

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the fourth 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 15th December 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
GSA Chair	Rhys Morgan
A&E Chair	Rachael D'oliveiro
ACC Chair	Sam Furse
Media Group Chair	Amar Joshi
OSC Representative	Andrew Holland
RCC Chair	Jennifer Wilson
RSM President	Adam Baldwin
SCC Chair	Peter Mabbott
CAG Chair	Christoph Aymanns
RAG Chair	Jon Downing
ICU Equal Ops Officer	Bhavesht Patel
ICU Welfare Campaigns Officer	Tim Barrett
RCSU Welfare Officer	Edward Poynton
C&GU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Alexander Grisman
ICSMSU year 4 & Research Rep	Alex Walls
RCSU Academic Affairs (Taught)	Oliver Rogers
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Owen Connick
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	John James
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Rikki Norris
CGCU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Lawrence Weetman
Engineering Postgraduate Representative	Soumaya Mauthoor
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Sammi Elfituri
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Nida Harwood
RCSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Christopher Gibbs
Physical Sciences Postgraduate Representative	Neki Patel
Life Sciences Postgraduate Representative	Sean Delaney
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Najette Ayadi O'Donnell
ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate)	Albert Poon
School of Medicine Postgraduate Representative	Basma Bahsoun
Non faculty representative	Seyyed Mozaffari-Chinjani
Business School Postgraduate Representative	Luke Dhanoa
Permanent observers	
Union Manager	Peter Haldane
Governance and Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

Observers: Jovan Nedic Felix Editor, OCS Chair Eugene Chang,

Apologies: ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Strachan Mackenzie, ICSMSU Welfare Officer Kathryn Wright

Not present: ICSMSU Education Rep 12 Anil Chopra, Silwood Park Chair Muhammad Tariq, WCUS President Wubetu Alemayehe, ICSMSU ordinary member (Undergraduate) Salman Waqar

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The Chair reminded Council about paper promptness.
 - i. Council will vote to consider the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) reports which were submitted late.
 - ii. The Chair will allow the Presidents report to be considered due to her being ill and thus submitted her report late.

2. MINUTES – 17th November 2008

NOTED:

- a) The Clerk apologised for the attendance list being incorrect due to the original list being misplaced.
 - i. Council members are to notify the Clerk if they are not reflected correctly on the register.
- b) In regards to the International Officer, point G. i. It was corrected that this point should read 'non EU members'.
 - i. A verbal amendment was also inserted but this is not reflected in the minutes.

RESOLVED:

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

3. MATTERS ARISING

NOTED:

- a) In regards to postering in the JCR, The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) reported that she had spoken to the Head of Conferences and had come to an agreement that posters will only be taken down if the event has passed however it has been discovered that stated that this had not been occurring. The weekend had shown that posters had been taken down before the event and she will be taking this up with the Head of Conferences.

4. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

5. INTERNATIONAL OFFICER - CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AMENDMENT

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The President stated that the elections have been cancelled
 - i. This is due to Registry being unable to provide the filtered information that is set out in the election requirements of this position.
 - ii. It is estimated that the registry data is missing approximately 200 students.
 - iii. By changing the eligibility to vote, this makes the election unconstitutional.
 - iv. It was queried as to whether Registry will ever be able to supply accurate information but this could not be guaranteed.
 - v. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he is trying to get direct access to student data from Registry.
- b) Currently have 3 candidates standing in this election.

