

Imperial College Union

NUS Extraordinary Conference

Proposed by the President. Seconded by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare)

Imperial College Union notes

1. The proposed new NUS Constitution.
2. The policy passes at the last meeting of Council indicating Imperial College Union's support for NUS reform.
3. That Imperial College Union elects Student Trustees via cross campus ballot.
4. Council appoints suitable Lay Trustees to our Trustee Board after our Nominations Committee has found suitable candidates after a recruitment process.

Imperial College Union Believes

1. That the proposed changes to the NUS constitution are long overdue and that they represent a positive step forward for NUS.
2. The Nominations Committee of the NUS Board has a vital role to play in matching the skills of Lay Trustees to the organisational needs of NUS.
3. Student Trustees will fulfil a crucial role in ensuring that Senior NUS Officers and management are subject to high-level scrutiny by ordinary students.
4. That the role of Student Trustee is different to that of a Lay Trustee in that Lay Trustees are only there to bring pre-specified expert knowledge that elected Student Officers are unlikely to hold.
5. That pre-screening of potential Student Trustees by a Nominations Committee detracts from the NUS as a democratic student led organisation.
6. Allowing the Board to have such influence over appointments to itself does not represent best governance practice for a democratic organisation.
7. That the composition of the NUS Board mitigates the risk of the Student Trustee roles becoming too political as neither Officer, Student or Lay Trustees are capable of gaining a numerical majority.
8. Annual Congress is capable of selecting appropriate Student Trustees via the same electoral process used to elect officers.

Imperial College Union Resolves

1. To support the NUS governance reforms and mandate our delegation to the Extraordinary Conference to vote in favour of them
2. To submit the following text as an amendment to the new NUS constitution

Conference Believes

1. Points 71 and 89 of the core constitution.
2. Several Unions who have adopted a similar governance model to the one proposed elect their Student Trustees via cross campus ballot.
3. It has been proposed to introduce Lay Trustees in to the new governance structure in order to provide a higher level of financial and legal scrutiny that can be provided by a committee consisting entirely of students.

Council
19th November 2007

Conference Further Believes

1. The Nominations Committee of the Board has a vital role to play in matching the skills of Lay Trustees to the organisational needs of NUS.
2. Student Trustees will fulfil a crucial role in ensuring that Senior NUS Officers and management are subject to high-level scrutiny by ordinary students.
3. That the role of Student Trustee is different to that of a Lay Trustee in that Lay Trustees are only there to bring pre-specified expert knowledge that elected Student Officers are unlikely to hold.
4. That pre-screening of potential Student Trustees by a Nominations Committee detracts from the NUS as a democratic student led organisation.
5. Allowing the Board to have such influence over appointments to itself does not represent best governance practice for a democratic organisation.
6. That the composition of the NUS Board mitigates the risk of the Student Trustee roles becoming too political as neither Officer, Student or Lay Trustees are capable of gaining a numerical majority.
7. Annual Congress is capable of selecting appropriate Student Trustees via the same electoral process used to elect officers.

Conference Resolves

1. To replace clause 71 with "Student Trustees who shall be individual members of the national Union elected as a block at the Congress as further defined in the rules. For the avoidance of doubt, an Officer or a person who was previously an Officer shall not be eligible for appointment as a Student Trustee.
2. To delete "or Student Trustees" from Point 89 of the draft Articles of Governance