

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the third ordinary meeting of  
the  
**Council**  
of the  
Imperial College Union  
in the 2009-2010 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the meeting room 5 on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 6.40pm.

**Present:**

Council Chair	Mark Chamberlain
President	Ashley Brown
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Jenny Wilson
Deputy President (Education)	Jonathan Silver
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Danny Hill
C&GCU President	Kirsty Patterson
RCSU President	Katya-yani Vyas
A&E Chair	Gavin Evans
ACC Chair	Charles Murdoch
Media Group Chair	Richard Waldie
RCC Chair	Andrew Mclellan
SCC Chair	Nicolas Massie
RAG Chair	Alex Dahinten
ICU Equal Ops Officer	Hannah Theodorou
International Officer	Matthew Fitch
CGCU Welfare Officer	Alice Rowlands
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Kathryn Wright
RCSU Welfare Officer	Tim Barrett
C&GU Academic Affairs Officer (Taught)	Ben Stubbens
ICSMSU Education Rep 12	Gayathri Rajasooriar
CGCU Ordinary member representative (UG)	Edward O'Hare
CGCU Ordinary member representative (UG)	He-in Cheong
CGCU Ordinary member representative (UG)	Rikki Norris
ICSMSU Ordinary member representative (UG)	Agneish Dutta
Governance and Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council)	Rebecca Coxhead

**Observers:** Grigoris Makris, Andrew Elliott, Michal Stoklas, Sammy Ho, Bernard Pereira, Charlotte Ivison, Alan Itakura

**Apologies:** Deputy President (Welfare) John James, ICSMSU President Anil Chopra, CAG Chair Joseph Freer, RSM President Henry Debens, ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Afsoon Sepahzad, Physical Science Postgraduate rep Neki Patel, CGCU Ordinary member representative (UG) Apostolia Matraki, ICSMSU Ordinary member representative (UG) Richard Hewitt, ICSMSU Ordinary member representative (UG) Alex Walls

**Not present:** GSA Chair Ali Mozaffari, OSC Representative Sherif Salam, ICSMSU year 4 & Research Rep Natalie Kernan, RCSU Ordinary member representative (UG) Hannah Short, ICU Welfare Campaigns Officer Adam Gill, Silwood Park Chair Catherine Walker, RCSU Academic Affairs Officer David Chreng, Engineering Postgraduate representative Shuoying Cao, Life Science Postgraduate representative Sean Delany, School of Medicine Postgraduate representative Deena Blumenkrantz

## 1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

### NOTED:

- a) A by election was held for the ordinary member vacancies on Council.
  - i. No one stood for the GESEPS representative and thus the post remains vacant.
  - ii. Grigoris Makris stood for GSLSM vacancy and was unopposed and was duly elected by a vote of 1 cast by himself as he was the only full member present eligible to vote.

### RESOLVED:

- 1) **To appoint Grigoris Makris as the GSLSM Representative to Union Council.**
- b) Nominations for the RCSU undergraduate Ordinary Member were taken from the floor as well as those who had emailed the Chair to stand.
- c) Candidates who were present were invited to give a short speech explaining as to why they thought they would be the best candidate.
  - i. Voting was done by STV and the President was the Returning Officer.
  - ii. The successful candidates were Charlotte Ivison, Alan Itakura and Sammy Ho.

### RESOLVED:

- 2) **To appoint Charlotte Ivison, Alan Itakura and Sammy Ho as the RCSU Undergraduate Ordinary Members to Union Council.**

## 2. MINUTES – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009

### NOTED:

- a) Various typographical errors were pointed out.

### RESOLVED:

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

## 3. MATTERS ARISING – none

*At this point the agenda was changed to consider AOB 12.2 Stop Climate Chaos as the next item of business*

### AOB 12.2 STOP CLIMATE CHAOS

RECEIVED: The paper was presented by the Equal Opportunities Officer Hannah Theodorou

### NOTED:

- a) The paper is essentially asking for Union support, to march under the ICU banner and advertise it as a central Union event.
- b) Concern was raised that the paper was *ultra vires* as it did not affect Imperial students directly.
  - i. It was pointed that it mirrored the Fair trade policy and Make Poverty History and thus is not *ultra vires*.
- c) Council moved to a vote on accepting the paper and it was passed unanimously.

