



## MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

of the third ordinary meeting of the Council of Imperial College Union in the 2016/17 Session.

The meeting of Union Council was held in the Union Dining Hall on Tuesday 6 December at 18:30.

### Present:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
<i>Council Chair</i>	Abigail de Bruin
<i>Union President</i>	Nas Andriopolous
<i>Deputy President (Clubs &amp; Societies)</i>	James Cox
<i>Deputy President (Finance &amp; Services)</i>	Rachel Blythe
<i>RCSU President</i>	Lloyd James
<i>CGCU President</i>	Milia Hasbani
<i>ICSMSU President</i>	Alex 'Chippy' Compton
<i>ACC Chair</i>	Elinor Winstanley
<i>A&amp;E Chair</i>	Jack Steadman, represented by Alexandre Adler
<i>RAG Chair</i>	Cynfelyn Nancarrow-Lei
<i>RCC Chair</i>	Dominic Price
<i>SCC Chair</i>	Sina Lari
<i>Media Chair</i>	Rob Garside
<i>OSC Chair</i>	Yanzhu Jiang
<i>CGCU Welfare Officer</i>	Fintan O'Connor
<i>ICSMSU Academic Officer – Clinical Years</i>	Rhys Smith
<i>ICSMSU Welfare Officer</i>	Evie Taylor-Davies
<i>RSMU Welfare Officer</i>	Beth Holman
<i>RCSU Welfare Officer</i>	Simran Kukran, represented by Lef Apostolakis
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Engineering</i>	Andrew Olson Gallardo
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Engineering</i>	Luke Granger-Brown
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Engineering</i>	Tom Shakespeare
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Engineering</i>	James Long
<i>Ordinary Member – PG Engineering</i>	James Targett
<i>Ordinary Member – PG Engineering</i>	Theresa Davey
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Natural Sciences</i>	Michael Edwards
<i>Ordinary Member – PG Natural Sciences</i>	Stephen Ball
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Medicine</i>	Eric Suen
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Medicine</i>	Kai Matthews
<i>Environment &amp; Ethics Officer</i>	Dijana Spasenoska
<i>Student speaker</i>	Rhidian Thomas
<i>Observer</i>	Hamaad Yousaf
<i>Observer</i>	Eshita Joshi
<i>Observer</i>	Henry Wild
<i>Observer</i>	Tim Marley
<i>Observer</i>	Eleanor Bryant



**Apologies:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
<i>Deputy President (Welfare)</i>	Emily-Jane Cramphorn

**Not present:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
<i>RSMU President</i>	Noah Hawkins
<i>A&amp;E Chair</i>	Jack Steadman
<i>CAG Chair</i>	Jin Yoo
<i>CGCU Academic Affairs Officer</i>	Claudia Caravello
<i>Ordinary Member – UG Natural Sciences</i>	Abhijay Sood
<i>Interfaith Officer</i>	Andy Li
<i>International Officer</i>	Thisara Vinella

**Minute-taker:** Andrew Keenan, Head of Student Voice & Communications

## 1. Chair's Business

- a. *None*

## 2. Minutes

- a. The minutes of the previous meeting were not yet available. The minute-taker agreed to have them available online within the week.

## 3. Matters Arising

- a. Members requested an update on the democracy review in a future meeting.

- b. **Actions:**

- i. ***Update on Democracy Review for next meeting of Union Council***

## 4. Bursary Stance

- a. *Received:* The paper was introduced by Rhidian Thomas.

- b. *Discussion:*

- i. Analysis of the bursary received by students from the same family income bracket, but with different years of entry, show that some cohorts are significantly disadvantaged – receiving a far smaller sum over their time as a student.
  - ii. Council generally commended College for the positive changes made to the bursary in recent years, but would like this disparity to be redressed.
  - iii. Early analysis indicates around 160 students are affected, and that the annual cost to College of addressing the inequity would be approximately £0.5m
  - iv. Promotion and expansion of the Hardship Fund may help individuals in dire need, but the existence of the Fund is not enough to make up for the shortfall.

