

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the sixth ordinary meeting of the
Council
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2006-2007 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in Union Dining Hall at 6.40pm on the 13th March 2007

Present:

Council Chair	Daniel McGuinness
President	John Collins
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Eric Lai – left 7.20pm, proxy RCC Chair.
Deputy President (Education & Welfare)	Ben Harris – arrived 7.45pm
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Jon Matthews
Deputy President (Graduate Students)	Shama Rahman – left 9.05pm, proxy President
C & G CU President	James Fok
ICSMSU President	Shiv Chopra
RCSU President	Jad Marrouche
ACC Chair	Luke Taylor
A&E Chair	Margaret Holme – arrived 7.55pm
Media Group Chair	James Yearsley
OSC Chair	Sabena Mughal
RCC Chair	Mark Flower
CAG Chair	Radha Gadhok
RAG Chair	Stephen Brown
SCC Chair	James Millen
RCSU Welfare Officer	Jennifer Morgan
C&GU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexandra Martinsson Dorff
RCSU Academic Affairs Rep (Taught)	Matthew Hartfield
RCSU Research Representative	Daniel Sauder
C&GCU Representatives (Undergraduate)	Edo Abraham – left 9.05pm, proxy DPEW
	Steven King
	Yanyan Huang
	Nick Simpson
C&GCU Representatives (Postgraduate)	Ashley Brown
RSCU Representatives (Undergraduate)	Arik Funke
	Adi Misra-Godwin
	Simon Nance
RCSU Representative (Postgraduate)	Alex Guite
ICSMSU Rep (Undergraduate)	Jitin Verma
Non Faculty Rep	Andrew Sykes
Permanent observers	
Permanent Secretary	Peter Haldane
Finance Manager	Dave Parry
Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Catriona Leonard, Freya Summersgill, Cornelis Arie Plet, Ben Jeffeys, Omar Hashmi, Ellin Barklund.

Apologies: C&GU Research Representative Eirini Spentza, Welfare Campaigns Office Kirsty Patterson (Proxy DPFS), ICSMSU Education Rep 123 Eleanor Barry, ICSMSU Education Rep 456 Zacharia Silk, ICSMSU Rep (Undergraduate) Anojan Arulanathan & Zain Sikafi,

Not present: RSM President Sebastian Turner, Silwood Park Chair Michael Garrett, WCUS President Jay Khaneka, ICSMSU Welfare Officer Mohammedabbas Khaki, RSCU Representatives (Undergraduate) Zhibing Hu, C&GU Welfare Officer Emma Persky, Equal Opportunities Officer Thomas Brodrick, C&GCU Representatives (Postgraduate) Viktor Vojnovski

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) Congratulations were given to the Sabbatical Elects.

2. MINUTES 19.02.07

RESOLVED:

- 1) To pass the minutes

3. MATTERS ARISING – none

4. ELECTIONS REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) Omar Hashmi has been elected NUS delegate, however has been left off the report.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

5. PRESIDENTS REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council were encouraged to get teams in for the University Challenge event.
- b) The QC will submit the report on the Unions legal status by the 29th March.
 - i. It was suggested that the Governance Working Group reconvene once the report has been received.
- c) The University of London is currently disputing the legal status of ULU.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

6. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

NOTED:

- a) All room bookings for Clubs and Societies are now processed though the Student Activities Centre as of Monday 19th March 2007.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE)

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President on behalf of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) Simon Nance raised the following points on behalf of the Welfare Campaigns Officer:

- i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) did not assist the Welfare Campaigns Officer during Fairtrade fortnight. The Deputy President (Graduate Students) concurred on this point.
- ii. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and the President were thanked for their assistance during the Fairtrade Fortnight.
- iii. Hannah Theodorou reluctantly admitted that there were a few times during the planning of Greenweek that the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) did not do what was requested of him.
- iv. The President stated that by and large, Deputy Presidents (Education & Welfare) are either orientated to Welfare or Education; the incumbent being more focused on education.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)

NOTED:

- a) 1 minibus has been sold and 1 other is in the process of being sold.
- b) The Union finance system is currently 'broken' and thus there will be problems with printing web reports.
- c) It was questioned when the Trading Forum will take place.
 - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he is in the process of convening the forum.
- d) It was questioned what has happened to the shields that were recently 'lost'
 - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he currently had no information in regards to the RCSU Shield, is in the process of getting back the ICSMSU shield and the Guilds shield has been found.
 - ii. In the future, the shields will be kept away from the bars and bolted down.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (GRADUATE STUDENTS) REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Deputy President (Graduate Students)