### RESOLVED:

- 1) **To support the aims of the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition by encouraging the members of the Union to join the March on the 5<sup>th</sup> December,**
- 2) **Endorse the actions of its members with the name of Imperial College Union,**
- 3) **To mandate the Union President (or their delegate) to ensure support for promoting this action is provided.**

*The agenda returned to normal ordering at this stage*

#### 4. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The bid for Phase III funding for the building redevelopment is being submitted tomorrow.
  - i. A working group, including students, will be compiled once it is known if the bid is successful.
- b) The new Rector will take post in January.
- c) Vandalism has been rife in the Union recently.
- d) In regards to the reference to purchasing a Union Goat, it was suggested that a giraffe may be a more suitable animal for foliage maintenance.
  - i. The President agreed to strike the reference to the purchase of a Union Goat.
- e) Council moved to vote to accept the amended report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

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

#### 5. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (CLUBS & SOCIETIES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The ACC Chair endorsed the creation of Ladsoc.
  - i. The Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) agreed to retract the creation of Ladsoc.
- b) Council moved to vote to accept the amended report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

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

#### 6. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) In regards to English standards for admissions, it was suggested the level of written and spoken English is more of an issue in International Students rather than home students.
  - i. This is indicative of a bigger issue that College should be helping International students with their written and spoken English.
  - ii. It was agreed that a B grade in GCSE English does not correlate to applicants having an excellent command of the English language.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **Council agreed that there was insignificant correlation between GCSE English and English communication skills.**
- b) In regards to halitosis in students, the references in the report were retracted.
- c) Council moved to vote to accept the amended report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

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

## 7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The Christmas ball will have a cheaper entry price than previous years.
  - i. Council were asked to advertise this event to their constituencies.
- b) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) was asked to strike the reference to the Union Bar anniversary and prohibition of female's entrance in to the Bar as this was a direct breach against the Unions Equal Opportunities Policy.
  - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) did not agree to this removal of the reference and so Council moved to a vote to accept the report in whole. Vote as follows:

FOR	9
AGAINST	12
ABSTAIN	2

Falls
- c) As the report was rejected, Under Regulation 6, part C, point 75, the Deputy President (Finance & Services) is to represent a report to the next meeting of Council.

RESOLVED:

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

ACTION:

1. **The Deputy President (Finance & Services) to represent the rejected report to the next meeting of Council.**

## 8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) SHAG week was potentially not as successful due to members offering to volunteering to help out and then not delivering on these promises.
- b) The Equal Opportunities Officer stated that she did not want campaigns to be a failure and as such requested that the Deputy President (Welfare) present a campaigns plan to the next meeting of Council.
  - i. The Equal Opportunities Officer also requested that a more comprehensive report on SHAG week be presented to the next Council
  - ii. Council agreed to this mandate of the Deputy President (Welfare) to present these documents.
- c) In regards to Bandwidth issue, it was questioned as to if internal traffic will count towards this maxima download.
  - i. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that he will investigate this query.

ACTION:

1. **The Deputy President (Finance & Services) to investigate if internal traffic count towards the maxima of 5Gbs/day and to feed back.**

- d) It was requested that the reference to SHAG week be removed. This was agreed.
- e) Council moved to vote to accept the amended report and the results are as follows:

FOR	18
AGAINST	3
ABSTAIN	5

Passed

**RESOLVED:**

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

**ACTION:**

2. **The Deputy President (Welfare) to present to next Council a campaigns plan for the academic year and a comprehensive review of SHAG week.**

**9. CGCU REPORT**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by CGCU President

- a) A typographical error was pointed out.
- b) It is unsure how much BP owes in outstanding sponsorship.
  - i. This is currently being processed.
- c) The Beerfest cost less to run than the Lord Mayors Show which is why this went ahead.
- d) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**10. SUPPORTING FACULTY UNION PRESIDENT AS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by CGCU President