- c. *Resolved:*

- i. PASSED: "The Union resolves to investigate more thoroughly the number of students affected by this issue"
  - ii. PASSED: "The Union resolves to stress to College that, while efforts they have made to avoid deterring future students are welcome, existing students should not be overlooked"
  - iii. PASSED: "The Union resolves to request that additional funds be made available for students in the "squeezed middle" £35,000 - £60,000 income brackets who are currently on the 2015-intake bursary scheme - both to reimburse them for the 2016-17 academic year, and to guarantee this funding for the remainder of their degrees"



1. These resolutions were voted on as a single motion. Approve: 97%, Reject: 0%, Abstain: 3%.

d. **Actions:**

- i. ***For relevant Officer Trustees, Council members and students to act on the above resolutions***

## 5. Creating a Constituent Union Mascotry Policy

- a. *Received:* The paper was introduced by Andrew Olson Gallardo (Ordinary Member – UG Engineering)

b. *Discussion:*

- i. The proposer argued that the behaviour displayed during recent mascotry events poses a physical danger to students, and negatively affects Constituent Union awareness and engagement by reducing the usage of mascots at social events; therefore, all mascots should be returned to their Constituent Union and all mascots declared permanently 'inviolable'.
- ii. Members questioned the necessity of an effective ban on mascotry, and the potential ineffectiveness of a ban on physical contact during mascotry.
- iii. Members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of mascotry for Constituent Union engagement, tradition, risk management, and entertaining members.
- iv. Alternative solutions were proposed, such as cheaper 'alternative' mascots, clarifying the prohibition on violence, and more detailed mascotry rules.
- v. The discussion was guillotined by the Chair.

c. *Resolved*

- i. PASSED: "The Union resolves to mandate all stolen mascots be returned to their respective Constituent Unions"
  1. Approve: 39%, Reject: 36%, Abstain: 24%
- ii. NOT PASSED: "The Union resolves to declare all mascots inviolable. As violate mascots lead to potential physical violence, their status shall not be changed from inviolable."
  1. Approve: 21%, Reject: 61%, Abstain: 18%

d. *Actions:*

- i. ***All mascots to be returned to their respective Constituent Unions.***

## 6. Management Group Elections



- a. *Received:* The paper was introduced by Michael Edwards (Ordinary Member – UG Natural Sciences)
- b. *Discussion:*
  - i. The proposer argued that the presence of Management Group Chairs on Union Council means that the nature of their selection (and of other Management Group leadership positions) should be reviewed to ensure it is appropriately democratic.
  - ii. A motion to move this discussion to Clubs, Societies & Projects Board was proposed and seconded.
- c. *Resolved:*
  - i. PASSED: The Union resolves to move the discussion of the election process of Management Group leadership positions to Clubs, Societies & Projects Board
    1. Approve: 61%, Reject: 36%, Abstain: 3%
- d. *Actions:*
  - i. ***Discussion of Management Group leadership elections to return to Clubs, Societies & Projects Board.***

## 7. Solving Council's Quorum Crisis

- a. *Received:* The papers were presented by multiple members, including:
  - i. James Targett (Ordinary Member – PG XX)
  - ii. Lloyd James (RCSU President)
  - iii. Abigail de Bruin (Council Chair)

Discussion was chaired by Dominic Price, RCC Chair, as Abigail de Bruin was the proposer of one of the papers under discussion.
- b. *Discussion:*
  - i. Proposers put forward two approaches to improving attendance at future Council meetings: 'Carrot' (a reform package increasing accountability of working groups, reducing autonomy of subcommittees, and improving engagement with membership) and 'Stick' (a reform changing the definition of quoracy to reduce the impact of non-attendance).
  - ii. Discussion points included the relationship between Council and subcommittees, the location of meetings, the role of Officer Trustee reports, the success of previous working groups, and the dialogue between Union Council and Trustee Board.
- c. *Resolved:*



- i. PASSED: The Union resolves to create a working group to discuss Council quoracy and reform, to report back to a future Council meeting.