- c) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) suggested co-opting a member on to Representation and Welfare Board and then run the election for the Officer with the Sabbatical Elections in the Spring term. The co-opted member will not have a vote on the board but will be there to represent the International Students.
- d) It was suggested that making the voting and standing open to all students potentially may be open to abuse.
- e) It was stated that technical issues should not interfere with democracy.
- f) The SCC Chair stated that the election should happen ASAP.
 - i. He suggested adding an amendment to the paper to state that the election must take place before a specified time.
 - ii. The amendment he suggested was to add to the resolve that 'The interim International Student Officer will be elected by cross Campus Ballot by Easter.'
 - iii. There were no objections and it was passed.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **That the International Student Officer will be elected by cross Campus Ballot by Easter.**
- g) This position is still to be ratified by the Trustee Board and College Council so any amendment to the position should be done now.
- h) Jon Matthews, Life member stated that this paper was not seconded by a full Union member.
 - i. The SCC Chair stated that he will second the paper.
- i) Council moved to vote on the amended paper and the vote is as follows:

FOR	23
AGAINST	4
ABSTAIN	6
Passed	

RESOLVED:

- 2) **To add the amendment in the constitution under 4B adding point 13 which read *Voting for the International officer will be restricted to International (non-UK) students only. All full members of the Union can stand.***

6. PROPOSAL TO SPLIT THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) ROLE

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

NOTED:

- a) The President thanked those who took part in the review workshops.
- b) Currently the role of Deputy President (Education & Welfare) is working reactively rather than proactively which is not ideal.
- c) The purpose of the Union is to represent students and only good can come of having more representatives.
 - i. It was pointed that an International Officer has just been elected and that is increasing representation.
- d) The President stated that she originally wrote the draft paper and the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) finished it off due to the President taking ill and so apologised for the perceived 'shabby papers'
- e) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that Dep Reps are good and dealing with some issues but not all.
 - i. Dep Reps and Union officers are great for grass roots issues but there needs to be a top level for interface between College and external organisations and individuals and this is where the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) comes in
- f) John James stated that the DPGS was only in office for 2 years before Council deemed that to be an ineffective position and it was scrapped and replaced with the employment of a permanent staff member.
- g) It was suggested that a 'work in time' document be produced to ascertain the work load of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare).

- i. The President stated that she intended to add the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) diary as an appendix to the paper but this did not happen however the President assured Council that the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) is over worked.
- ii. The President stated that she had taken on some of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) and Deputy President (Finance & Services) work so help alleviate the overload.
- iii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that she sits on a lot of 'Education' committees that take time to prepare, attend and then follow up after.
- h) The Student population and number of courses are growing and so in turn so does the workload of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare), especially with Postgraduate courses as this is the direction that the Rector is taking; Imperial College becoming more graduate course focused.
 - i. John James stated that this claim is not substantiated in the paper.
- i) The RCSU President stated that he did not feel there was enough information in the paper for Council to make such an important decision.
- j) The President stated that she never intended to overhaul all Sabbatical roles but the purpose of this paper is a follow on to leaving the NUS.
- k) The ACC Chair acknowledged that the Sabbatical roles do need to evolve but in his opinion can not justify the 'Education' role.
 - i. As a Postgraduate student, the ACC Chair did not feel well represented.
- l) The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that her role should be co-ordinating the work of the AAO's at grad level but she does not have the time.
 - i. Also should be working on student development which was part of the role of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) before the workload became too big.
 - ii. College want the Union to help lead in Students personal development.
- m) The OSC Chair suggested delegating meeting attendance to other representatives and discuss with the various College committees to get their standing orders changed to reflect this.
 - i. It was pointed that this is not an easy task to change standing orders for College meetings.
 - ii. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) needs to be attending College meetings so that they have an overview of issues and can link and coordinate the knowledge from the different committees.
- n) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) raised the following concerns.
 - i. Financing of the role.
 - ii. Queried if this was the right role to spilt; other sabbaticals have excessive workloads.
 - iii. The quality of the paper presented and the amount of discussion on the proposal.
 - iv. That the proposal was being rushed through to make the elections deadlines.
- o) In regards to College funding this position, College are not obliged to give the Union money.
 - i. The subvention bid will be known after the elections and thus the amount the Union is receiving will not be known until then.
- p) The OSC Chair summarised that the consensus from Council is that they wanted more information and detail before they can consider this proposal.
 - i. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) suggested that an extra ordinary meeting of Council can be called to discuss this further if a decision can not be made at this Council meeting.
 - ii. The President reiterated that there had been opportunities for consultation; 2 working groups of which all Council members were invited to attend.
- q) The Felix Editor stated that there is a lot to gain from the Union finding an extra Sabbatical.
 - i. He reminded Council not to focus on the other Sabbatical Officers workloads, focus on the presented paper.
- r) The SCC Chair proposed that the paper should not be considered.
 - i. He acknowledged that Council members did not make the most of the consultation opportunities.
 - ii. He suggested forming another working group to redraft the paper and then call an extraordinary Council.
 - iii. The President stated that there is not enough time to call extraordinary Council meeting and reiterated that there is no 'wriggle' room in the election timetable.