NOTED:

- a) The forum to look at the future of the Deputy President (Graduate Students) role is taking place on the 20th March in Mechanical Engineering.
 - i. Council were encouraged to attend at promote the forum.
- b) The Postgraduate Careers Fair is occurring on the 10th May.
 - i. This is in conjunction with College.
- c) There is an upcoming informal Postgraduate event at the Queens Arms.
- d) It was questioned as to why the Deputy President (Graduate Students) did not attend the last meeting of Senate.
 - i. The Deputy President (Graduate Students) replied that she had experienced an extremely busy week and it slipped her mind that it was occurring.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Graduate Students) stated that there were no major Postgraduate issues raised at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

10. FELIX REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the Felix editor

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

11. C & G CU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the C & G CU President

NOTED:

- a) The President congratulated the C & G CU President on the success of the recent Women in Science event.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

12. ICSMSU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the ICSMSU President

NOTED:

- a) Medics Pilates was omitted from the new clubs formed section of the report.
 - i. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) expressed concern that Faculty Unions have been setting up their own clubs with out following protocol.
- b) It was questioned why there was no mention of the MMC march.
 - i. The ICSMSU President stated that the march had occurred after the report had been submitted.
 - ii. The organisers of the march had no clear aims and objectives and therefore to protect students, this was not openly promoted.
 - iii. Locally, ICSMSU members are generally happy their allocations this year.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

13. RCSU REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the RCSU President.

NOTED:

- a) The Chair welcomed the RCSU President to Council.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To accept the report.**

14. FAIRTRADE UNIVERSITY POLICY

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services) on behalf of the Welfare Campaigns Officer.

NOTED:

- a) Zisis Kozlakidis is currently not a student and therefore removed from the list of seconders.
- b) It was suggested that resolve 17.b. was too constricting and the word 'where practicable' should be inserted.
 - i. There was no objection and this was resolved.

RESOLVED:

1) 17.b. to read:

'To sell a Fairtrade alternative, where one exists, to all products sold by Union catering where practicable.'

- c) The SCC Chair expressed concern, in regards to resolve 17.g.i. that the Fairtrade Society Chair is on the steering group as this a new club that has not had the opportunity to gain experience.
 - i. It was argued that this is a practical addition to the steering group and although the club does not have a history, the Chair will have knowledge and motivation.
 - ii. It was suggested that the Ethical portfolio holder be part of the steering group.
- d) The RAG Chair had concern in resolve 17.c, in that the products may be unreasonably more expensive than no Fairtrade alternatives.
 - i. It was suggested that 'when the product is no more unreasonably expensive than the non Fairtrade alternative.' Be inserted in to resolve 17.c. There were no objections and this was resolved:

RESOLVED:

2) 17.c. to read:

'Where foods such as tea, coffee and sugar are served at functions/meetings by Union catering to ensure that they are Fairtrade where possible, when the product is no more unreasonably expensive than the non Fairtrade alternative.'

- e) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) amended resolve 17.d. to read 'Where a Fairtrade alternative exists, all products provided in the union offices shall be Fairtrade, where practicable.' There were no objections.

RESOLVED:

3) 17.d. to read:

'Where a Fairtrade alternative exists, all products provided in the union offices shall be Fairtrade, where practicable.'

- f) The ACC Chair expressed concern that a 'loonies' interpretation on the policy in the future may impose extreme constrictions on the Union.
 - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) assured the ACC Chair that the Deputy President (Finance & Services) has ultimate control of the budget and can veto the 'loonies'.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he would not support any policy that is ultra vires.
- g) It was questioned that if the paper was voted down, would College lose it's Fairtrade status.
 - i. The President suggested that this would not be the case.
- h) Council moved to vote on accepted the amended policy.