- 1. Approve: 52%, Reject: 42%, Abstain: 6%

d. *Actions:*

- i. ***A working group on Council reform to be created, to be chaired by Kai Matthews (Ordinary Member – UG Medicine).***
  - ii. ***An email to be sent to Union Council members, inviting them to participate in the working group.***

Milia Hasbani, CGCU President, wished Kai success in his task, which was noted by the rest of Council.

## 8. President Report

- a. *Received:* The report was presented by the Union President

- b. *Discussion:*

- i. The Week Zero proposal was questioned, with concerns including the cost to students of an extra week in halls; the impact on Hall Seniors; and the impact on non-first-year students.
  - ii. The President agreed to bring a paper on Week Zero to the next Council meeting.

- c. *Resolved:*

- i. PASSED: The Union resolves to accept the President Report.
    - 1. Approve: 72%, Reject: 7%, Abstain: 21%

- d. *Actions:*

- i. ***A paper on Week Zero to be brought to the next meeting.***

## 9. Deputy President (Education) – Report

- a. *Received:* The report was presented by the Deputy President (Education).

- b. *Discussion:*

- i. The Deputy President (Education) updated members on engagement with College's Learning & Teaching Strategy, student consultation on College's policy for late-submitted coursework, and the Teaching Excellence Framework.
  - ii. Members questioned how the engagement with the Teaching Excellence Framework related to the Union's existing Higher Education Policy.
  - iii. A motion to call an extra meeting of Union Council in January to discuss the Teaching Excellence Framework was proposed and



seconded. The meeting will be chaired by Alex Compton, ICSMSU President.

c. Resolved:

- i. PASSED: The Union resolves to call a meeting of Union Council to discuss engagement with the Teaching Excellence Framework
  1. Approve: 60%, Reject: 20%, Abstain: 20%
- ii. PASSED: The Union resolves to accept the Deputy President (Education) Report.
  1. Approve: 80%, Reject: 0%, Abstain: 20%

d. *Actions*

- i. ***A Council meeting to be arranged in January, in advance of the Teaching Excellence Framework submission deadline.***

## 10. Deputy President (Welfare) – Report

a. *Received*: The report was presented as tabled, in the absence of the Deputy President (Welfare).

b. *Discussion*:

- i. There was a brief discussion of the reasons given for considering NUS membership.

c. *Resolved*:

- i. PASSED: The Union resolves to accept the DPW Report.
  1. Approve: 87%, Reject: 3%, Abstain: 10%

d. *Actions*: None.

## 11. Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) – Report

a. *Received*: The report was presented as tabled.

b. *Discussion*:

- i. A member enquired about the purpose and practicality of giving Management Groups their own stalls at Freshers' Fair. The DPCS replied that Management Groups themselves had proposed this, but that he was willing to reconsider this suggestion.

c. *Resolved*:

- i. PASSED: The Union resolves to accept the DPCS Report.
  1. Approve: 100%, Reject: 0%, Abstain: 0%



d. *Actions:* None.

## **12. Deputy President (Finance & Services) – Report**

- a. *Received:* The report was presented by the Deputy President (Finance & Services)
- b. *Discussion:* No significant discussion.
- c. *Resolved:*
  - i. PASSED: The Union resolves to accept the Deputy President (Finance & Services) Report
    - 1. Approve: 100%, Reject: 0%, Abstain: 0%
- d. *Actions:* None.

## **13. Any other business**

- a. Lloyd James (RCSU President) explained the rationale behind a proposal to create a Mental Health Officer in addition to the existing welfare provision in Constituent Unions and the Liberation Officers.
  - i. The proposal, which is under development, received broad initial support from Council.
- b. A member questioned the lack of papers online. Stephen Ball (Ordinary Member – PG Natural Sciences) noted that he had submitted a formal complaint about the delay in papers and insufficient online availability.