- s) It was pointed that although Council members were claiming the paper to be poorly written, they have not asked for further information.

At this point Council recessed from 7.55pm and resumed at 8.05pm.

- t) The ICSMSU President stated that the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) never sat on the Medical Studies committee and that such issues can be dealt with within the Medical School dep reps.
- u) The CAG Chair stated that in his role he can see the potential with having an exclusive Welfare Sabbatical for widening participation.
- The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) stated that this is within the remit of the RAG and CAG Chairs.
 - The CAG Chair stated that those positions do not receive a lot of support from the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) and President as they are over worked and the creation of the Welfare Sabbatical will benefit them
- v) It was suggested that the roles can be 'tinkered' with as the role develops; the presented paper is a good starting block.
- w) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that in his professional capacity, he believes that the £25k cost of the extra Sabbatical will equate to a £25k cut in Clubs and Societies funding.
- Senior College staff has indicated to the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) that they want a strong representation structure and are prepared to give the money to do so.
 - The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that Union subvention will be cut regardless as the Union commercial services are doing well.
- x) It was questioned if the Union was going to be in the position where an additional Sabbatical Position has been created but will not be able to fund this.
- The President stated that the Pro Rector and College Secretary are in support and that she is confident that College will fund the role.
 - The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) stated that the Rector wants to improve the student experience during his reign and doesn't feel that he will not let the improvement of the student experience be compromised due to funding.
- y) Imperial College has one of the lowest student satisfaction results and the additional sabbatical will be able to addresses this.
- z) It was suggested that Council should be focusing on what is best for students and not the financing of this; this will come with the scrutiny from the Trustee Board.
- aa) Jon Matthews stated that College Council will not consider the funding of the role when presented with the paper.
- bb) It was pointed that if the paper is passed and the positions created, they will not be passed by College Council in time.
- The President stated that this will be made clear in the publicity of the roles.
- cc) It was suggested to add an amendment to the paper stating that if the Union can not fund the additional position, that this not be created,.
- The President agreed that this was a reasonable suggestion.
 - The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that by the time the Union will know about the subvention amount, the positions will have been elected.
 - It was pointed that his will be an ongoing issue as the subvention bid is not fixed and so the Union will have to seek funding perpetually for the new positions.
 - The President suggested an amendment to resolves 1; add to it 'on the conditional that the extra salary will not come from the money allocated to Clubs and Societies after 1 year'
 - The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that the funding is actually a decision of the Trustee Board
- dd) It was proposed that the paper not be considered.
- The Chair overruled this proposal.
 - It was proposed to overrule the Chairs decision and a vote was taken.

FOR 8
Majority against
Falls

ee) Council moved to vote on consider the paper and the votes are as follows:

FOR	20
AGAINST	12
ABSTAIN	1
Falls	

7. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

The Council moved to vote on considering the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) reports as AOB and this was unanimously agreed.

8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) It was clarified that the Union still has clubs participating in ULU sports leagues.
- b) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

9. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION & WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Students are asking for condoms to be made available in Halls of Residences.
- b) Zohair is currently in the country and has met with the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)
- c) Students are currently creating a report on making the Union building more sustainable.
- d) There is a SEC away day in January 2009.
- e) There is currently a review on the Humanities programme but there are no students on the review board.

Meeting closed 9.15pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2008/09

_____ Chair of the Meeting