FOR	20
AGAINST	5
ABSTAIN	3

PASSES

RESOLVED:

- 4) To strike the Union's current Fairtrade University Policy (09/06/04) and replace it with this policy, which fulfils the requirements of the Fairtrade Foundation,**
- 5) To work with College to ensure Imperial becomes a "Fairtrade University", specifically**
 - a. To nominate the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) to take responsibility for implementing this policy,**

- b. **To sell a Fairtrade alternative, where one exists, to all products sold by Union catering where practicable.**
 - c. **Where foods such as tea, coffee and sugar are served at functions/meetings by Union catering to ensure that they are Fairtrade where possible, when the product is no more unreasonably expensive than the non Fairtrade alternative.**
 - d. **Where a Fairtrade alternative exists, all products provided in the union offices shall be Fairtrade, where practicable.**
 - e. **To promote the FAIRTRADE Mark and Fairtrade Fortnight in publications, such as student media, prospectuses and the website and also on union notice boards where appropriate, in fulfilment of the five goals,**
 - f. **To support campaigns during the annual Fairtrade Fortnight,**
 - g. **To continue to support the Fairtrade Steering Group which was set up to further the aims of this policy and promote Fairtrade on campus as required by the Fairtrade Foundation. This group shall be chaired by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) or his/her nominee and membership includes:**
 - i. **The Fairtrade Society Chair,**
 - ii. **The Head of College Catering**
 - iii. **A member of the college authority.**
 - iv. **Other interested parties as required,**
- 6) **To promote the education of students on issues of trade justice and Fairtrade and to commit to campaigning for increased Fairtrade consumption on campus.**

It was proposed by Adele Peel to change the order of the agenda to hear agenda item 18 as the next item of business. There were no objections.

18. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by Adele Peel

NOTED:

- a) The irony of having screeds of paper printed out for Council and specifically the Environmental policy motion as pointed out by the SCC Chair.
- b) An amendment to the policy, resolves, waste reduction, to include a resolve 4 was proposed and accepted.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To insert 'resolve 4' to 'Resolves, waste reduction' as follows:**

'Where the equivalent product exists with a higher recycled and/or manufactured content, this should be procured preferentially where practicable.'

- c) It was clarified that appendix D was omitting the table that clarified the zones of subsidies; Zone 1 is 6 hours and zone 2 is 12 hours.
- d) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) proposed to amend appendix D, tours policy in that point 28 shall read 'That for this reason ICU shall not subsidise air travel between any two airports within zone one as shown in Appendix D'.
 - i. Concern was raised in regards to constraints that clubs may face under this policy such as rail companies not taking on large items of equipment, no rail option to the destination and time constraints.
 - ii. Adele Peel stated that they have been in contact with Eurostar and they specified that it was acceptable to take large pieces of equipment on the train.
 - iii. The President stated that he has the data for travel times if anyone wished to see it.
 - iv. The RCC Chair stated that he has had experienced in the past of taking kit on to the Eurostar but unable to transport it on domestic French railways.
 - v. Ashley Brown stated that he had had issues in the past with Virgin Trains and taking large pieces of kit on to its trains.

- vi. Adele Peel accepted the Deputy Presidents (Finance & Services) proposed amendment.

RESOLVED:

2) Point 28 of appendix d, Tours policy to read:

'That for this reason ICU shall not subsidise air travel between any two airports within zone one as shown in Appendix D'.

- e) It was questioned by Daniel Sauder if those who have seconded the paper fully understand what they are supporting.
 - i. Joao Serra stated that he was on hand to explain the implications of what members were signing.
 - ii. It was suggested that those who have signed are not seconders, they are supporters.
- f) The RCC Chair proposed to amend the policy to strike, 'water use, point 3'.
 - i. The SCC Chair stated that Executive committee have been told that guttering to divert to a tank for grey water would be too expensive to implement.
 - ii. The RCC Chair expressed concern that flooding may potentially occur if the guttering is installed due to the nature of poor workmanship that has occurred during the redevelopment.
 - iii. Adele Peel accepted to strike point 3 of water use.

RESOLVED:

3) To strike 'water use, point 3' :

'Water from guttering shall be diverted to a water tank for use as grey water in toilets.'

- g) The RCC expressed concern in regards to the carbon offsetting and raised the following points:
 - i. The RCC Chair proposed to strike all reference to carbon trading in appendix C.
 - ii. It should not be dictated that clubs do this; it should be voluntary.
 - iii. The extra cost will put more pressure on clubs tours.
 - iv. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) expressed concern that the Union entering in to carbon trading is potentially ultra vires.
 - v. The President stated that carbon trading is occurring in other public entities and that the court will rule if they feel it poses an issue.
 - vi. One of the purposes of the carbon trading clause is to centralise the process and make it easier for clubs.
 - vii. It was argued that the clause makes the scheme flexible and is only implemented when absolutely necessary.
 - viii. Adele Peel accepted to striking 'Transport, g' from the main policy and point 4 from Appendix C.

