



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the second ordinary meeting of
the
Council
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2010/11 Session

The meeting of the Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on the 1st November 2010 at 6.40pm.

Present:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Council Chair | Jenny Wilson |
| President | Alex Kendall |
| Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) | Heather Jones |
| Deputy President (Education) | Alex Dahinten |
| Deputy President (Finance & Services) | Ravi Pall |
| C&GCU President (acting) | Keshava Murthy |
| Deputy President (Welfare) | Charlotte Ivison |
| ICSMSU President | David Smith |
| RCSU President | Scott Heath |
| GSA Chair | Deena Blumenkrantz |
| ACC Chair | Monya Zard |
| A&E Chair | Adam Khamis |
| OSC Chair | Ahmad Alsaadi |
| RCC Chair | Nathaniel Bottrell |
| RSMU President | Ben Moorhouse |
| SCC Chair | Rhodri Oliver |
| CAG representative | Christopher Richardson |
| RAG Chair | Naida Dzigal |
| ICU Equal Ops Officer | Stuart Haylock |
| CGCU Welfare Officer | Sahil Chugani |
| RCSU Welfare Officer | Mevani Jagodage |
| CGCU Academic Affairs Officer | Marcus Ulmefors |
| ICSMSU Education Rep 12 & GEP | Ali Hosin |
| RCSU Academic Affairs Officer | Catherine Wu |
| GSA Non-faculty academic and welfare officer | Llewellyn Thomas |
| GSEPS Representative | Edafe Edivri |
| CGCU Ordinary Member | Alice Rowlands |
| CGCU Ordinary Member | Steve Long |
| CGCU Ordinary Member | Tom Hills |
| RCSU Ordinary Member | Lewis Palmer |
| RCSU Ordinary Member | Angad Rekhi |
| RCSU Ordinary Member | Alan Itakura |
| RCSU Ordinary Member | Karmen Chui |
| ICSMSU Ordinary Member | Aislinn O'Malley |
| ICSMSU Ordinary Member | Alexandra Burke-Smith |
| ICSMSU Ordinary Member | Hannah Tullett |
| Permanent observers | |
| Governance and Administration Co-ordinator (Clerk to Council) | Rebecca Coxhead |

Observers: Felix Editor Kadhim Shubber, Afonso Campos

Apologies: ICSMSU Welfare Officer Gayathri Rajasooriar, Engineering Postgraduate rep Shuoying Cao, ICSMSU Education Rep 356 Annalan Navaratnam, GSA Physical Sciences academic and welfare officer Neki Patel, GSA Life Sciences academic and welfare representative Joe McKenna, GSA engineering academic and welfare representative Shuoying Cao, Operations Manager Robin Pitt

Not present: GSA Medicine academic and welfare officer Iakovos Amygdalos, Silwood Park Chair Mark Ramsden

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) The Chair stated her expectations of Council meetings.
 - i. Speak through the Chair.
 - ii. Read the papers before the meeting and come prepared with questions and comments.
 - iii. Request hard copies of papers and send apologies and proxies to the Governance and Administration coordinator.
- b) Elections for Ordinary Members have now ended.
 - i. The following positions are still vacant ; 1 CGCU ordinary member, 1 GSEPS, 1 GCLSM and 1 non faculty member position vacant

2. MINUTES – 11th October 2010

NOTED:

- a) It was pointed out that the online purchasing procedure is being testing on ICSMSU Executive Committee and not media.

RESOLVED:

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

3. MATTERS ARISING – none

4. PRESIDENT REPORT

RECEIVED: The report was presented by the President

NOTED:

- a) The Scholarship board is in construction currently.
 - i. Currently 40% of Imperial College students receive bursaries.
 - ii. Would like to target Postgraduates.
 - iii. If Council has any further ideas, please email the President with these.
- b) In regards to the Life Science restructure, it was suggested by Maggie Dallman that Plant Biology is not being cut.
 - i. Overall the report is vague and the President is not counting any 'victories' at the moment.
 - ii. Later in the month
- 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) 4 new clubs were created at the last meeting of the NCC.
 - i. These were Energy, Fives, Acapella and Self Defence and Fitness at Hammersmith campus.
- b) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.

6. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (EDUCATION) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The Undergraduate representative training had an exceptional turnout.
- b) The best faculty representative prize will be judged on meeting attendance keenness and recommendations from Faculty Unions Presidents.
- c) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

7. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) Currently do not have exact numbers for the amount of Chlamydia tests that took place over SHAG week.
 - i. The Deputy President (Welfare) stated that she will get these figures.
- b) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

8. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (FINANCE & SERVICES) REPORT

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

NOTED:

- a) The Summer Ball may potentially be joined with other universities.
 - i. Imperial College Union students are the first priority in planning the ball.
- b) Table service has had a few teething problems but overall is being considered a success.
- c) The asbestos found in metric has almost all been removed.
 - i. The Metric lunch has been confirmed for the 20th November.
 - ii. Capacity is still being confirmed but will be approximately 550 which is conservative.
- d) Council moved to vote to accept the report and it was accepted unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept the report.**

9. HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING POLICY

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

NOTED:

- a) The President stated that he did not want the Unions response to be reactionary and wanted to work with the university rather than being antagonistic.
 - i. Union Policies should be dynamic and not just be passed and nothing happen with them.
- b) It was deemed important that students should not have to pay 'up front'.
- c) Potentially the amount of fees may not be the issue, it is the other financial support for those that need it.
 - i. London should be recognised as a more expensive location to live in.

- d) It was stated that it is important that the real interest rate is not charged until the student has graduated.
- e) The review is lacking appropriate Postgraduate funding options.
- f) Actual HE funding amounts won't be known until April when the budget is released.
- g) It was apparent from the comments in the Union's Browne review survey that students do not seem to be aware of bursaries and other allowance allocations.
- h) It was stressed that the Browne review pertained to home students only.
- i) The ICSMSU President stated that he wanted to include the point that the Union should lobby to get recognition for student from multi sibling families.
 - i. It was agreed by the President that resolves 3.b should be included to read as follows:
To lobby College to consider the amount of dependants and siblings that families have to support.

RESOLVED:

1) Resolve 3 b to read as follows:

'To lobby College to consider the amount of dependants and siblings that families have to support.'

- j) It was agreed by the President that resolves 2 should be changed to make it explicit that College and the Government should be lobbied.

RESOLVED:

2) Resolves 2 to read as follows:

'To lobby the College and Government for Postgraduate taught Masters to be included under the same payment method, where fee payment is not up-front.'

- k) The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that resolves 3a should be removed due to this point being beneficial to such a small proportion of students.
 - i. It seems ludicrous to give money 'back' to College when they fund the Union with subvention in the first instance.
 - ii. It was suggested that the grant should be targeted to students who have shown to be active in their student community previously.
 - iii. The grant should be Union controlled and branded.
 - iv. The RAG Chair questioned if a proportion of Union commercial service profit be given to RAG also.
 - v. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that the profit should be put back in to Clubs and Societies as these benefits a greater number of students.
 - vi. Clubs and Societies are more accessible to a greater number of students.
 - vii. Concern was raised that this opens up showing College that the Union could potentially be self funding from its commercial activities and risks having subvention cut greatly. The President stated that it is highly unlikely that this will occur as College do not look at the Unions commercial profit when setting subvention.
 - viii. The Deputy President (Finance & Services) stated that the subvention funding cannot be relied upon in the distant future and the Union may get to a point that it will have to self fund.
 - ix. The logistics of a Union bursary allocation would be extremely difficult to administer.
 - x. Council moved to a vote on keeping resolves 3a and the vote is as follows:

| | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 24 |
| AGAINST | 8 |
| ABSTAIN | 3 |
| Passes | |

RESOLVED:

3) To retain resolves 3a.

- l) It was suggested that fees should not be lowered as at the end of the degree, an Imperial College graduate should be in a reasonable salary bracket and be able to afford the repayments.
- m) The Equal Opportunities Officer stated that he would have been extremely discouraged from attending university if the fees were of such an amount that he deemed daunting.

