Executive that it is a properly constituted body having the support of a majority of the Constituent Members within that geographical area, the National Executive shall have the right to withdraw recognition, subject to the approval of the National Conference immediately following such a decision.

17. Withdrawal from Membership

- (a) Any organisational member or associate wishing to withdraw from membership of, or association with, the National Union shall before the 1st July in any year submit to the National Executive notice in writing to that effect, such notice to expire on the 31st

Schedule Three - Annual Subscriptions

100. General

101. All Annual Subscriptions shall be due in October of the NUS Financial Year concerned.
102. The subscriptions for members from Northern Ireland shall be decided by the Executive and the Union of Students in Ireland.
103. The Finance Committee may reduce any subscription, may accept late payment or payment by instalments. The hardship policy for this should be set down by the Finance Committee and take the level of the minimum fee into consideration and where appropriate assist with hardship.

200. Constituent members

201. Constituent Members shall pay the proportion of their income set out in a table attached to this schedule. The table (See Appendix B) shows the percentage of income payable against income per head.
202. The table may be amended by Finance Committee putting amendments to it in its report to the Annual Conference and the Conference accepting that part of the report. Such Amendments shall have the sole intention of taking account of inflation and preventing anomalies.
203. The income shall be defined as: grants, fees (or subventions) paid for its students by the students' institution, the Local Education Authority or any grant awarding authority. The Finance Committee should define what constitutes a grant and ensure equality across Constituent Members; this should take into account commercial income from 2006 and reduce the payment scale as appropriate.
204. The income per head shall be defined as the income divided by the number of full-time student numbers and one tenth of the part-time student numbers. From 2006 the student numbers shall be derived from official funding council or funding body figures. Constituent Members shall be responsible for declaring any opted out members. This should not be done to increase income and the rate chart should be changed as appropriate by the Finance Committee and passed in their report to conference.
205. The minimum subscription is £250 for Constituent Members and the maximum is £50,000. The Finance Committee may amend the maximum and minimum by putting amendments to its report to Annual

Conference and Conference accepting that part of the report. Such amendments shall have the sole intention of taking account of inflation and preventing anomalies.

206. In the first year of affiliation Constituent Members shall be required to pay in subscription that proportion of the Annual Subscription set out below:

Date of Application	Proportion Payable
1st September-31st December	Full Annual Subscription
1st January-31st March	Two-thirds Annual Subscription
1st April-31st August	One-third Annual Subscription

207. If a Constituent Member's income has increased compared to the previous financial year the subscription due shall not rise by more than 2% more than the percentage rise in the income.
208. In addition to their subscription Constituent Members shall be liable to pay value added tax at its current value.
209. A Constituent Member's subscription includes its contribution to the Conference Subsidy Fund and the Legal Assistance Fund. The proportion of the National Union's income given to each fund shall be determined in the estimates.
210. Any constituent member, other than one paying the minimum subscription, who has fully paid their subscription fee by October 31 in the year in which it becomes due shall be entitled to a 3% discount from that fee. This prompt payment discount shall be shown on all invoices issued by the National Union, other than those issued showing the minimum subscription.
211. Any constituent member who has not fully paid their subscription fee by 31 December in the year in which it becomes due and has not agreed a payment plan with the National Executive Committee or any designated sub-committee thereof shall be liable and invoiced for a surcharge of 3% of their originally calculated subscription fee. This surcharge may be waived or reduced by the Finance Committee at their sole discretion. Neither the discount nor the surcharge specified above shall affect the right of the National Executive to take such action as it determines to be necessary to recover any and all outstanding moneys due to the National Union at any time.
212. The Finance Committee and National Executive shall be charged with reviewing and updating the entire affiliation fee system and should propose any changes as a part of the Finance Committee report starting from 2006 and continued every three years thereafter.