RESOLVED:

4) To remove 'point g' from 'Transport':

'Where the above policies fail in reducing our carbon emissions sufficiently to meet our target, the Union shall offset the impacts of carbon emissions through carbon markets and by investing in low carbon projects. This policy shall be a last resort and should not exceed 50% of carbon reductions.'

5) To remove 'point 4' from 'Appendix C'

'As a last resort, offset any unavoidable emissions to bring emissions in line with target;

- ***By purchasing 100%-Renewable Grid-Electricity;***
- ***By paying into a good quality 'Carbon Offsetting' fund.***

6) To add 'point 30' to 'appendix D, Carbon Emissions Policy (with effect from 1st October 2007)'

'30. The CSB shall have the power to exempt a tour from 28 and 29 on a case-by-case basis if exceptional circumstances arise such that a train operator is unable to accommodate a tour and its

objectives, thereby rendering flight the only viable transport option.'

7) To add 'point 31' to 'appendix D, carbon Emissions Policy (with effect from 1st October 2007)'

'31. That this policy shall be championed by the ICU Environmental Portfolio Officer, who shall be invited to CSB tours meetings to review all four proposals.'

- h) The President stated that he estimates 60% of the Unions carbon emissions to come from transport and 30% on electricity etc
- i) The A&E Chair stated that as a student staff member working in the Union bars, reusable skiffs have been trialled but were quite often stolen.
 - i. Apparently single use skiffs can be sterilised and reused up to 3 times.
- j) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) corrected the grammar on appendix D point 29.

RESOLVED:

8) Appendix D, point 29 to read as follows:

'That ICU shall only fund up to 16% of costs incurred by air travel between any British airport and any destination airport within zone two as shown in Appendix D.'

Council moved to a vote on accepting the amended paper:

FOR	29
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	4

Passes

The agenda returned back to normal ordering

15. GREEK STUDENTS PROTEST

RECEIVED: The motion was presented by Marios Tsatsos

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) called procedural motion 88.e, 'an objection to consideration of a question or motion'.
 - i. The motion is potentially ultra vires as it does not act in the interest of the Union members.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) argued that there are a number of Greek students at Imperial College.
 - iii. The President stated that this particular motion has been circulated to other Councils and if it is ultra vires, the Court will veto it.
 - iv. The Chair overruled the procedural motion and allowed the motion to be heard.
- b) Mr Tsatsos stated that the paper is a statement of solidarity.
- c) The RAG Chair expressed that the changes that the Greek Government are proposing are not unreasonable; they are bringing the system in to line with the rest of the EU.
- d) The RCC Chair expressed concern that if the policy does pass, this is in contradiction to ICU policy.
- e) The SCC Chair stated that although in his opinion it is a worthy motion, it is not the concern of Imperial College Union members.
- f) It was pointed that the motion opposes Bologna policy.
 - i. Currently Imperial College Union has no policy on Bologna.
- g) It was questioned where the paper originated from and was queried if it was 'ripped' from a certain political party website.
 - i. Mr Tsatsos stated that it was written by a student at Imperial College.

- h) The President stated that a similar paper is going to ULU Council.
- i) Council moved to vote on accepting the paper.

FOR	2
AGAINST	20
ABSTAIN	6

Falls

16. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE (SECOND READING) - UNION COURT MEMBERSHIP

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the RCC Chair

NOTED:

- a) Council's attention was drawn to the appendix; comment by Union Court.
- b) Council moved to vote on accepting the paper.

FOR	13
AGAINST	8
ABSTAIN	7

Falls

Council recessed at 9.05 and reconvened at 9.25. Quorum was assessed and 24 members were present.

17. A CHANGE TO THE ICU MASTERPLAN

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the RCC Chair

NOTED:

