

## Renaming the Departmental Society for Geology

Proposed by:

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Seconded by:

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The Union notes:

- The constitution for the Departmental Society for Geology lists the name of the Society as the “De La Beche Club”
- This name is in recognition of Henry de la Beche, the founder of the institution that would later become the Royal School of Mines
- That the both RSMU committee and the Geology Society committee for 2019/20 and 2020/21 decided that Henry de la Beche’s legacy as a slaveowner is incompatible with Imperial College Union’s dedication to racial equality and building an inclusive community
- That the name of the Departmental Society for Geology was temporarily changed on all social media and publicly accessible platforms to “IC Geology Society” while a public consultation could run to shortlist and ultimately choose a new, permanent name
- That a public vote open to all members of the Society ran from 9am, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to 5pm 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020, with a majority of members choosing to adopt “Geology Society” as a permanent name. See Appendix 1 for results breakdown
- That the constitution for the Departmental Society for Geology notes that a constitution change can only be changed by 2/3 majority of members present during a meeting or vote. See Appendix 2 for exact wording
- That the final proportion of members who voted for “Geology Society” in Round 2 of voting was 62.6%, short of the 66.7% required to alter the constitution
- That Union Council holds final responsibility for all clubs and societies that operate within Imperial College Union, and thus has the power to alter a club constitution
- That the decision to permanently change the name is supported by the current RSMU committee and the current Geology Society committee
- That the Departmental Society has already transitioned to using the name “Geology Society” on social platforms, including their email address and page on the Union website

The Union believes:

- That Henry de la Beche’s legacy as a slaveowner is incompatible with Imperial College Union’s dedication to racial equality and building an inclusive community and that the continued use of his name to promote a Departmental Society would be inappropriate
- That repeated public votes will be unhelpful, inefficient and largely unnecessary, especially given the incredibly close nature of the public vote

The Union resolves:

- To alter specific lines of the constitution of the Departmental Society for Geology to replace any reference to the “De La Beche” with “Geology” and all allusions to “DLB” with an appropriate alternative. See Appendix 3 for changes necessary

Appendix 1

**Which name should be adopted by the departmental society for Geology programs in Earth Science and Engineering?**

<i>Option</i>	Round 1	Round 2		Elected?	In Stage
<b>Geology Society</b>	50	12	62	Y	2
<i>RON Re-Open Nominations</i>	35	2	37		
<b>Geology &amp; Engineering Society</b>	20	-20	0	N	2
<i>Lost Votes</i>		6	6		

Turnout: 106 participants (105 votes cast, 1 abstention), electorate of 463  
**22.89%**

Appendix 2

Section 13.1 of the constitution reads as follows:

“13.1 The Constitution shall only be altered by consent of two-thirds majority of the full members present at a general meeting. The Management Group shall approve any such alterations.”

Appendix 3

Alter Section 1.2 of the constitution as follows:

“1.2 The name of the Club shall be ~~De La Beche~~ **Geology**, hereafter referred to as ‘the club’.”

Alter Section 6.4 of the constitution as follows:

“6.4 The President shall 1) Be in charge of the general workings and organisation of the club 2) Delegate and help with all roles of Club officers. 3) Assist where needed in all club events. 4) Promote of the ~~DLB~~ **society** to Undergraduates, Graduate Students and Students from other Universities. 5) Organise all Hill Cup events (along with the Matsoc president) 6) Organise talks throughout the year..”