

**Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 23 June 2021**

ICU & ICL Partnership Agreement

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Purpose: To consider approve the new Partnership Agreement with the College.

1. Background Context

One of the key enablers outlined in our new strategic plan is specifically related to our relationship with the College. The 'vision statement' sets out the key features of what we're aiming for this to look like:

A constructive relationship with the College and wider sector

The Union is an essential part of the Imperial College community. Our relationship with the institution should be one of mutuality and respect and should exist at multiple levels throughout both organisations. As our primary funder and regulator, we must hold ourselves accountable for delivering key aspects of the student experience, demonstrating our impact, our effectiveness and our value. But we also need a relationship that empowers and respects our right to constructively disagree with and challenge the College in a positive and productive way. We should be a critical friend to the institution, advocating for positive changes on behalf of students, and championing best practice where relevant.

We also need to engage more fully with the wider students' union and higher education sectors. Collaboration and partnerships make us stronger and more effective.

As well as a 'people centered approach' to this, it is crucial that we also formalize key aspects in a document mutually agreed by both parties.

2. Substantive Changes

The revised version is contained in appendix one. For comparison, the old version is contained in appendix two. As well as updating language, terminology, and roles / formal bodies, the primary changes include:

Section	Changes
Introduction	This has been simplified and re-ordered to reflect the legal status of the Union as a registered charity in its own right. It has also been amended to reflect the new strategy of the Union. A clause has been added around 'joint ownership' and periodic review.
Principles	No changes to the previous version as these principles still represent best practice in the sector.
Strategy	This has been simplified.
Representation	This has been simplified, with the 'right to disagree' articulated more clearly.
Financial	This has been amended to reflect the current work around the Union's 'financial model', with the various streams of funding provided by the College clarified.
Space	This has been simplified, much more substance moved into the relevant Service Level Agreement. Specific additions include the ability to bid for capital redevelopments in line with College departments, and the requirement of the Union to take responsibility for health and safety.
Staff	This has been amended to be consistent with other sections on resources. Key areas of support are identified, however, much more substance will be moved into the relevant Service Level Agreement

ICT	This has been amended to be consistent with other sections on resources. Key areas of support are identified, however, much more substance will be moved into the relevant Service Level Agreement
Data Sharing	This has been amended to be consistent with other sections on resources. Key areas of support are identified, however, much more substance will be moved into the relevant Service Level Agreement
Communication & Media	This section has been simplified and strengthened. There is now a requirement for both organisations to work together when significant incidents emerge.
Commercial Services	This section has been simplified reflecting new language related to the 'agreed financial model'.
Major Incidents & Business Continuity	This is a new section that establishes a requirement for both organisations to work more closely together during major incidents.

3. Approval

After consideration here, the Agreement will be approved at the September 2021 meeting of the Provost's Board before ratification by College Council. It will then be formally 'issued' to the Union.