- i. It was suggested that the cost of fees should be viewed that the repayments are going to be proportional to graduate income.
- ii. The realisation that the debt will stay with a graduate for potentially all their working life may be a barrier to some potentially student.
- n) The actual costs of degrees differ greatly between them; sciences degrees, in general, cost significantly more.
- o) It was suggested that the last point in believes 6b should be removed as the Universities do not find students jobs at the end of their degrees.
 - i. It was pointed that the University provides a careers service to assist students.
 - ii. Council moved to a vote to remove 'so that Universities do not get the incentive to send graduates into purely high-income jobs.' The vote is as follows:

| | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 19 |
| AGAINST | 12 |
| ABSTAIN | 3 |
| Passes | |

RESOLVED:

4) Believes 6 b to read as follows:

'The Government should support expensive degrees which result in low income jobs, such as scientists who become teachers'

- p) It was suggested that believes 6b should be clarified in that teachers are just used an example.
 - i. It was agreed that believes 6b should read 'The Government and College should support expensive degrees which result in socially vital low income jobs, such as scientists who become teachers'

RESOLVED:

5) Believes 6b to read as follows:

'The Government and College should support expensive degrees which result in socially vital low income jobs, such as scientists who become teachers'.

- q) The President suggested that Universities will not likely ever charge the full cost of a degree.
 - i. The RCC Chair stated that we are living in a capitalist market and the University needs to be careful not to price them out of the market.
 - ii. The Felix Editor stated that a student from a poorer background would not apply which increases the amount of 'rich' students and decreases the 'poor'.
 - iii. The President agreed that believes 2c should include that the fact that the levy should be ring fenced.

RESOLVED:

6) Believes 2c to read as follows:

'The levy Universities will have to pay if setting degree prices above £6000/year, incentivising them to only charge the real cost of the degree. This levy should be ring fenced to support Higher Education'.

- r) It was suggested that future students should be educated in regards to the level of debt that they will encounter at the end of their degree.
 - i. It was agreed to add 'resolves 4' which is to read as follows 'To lobby College to reach out to potential students and their families/guardians to inform them of funding mechanisms and potential bursaries with the aim of widening participation'.

RESOLVED:

7) To add 'resolves 4' which is to read as follows:

'To lobby College to reach out to potential students and their families/guardians to inform them of funding mechanisms and potential bursaries with the aim of widening participation'.

- s) It was suggested that the Council should be considering the implication on non home EU students by raising the fees.

- i. The fees may potentially be off putting to encouraging talent from overseas.
 - ii. It was suggested that there are bursaries that EU students can access but these are very few.
 - iii. The President stated that he will investigate what bursaries are available to EU students.
- t) It was suggested that believes 6 should have point c added to it that states 'Universities should not be purely incentivised in sending graduates in to higher income jobs'.
- i. Council moved to a vote on including this point and the vote is as follows:

| | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 3 |
| AGAINST | 26 |
| ABSTAIN | 4 |

Falls
- u) It was agreed that resolves 3a should be changed to read 'To show our commitment to supporting students, if the College comes up with an improved and fairer bursary endowment scheme then Council will be asked to *consider* whether a proportion of Commercial Services (bar and shop) profits from the Union should be fed into a *bursary* scheme'.

RESOLVED:

8) Resolves 3a to read as follows:

'To show our commitment to supporting students, if the College comes up with an improved and fairer bursary endowment scheme then Council will be asked to consider whether a proportion of Commercial Services (bar and shop) profits from the Union should be fed into a bursary scheme'.

- v) It was suggested that a point should be added to read as follows 'To lobby the Government via College to increase the HE pot or if not have more say in how this is distributed'.
- i. Council moved to a vote on including this point and the vote is as follows:

| | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 4 |
| AGAINST | 21 |
| ABSTAIN | 9 |

Falls
- w) It was agreed to include 'Government and College' in believes 6b.

RESOLVED:

9) Believes 6b to read as follows:

'The Government and College should support expensive degrees which result in socially vital low income jobs, such as scientists who become teachers'.

