

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the second ordinary meeting of
the
Council
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2008-2009 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on the 3rd November 2008 at 6.40pm.

Present:

ICU Council Chair	Afonso Campos
ICU President	Jennifer Morgan
ICU DP (C&S)	Lily Topham
ICU DP (E&W)	Hannah Theodorou
ICU DP (F&S)	Christian Carter
C&GCU President	Mark Mearing-Smith
ICSMSU President	Mark Chamberlain
RCSU President	David Charles
A&E Chair	Rachael D'oliveiro
ACC Chair	Sam Furse
Media Group Chair	Amar Joshi
OSC Representative	Alex Balhakin
RCC Chair	Jennifer Wilson
RSM President	Adam Baldwin
SCC Chair	Peter Mabbott
CAG Chair	Christoph Aymanns
RAG Chair	Jon Downing
ICU Equal Ops Officer	Bhavesh Patel
ICU Welfare Campaigns Officer	Tim Barrett
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Kathryn Wright
RCSU Welfare Officer	Edward Poynton
C&GU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexander Grisman
ICSMSU year 4 & Research Rep	Alex Walls
Permanent observers	
Union Manager	Peter Haldane
Governance and Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Jovan Nedic Felix Editor, Nadia Dzigal, Ben Krikler, Michael Robson, Joe Illingworth,

Apologies: ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Strachan Mackenzie,

Not present: C&GU Welfare Officer Kirsty Patterson ICSMSU Education Rep 12 Anil Chopra, RCSU Academic Affairs (Taught) Oliver Rogers, Silwood Park Chair Muhammad Tariq, WCUS President Wubetu Alemayehe

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The Chair reminded Council that dinking alcohol during meetings is not acceptable.

2. MINUTES – 13th October 2008

NOTED:

- a) Various typographical errors were pointed out.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the amended minutes as true and correct.**

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) In regards to item 3, income from the vending machines in JCR, it was reported by the Deputy President (Finance & Services) that he is meeting with the Head of College catering this week.
- b) In regards to item 7.1, portion size in Union catering, it was reported by the Deputy President (Finance & Services) that if demand for this option was high enough, they may go back to offering 2 portion size options.

4. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Oriental Buffet in the MDH has been reduced and old favourites bought back.
- b) In regards to the NUS invoice, the NUS Treasurer has stated that the Union's outstanding invoice will not be pursued if the Union send a delegation to the Extra Ordinary Conference taking place next week in Wolverhampton.
 - i. Any interested parties are to contact the President if they wish to attend the conference.
- c) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

5. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) It was recommended that Councillors get involved in Healthy Living week.
- b) Currently looking in to developing arts at Imperial.
- c) There will potentially be more training to catch those officers those who have missed out on previous sessions.
- d) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

6. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) In regards to the extension of the Islamic prayer room, it has been recommended to seek the views of other religious groups as to how they feel about one particular group receiving extra funding.
- b) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) is looking to get student input as to what they want from Personal tutors.
- c) Currently investigating bike locks for students that College Security will then subsidise for students to purchase.
- d) In regards to reps training, the potential date clashes with Union Council.
 - i. This will most likely take place after the reshuffle of the Postgraduate representatives.
 - ii. It was assured that plenty of advance warning will be given to those attending.
- e) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) There is a Summer Ball working group on the 24th November.
 - i. There has been little interest to join thus far so Councillors were asked to promote this.
- b) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

8. TOURS POLICY UPDATE

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

NOTED:

- a) The cap has been raised to reflect the increase in funding.
- b) Council moved to vote to accept the changes to the policy and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

9. EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to a vote to accept the paper and there were no objections.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To ratify the appointments of Adam Baldwin, Tim Barrett, Samuel Furse and Kathryn Wright to the Executive Committee

10. CAMPAIGN TO LET ZOHAIR ABU-SHABAN STUDY AT IMPERIAL

NOTED:

