

Constitutional Change – The Membership of Court – first reading

A note by the RCC Chair

Seconded by Ashley Brown, Alistair Cott, Kirsty Patterson, James Millen

ICU Notes:

Court currently has the following memberships:

- 4. The Court shall consist of members appointed in the following manner:*
 - 1. One member of each Faculty Union elected by the Council, each person being a Full Member of the Union,*
 - 2. Three Full Members of the Union nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council,*
 - 3. Three Life Members of the Union nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council,*
 - 4. One member of the academic, academic-related or senior administrative staff of Imperial College, of a rank equivalent to that of Senior Lecturer or above, nominated by the Council and approved by the Rector.*

ICU Believes:

This appears (at least from the point of view of a random student) to be farcical, since, after several months, council has not been able to elect a student from each FU.

That this situation is to the detriment of court, since it may prevent the most able candidate from getting onto court – i.e. if student Medic1 and Medic2 were both superior (in the opinion of council of course) to student Guilds1 the makeup of court would suffer, since the more able candidate, Medic2, would be blocked from membership.

Court is **not** a representative body, it is there to interpret the constitution [*"The Court shall exercise sovereign power over the interpretation of this Constitution, its Regulations and any policy, rule, act or omission made under it"*], not to find out what people think [*"The Court shall not manage or exercise policy-making powers over any other part of the Union"*], and as such it does not need one person from each FU.

Indeed the inclusion of one student from each FU has the danger of creating the perception that court is a representative body, something which has been highlighted in recent elections to court.

ICU Resolves

To change 4.1 (to be effective from 1st August 2007) to the following:

" Three full member of the union, elected by council" .

- 4. The Court shall consist of members appointed in the following manner:*
 - 1. Three Full Members of the Union, elected by council.*
 - 2. Three Full Members of the Union nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council,*
 - 3. Three Life Members of the Union nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by the Council,*
 - 4. One member of the academic, academic-related or senior administrative staff of Imperial College, of a rank equivalent to that of Senior Lecturer or above, nominated by the Council and approved by the Rector.*