- x) Council moved to vote on passing the amended paper as a whole and the vote is as follows:

| | |
|---------|----|
| FOR | 31 |
| AGAINST | 4 |
| ABSTAIN | 0 |

Passes

RESOLVED:

10) To pass the amended Higher Education Funding Policy (see appendix)

Meeting closed 9.00pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of Union Council

on _____ 2010/11

_____ Chair of the Meeting

Imperial College Union
Higher Education Funding Policy

Notes

1. Lack of funding to Universities has led to the closure of departments all over the country, from Philosophy at Middlesex to Engineering at Kings. The amount of money provided to Universities per student has declined since 1992 as participation has increased.
2. The Browne Review was initiated to find a fairer way of funding Universities and providing support to students. It reported on 12 October 2010.
3. With the increased loan repayment threshold to £21,000, something suggested by the Browne Review, PhD students would mostly not be repaying their loan while completing their PhD.
4. The Rector has formed a new committee to look at how Imperial provides bursaries to students, with the view to increasing bursaries so that Imperial becomes a 'needs-blind' University, where any student can come regardless of ability to pay. The Union has been invited to take an active role in this committee.

Believes

1. That access to University should be determined by nothing other than academic ability, and that especially wealth should play no effect, so that:
 - a. Any student regardless of financial situation can come to University.
 - b. Universities are not incentivised to be biased to richer students.
 - c. Students should be able to study anywhere in the country regardless of the location of their home town.
2. That the overall proposals and direction of the Browne Review are to the benefit of students and Universities, especially:
 - a. The increased maintenance loan and grant.
 - b. The continued principle that regardless of the amount, no student should have to pay their tuition fees up-front, and that all should be paid for after graduation.
 - c. The levy Universities will have to pay if setting degree prices above £6000/year, incentivising them to only charge the real cost of the degree. This levy should be ring fenced to support Higher Education.
 - d. The increase in the threshold for repayments to £21,000, with interest rates (purely covering the Government's cost of borrowing at 2.2%) only applying once a student is earning >£21,000.
 - e. The writing-off of the debt after 30 years.
 - f. The realisation that Universities need more investment, which they can direct at teaching, research, facilities and the student experience.
 - g. That second degrees will also receive full up-front funding.
 - h. That part-time students will also receive more support.
3. That the important aspect of what a degree costs a particular student is not the headline fee (eg. £10,000) but the cost the student ends up paying. University bursaries should bring down the headline fee for all but the richest students. Students should have to pay nothing upfront, only once they have graduated.
4. That any rise in fees proposed by the Government should not simply be to plug the gap left after Government funding is cut, but that it should be a mechanism to make access fairer, get money to Universities and give Universities more freedom, with the aim to improve teaching standards, contact time and feedback.
5. That there are gaps in the Browne Review that need to be addressed, such as:
 - a. No effective provision for large families where multiple dependant children reduce the disposable household income for subsidising university
 - b. The financial provision for students from households with high income where families do not give adequate financial support
 - c. The lack of Postgraduate education mentioned in the Review.
6. That University's need more money to be able afford the cost of the degrees they provide, with the understanding that:

- a. It is in a Universities' best interest to give bursaries to help students, especially from lower income backgrounds, to result in either a lower fee to repay or increased help with living costs whilst at University.
The Government and College should support expensive degrees which result in socially vital low income jobs, such as scientists who become teachers.

Resolves

1. To support the overall proposals and direction of the Browne Review.
2. To lobby the College and Government for Postgraduate taught Masters to be included under the same payment method, where fee payment is not up-front.
3. To engage with College to increase bursary and scholarship provision, to advertise and promote these opportunities more widely, and to attract businesses to also provide bursaries and scholarships to students.
 - a. To show our commitment to supporting students, if the College comes up with an improved and fairer bursary endowment scheme then Council will be asked to consider whether a proportion of Commercial Services (bar and shop) profits from the Union should be fed into a bursary scheme.
 - b. To lobby College to consider the amount of dependants and siblings that families have to support.
4. To lobby College to reach out to potential students and their families/guardians to inform them of funding mechanisms and potential bursaries with the aim of widening participation.