- a) The Council Chair informed Council that this people will not be considered for the following reasons.
 - i. After the 31st October Zohair is no longer consider a student of Imperial College.
 - ii. The Gaza border opens tomorrow.
 - iii. College have deferred his place until next year.
- b) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) made the following points:
 - i. Zohair has been in communication with the College officials.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) contacted registry today and they have advised that it would be detrimental to Zohair to allow him to start the course, which is already very intensive, this late in.
- c) The Council Chair stated with the points made above, this completely changes the implication of paper.
 - i. The Council Chair also pointed out that in his opinion the paper is *ultra vires* in that what some of the resolutions are asking for is out of Union control.
- d) Salman Waqar at this point spoke to the paper and argued that it should be considered by Council for the following reasons.
 - i. There is huge support for Zohair from the overseas societies.
 - ii. Zohair's situation may affect future students of Imperial College; if it has happened to him, it will occur again and potential students need to be assured the Imperial College will support their cause.
 - iii. Zohair has indicated to Salman that he wishes to study this year.
- e) Salman claimed that Zohair had contacted the College but had not heard from anyone.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) clarified that she had not been personally contacted by Zohair until yesterday and that the International office and Pro Rector Education had not heard of his case until the 3rd of October.
- f) It was suggested that it should be ascertained if Zohair actually wished to commence study this year or not.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that if Zohair did wish to start studying this year she will personally advice against this but will support his case to the Pro Rector Education along with the President.
- g) The President stated that College has been in contact with British Consulate General to try to get Zohan released.
 - i. The President read a transcript of the email that she had received to confirm this.
- h) The Council Chair stated that he agreed that the paper highlights a serious issue which is strongly supports but in the papers current format is not suitable for Council to make a decision on and suggested that a more generalised paper be written and submitted and Council can support through that way.

- i. Kadhim Shubber endorsed the Council Chair's sentiment and reiterated that this situation will arise again in the future and the Union should ascertain a stance now.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) also agreed with the Council Chair and suggested that a redrafted paper be presented to the next meeting of Council in 2 weeks.
 - iii. Salman stated that in his opinion something should be done now to show support for Zohair's cause.
 - iv. The Council Chair offered his services in assisting with the redrafting of the paper.
- i) Council moved to a vote to consider the paper but it was unanimously voted not to consider the paper.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To not consider the paper.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Due to the late submission of the papers, the Council Chair recessed from 7.15-7.25 so that Council had time to read over the papers.

11.1 CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

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

NOTED:

- a) The creation of this post was suggested during the Governance review of 2006-07.
- b) It was acknowledged that the Union does well on International student involvement at club level but not so much with welfare and representation.
- c) The ACC Chair questioned if there was any particular examples of where an International Officer would have been useful.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that in the past International students have not been involved in the representation.
- d) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) opined that there was not enough information to make a decision on the paper; it did not show the Constitutional changes.
- e) It was questioned as to why other officers simply can not undertake this role as part of their remit.
 - i. The CGCU AAO explained that the creation of this position does not draw other resources away from the Union and will be an incredibly useful position.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that the Equal Opportunities representative is there for minority groups with specific issues.
- f) It was pointed that not all International Students are part of the OSC can they can not be relied on for representation of these students.
- g) The OSC Representative stated that he was in support of the creation of this post and would be an observer on the OCS Executive Committee.
- h) The CAG Chair stated that the previous paper is a perfect example of why the Union needs an International Officer.
- i) When questioned as to whether the officer should be an international student, the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that Representation and Welfare Board felt that there should be no discrimination on home or international status.
- j) Council moved to vote on accepting the sentiment of the paper.

- i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) will bring the paper back to the next Council outlining the changes to the Constitution.
- ii. Council unanimously agreed to the sentiment of the paper.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the sentiment of the creation of an International Officer role.

11.2 POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATION

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

NOTED:

- a) The Council Chair stated that only the sentiment of this paper will be voted on.
- b) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that the proposed changes were discussed at length over the summer break with the Faculty Unions and GSA Chair.
- c) The changes bring the Postgraduate representation structure in line with College where 2 graduate schools exist rather than the 3 Faculty Unions.
- d) Objection was voiced in regards to point 2.3 and 3.3; Changing the role of Academic Affairs Officer (Taught) to Education Rep (Undergraduate)
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) agreed to scrap these points.
- e) It was questioned as to what was happening with the working group in Council membership.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that she wished these changes to be made as the Postgraduate academic representation posts across faculties were vacant and she wished to get them filled under the new structure as soon as possible.
- f) The ACC Chair expressed concern that the Business School have their own rep as they are considerably smaller than the other faculties.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that the roles fit in to the College Representation structure and are not proportionate to student numbers.
- g) In regard to the knock on effect to the Faculty Union and GSA Constitutions, the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) reported that the Constitutions will be amended and passed by the Executive Committee.
- h) Council moved to vote on accepting the sentiment of the paper.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) will bring the paper back to the next Council outlining the changes to the Constitution.
 - ii. Council unanimously agreed to the sentiment of the paper.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the sentiment of the change to Postgraduate Representation.

Meeting closed 8.05pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2008/09

_____ Chair of the Meeting