- a) An amendment was made in the resolves section in that resolve 2 and 3 should be one resolve this creating the following
 - 2. To remove the Coffee Shop from the master plan in its place to build the following:***
 - 'A large mirrored dance studio with a sprung wooden floor.'***
- b) The RCC Chair assured Council that the seconders of the paper come from a wide range of Clubs and Societies.
- c) The paper proposes 2 main changes in phase II of the current Masterplan
 - i. Coffee shop on the 1st floor become a dance studio
 - ii. Games room on the second floor become office space.
- d) Concern was raised in regards to College being willing to fund a dance studio considering the recent addition of Ethos.
- e) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that it is the opinion of College that there is adequate dance space available to clubs.
- f) The RCC Chair stated that he acknowledged that if the dance space is created, it would not be revenue raising like the coffee shop would be.
 - i. He had been approached by externals who would be willing to hire the space when not in use thus creating some revenue.
- g) The sprung floor may constrict the usability on the space.
 - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that the sprung floor and mirrored walls would not limit the use of the space as there are ways to protect these.
 - ii. If used for commercial activity, this opens risk for broken mirrors and spilt beverages on the floor may be detrimental to the integrity of it.
- h) Council agreed that the space must be flexible and open to many uses for the Clubs and Societies and commercial activity.
- i) The RCC Chair stated that he would reword resolve 2 to:

“To remove the Coffee Shop from the master plan in its place to build the following:

A large mirrored flexible club space with a suitable wooden floor for dance and other student activity.’

- j) It was suggested by the President that the Masterplan working group be reconvened and the resolves 3-5 should be referred to the group for consideration. This was unanimously accepted by Council.
- k) Council moved to vote on accepting the motion and it was unanimously accepted.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **To switch the positions of the games room and the offices, providing open plan office space under the mezzanine floor so as not to obstruct the feeling of open space.**
- 2) ***‘To remove the Coffee Shop from the master plan in its place to build the following:
A large mirrored flexible club space with a suitable wooden floor for dance and other student activity.’***
- 3) **The President to reconvene the Masterplan working group and refer resolves 3-5 of the motion to the group for consideration.**

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 NUS MOTIONS: INSTRUCTIONS FOR DELEGATES

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

NOTED:

- a) In regards to ‘Higher Education’:
 - i. The President proposed to amend ‘1.e’. to read ‘ to support in principle the ‘Admission Impossible’ national campaign’. There was no objection to this rewording.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) reminded Council that Imperial College Unions current policy is against Marketisation of education.
- b) In regards to ‘Activities Representation’, it was decided that the NUS Executive should elect an activities officer and he or she should be a part-time officer.
- c) In regards to the ‘No platform policy’:
 - i. It was suggested by the RAG Chair that Imperial College Union should not support this as by letting the groups speak would show them for ‘the idiots they are’.
 - ii. Although the RAG Chairs suggestion is a good idea in principle, it would become a time wasting exercise.
- d) In regards to ‘NUS Extra’:
 - i. Council agreed that Imperial College Union supports the principle of the NUS Extra card but not the seeking of exclusive discounts from retailers that previously offered discounts to all students.
 - ii. Council agreed that this should be an ‘amber’ vote in that delegates should vote against it but they may vote in favour if they wish.
- e) In regards to ‘Not for politics, just for students’:
 - i. The President stated that he had been approached by some ‘conservative’ Unions that requested Imperial College Unions support of this policy.
 - ii. Alex Guite stated that it is a sensible policy and Imperial College Union will naturally align with this but as stated in the NUS Delegates Job Description, it forbids any alliance to political parties.
 - iii. It was agreed that Imperial College Union will not align to ‘Not for politics, just for students’.
- f) Council moved to vote on the amended paper and it was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED:

1) Imperial College Union to express the following opinions at NUS Conference:

- **Higher education funding**
 - i. To oppose the "marketisation" of higher education,
 - ii. To oppose an increase in the cap beyond its current ceiling of £3K,
 - iii. To recognise some of the benefits the recently introduced funding system has produced; support for poorer students has increased massively and students are no longer obliged to pay upfront fees,
 - iv. To acknowledge that increased taxation is not the answer and does not wash well with the public,
 - v. To support in principle the "Admission Impossible" national campaign,
 - vi. To oppose the organisation of a national demonstration this year and to focus on more sophisticated targeted lobbying tactics until 2009.
- **Activities representation**
 - i. The NUS Executive should elect an activities officer and he or she should be a part-time officer.
- **No platform policy**
 - i. – To support the NUS's no platform policy, which does not allow certain (usually extremist) political groups to speak at conference.
- **NUS Extra –**
 - i. To support the principle of the NUS Extra card but not the seeking of exclusive discounts from retailers that previously offered discounts to all students but this is an 'amber' vote for delegates.
- **Not for politics, just for students**
 - i. To not align with this quasi-faction.

Meeting closed 10.30pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Council

on _____ 2006/07

_____ Chair of the Meeting