

**COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**  
*A note by Mark Mearing-Smith*

**Third Council 19<sup>th</sup> November**

As that this was the first Council where all the ordinary members were to be present, I gave a presentation about the role, expectations and procedures of Council.

A few positions had not been filled by campus wide ballot so a by-election was held. Members were duly elected. One problem came with the Natural Science Postgraduate, therefore the vote needed to be council wide.

A paper about the NUS Extraordinary Conference was considered, discussed and passed.

**Fourth Council 10<sup>th</sup> December**

A report about the Environmental Policy Implementation was discussed. A lot of questions were concentrated with only a few people, understandably from ESoc. Surprising that there were not more questions seeing that there was such debate about the policy in the first place.

Graham Howard was appointed to the Trustee Board.

The RAG Chair Submitted 3 papers. One on RAG week, RAG reform and mascotry. The RAG Week paper, to get the union to lobby College to get the Wednesday of RAG week of, was approved. The other two were dropped through a procedural motion, so that the papers might be able to be considered again and in other places. The RAG reform was to effectively make RAG a CSC. And the mascotry paper was to put in writing some rules for the Art of Mascotry.

An amendment was made to the Equal Opportunities policy, so that events such as a Women's only Ann Summers Party are able to happen.

**Paper Submission**

The paper the RAG Chair submitted for the Fourth Council highlighted a few problems with submitting papers that might need looking at. One part of the paper said under ICU Council Notes states

"2). Many [clubs] (all) aren't being watched enough. They are unregulated and unchecked, have no set financial systems and no accountability. We have no way of knowing is(sic) [if] all the money goes to Charity..."

On the first point I'm sure all of you will understand the gravitas and serious implications of that statement if it was passed. The second is that this view must have been formed in some way, and if this is the view of the majority of students outside the inner circles of the Union this is slightly worrying and might be stopping people from getting involved. Understandably the Council membership were very unhappy with this, most of them have daily interaction with the finance systems

I am not suggesting that all papers should be vetted and checked over before they are submitted but as with the paper above a little guidance might have gone along way.

**Future Quorum Problems**

It has been shown to my attention that for Union meetings quorum is half of the meeting's voting members, not including ex-officio and vacant places... unless otherwise provided. It doesn't say under the Council orders that there is an exception, as with all the other main union committees, therefore it will be increasingly difficult later in the year to reach quorum with ordinary members less likely to turn up. This will need to be looked at soon.