**NOTED:**

- a) The Equal Opportunities Officer stated that last year there was a reshuffle of committees and felt that proportionally Faculty Unions are not underrepresented on these teaching committees.
- b) The Equal Opportunities Officer expressed her opinion that it made sense that the Academic Affairs Officers be the representatives sat on the committees as it is under their remit.
  - i. This opinion is what she recommended this when she was consulted last year when she was Deputy President (Education & Welfare).
  - ii. Rikki Norris questioned if there was consultation or reporting to the relevant Union committees last year of which the Equal Opportunities Officer stated that she had reported this and consulted the Faculty Union President's and AAO's.
  - iii. The CGCU AAO suggested that the way that the negotiations that the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) undertook last year were not transparent to the Union Committees.
- c) The Deputy President (Education) disputed point 3 in that the ratio is not correct, however the CGCU President stated that the original figures were arbitrary.
  - i. The CGCU President stated that she had asked for the Deputy President (Education)'s comments on the paper before hand and had not received them.
- d) It was pointed that it is better to have 1 committed officer than 3 'not so great' officers.
- e) The CGCU President does not sit on any College Committees and it was stated that the Faculty Union Presidents should have an overview of what is going on faculty wide by attending all committees.
- f) The Deputy President (Education) stated that by arguing to put the Faculty Union Presidents back on the committees undermines what the Union stance was last year during the reshuffle.
  - i. The Equal Opportunities Officer stated that it is important to have students on committees but this is a negotiation that took place last year and it is not something that can be successfully fought again this year

- g) The President suggested that perhaps the Union can lobby to have the FU Presidents on the committees as permanent observers.
  - i. It was suggested that the paper should be amended to add a resolve 3 in that the Union should lobby to change the standing orders of the committees to have the student representatives currently on the named position and that the Faculty Union President's should be put back on the committee.
  - ii. Council moved to a vote on adding this resolve and the vote is as follows:
 

FOR	11
AGAINST	8
ABSTAIN	11
Passes	

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To mandate the President and the Deputy President (Education) to negotiate on behalf of the Faculty Union Presidents for seats on the Engineering and Science Studies Committees to be reinstated.**
- 2) Imperial College Union should seek to protect student representation on College Committees, and strive to increase it where necessary, in light of any future committee restructuring.**
- 3) To mandate the President to negotiate on behalf of the Faculty Union Presidents to amend the standing orders of the Engineering and Science Studies Committees to have the Student Representatives on the committee be named positions.**

**11. STUDENT AGREEMENT IN ICSM**

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

NOTED:

- a) The Deputy President (Education) is unsure why the ICSM wanted Councils approval.
- b) The other faculties are looking at using similar documents.
- c) This document is more to make students aware of how activities outside of College can impact on their fitness to practice and making them aware of the consequences.
- d) The CGCU President stated that she did not see the point of making it compulsory to fill in SOLE.
- e) It was explained that this is taken directly from the GMC 'Tomorrow's Doctors' guide.
- f) This is not a legally binding document but normal College Disciplinary procedures are applicable.
- g) ICSM is one of the very few Universities that don't have a charter.
- h) Council moved to vote to accept the agreement and the vote is as follows:
 

FOR	20
AGAINST	3
ABSTAIN	4
Passes	

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept and endorse the agreement.**

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**12.1 STUDENT WRITTEN SUBMISSION**

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The document is still to have points 8-16 completed.
  - i. The President asked Council to vote on the document but not on points 8-16.

- ii. Points 8-16 will be completed and circulated electronically for Council to then vote on. If no response is received from Council members, it will be assumed that they approve the document.
- b) Feedback from QAAC has been incorporated in to the current draft document.
- c) Council moved to vote to accept the Student Written Submission, excluding points 8-16, and the vote is as follows:
 

FOR	23
AGAINST	0
ABSTAIN	3
Passes	

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To accept the Student Written Submission, excluding points 8-16.**

**ACTION:**

- 1. The Deputy President (Education) to circulate the completed document including points 8-16 to Council for their approval.**

**12.3 ITUNESU PROPOSAL**

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

NOTED:

- a) Council agreed that this should not be restricted to iTunes; it should be an open programme.

**12.4 PROPOSAL TO ZERO-WEIGHT YEAR 1 OF BIOLOGY STREAM DEGREES**

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

NOTED:

- a) Imperial College is one of the few Universities that do not zero weight the first year.
  - i. It was pointed that this is what makes Imperial College Biology degree unique.
- b) It was suggested that this is giving Biology students an easy ride in their first year and not giving them motivation to start applying good study techniques.
- c) This proposal to zero weight has also been discussed at Engineering Studies Committee so may be rolled out across other streams as well.
- d) Council moved to a vote in regards to whether they supported this proposal to zero weight year 1 of the Biology stream degree and the vote is as follows:

FOR	0
AGAINST	20
ABSTAIN	3

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To not support the proposal to zero weight year 1 of the Biology stream degree**

Meeting closed 8.15pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2009/10

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of the Meeting