

Imperial College Union
Minutes of The second ordinary Meetings of Union Council
3rd November 2020 - 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Present

Role	Name
Union Council Chair	Alex Auyang (AA/Chair)
Union President	Abhijay Sood (AS)
Deputy President (Welfare)	Shervin Sabeghi (SS)
Deputy President (Education)	Michaela Flegrova (MF)
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Ross Unwin (RU)
Deputy President (Finance and Services)	Sam Lee (SL)
Arts and Entertainment Sector Chair	India Marsden (IM)
BME Officer	Deborah Adegoke (DA)
CGCU President	Hayley Wong (HW)
CGCU Vice President (Wellbeing)	Matthew Scott (MS)
Culture Sector Chair	Tin Hang Un (TU)
Ethics and Environment Officer	Stephanie Yeung (SY)
Gender Equality Officer	Priantha Pretheshan (PP)
GSU President	Zixiao Wang (ZW)
GSU Vice President (Representation)	Lintong Li (LL)
GSU PGR Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering)	Abderrahim Boualam (AB)
ICSMSU Academic Chair	Rachel Kwok (RK)
ICSMSU President	Muntaha Naeem (MN)
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Natania Varshney (NV)
Interfaith Officer	Safi Thanya Siamwalla (SS)
International Officer	Isabelle Zhang (IZ)
Knowledge Sector Chair	Alexander Nielsen (AN)
LGBT+ Officer	Keir Logan (KL)
Media Chair	Matej Genci (MG)
Mental Health Officer	Lauren Wheeler (LW)
PG FoE Council Rep	Ravi Shankar (RS)
PG FoE Council Rep	Zhongyao Jiang (ZJ)
PG FoM Council Rep	Subarna Chakraborty (SC)
PG FoM Council Rep	Ebenezer Donkor (ED)
RCSU President	Aparna Pillai (AP)
RCSU Vice President (Education)	Daniyar Ghani (DG)
RCSU Vice President (Welfare)	Maria Borc (MB)
Recreation Sector Chair	Adam Turner (AT)
RSMSU President	Jasmine Crocker (JC)
RSMSU Vice President (Education)	Katie McCann (KM)
Sports Sector Chair	Geoffrey Sheir (GS)
UG FoM Council Rep	Gabrielle Mathews (GB)
UG FoM Council Rep	Haider Nazerali (HZ)
UG FoNS Council Rep	Susan Rutter (SR)
UG FoNS Council Rep	Michael Kohn (MK)

UG FoE Council Rep	Varun Srivastava (VS)
UG FoE Council Rep	Hilliam Tung (HT)
UG FoE Council Rep	Olasoji Ajayi (OA)
UG FoE Council Rep	James White (JW)
PG FoNS Council Rep	Ansh Bhatnagar (AB)
PG FoNS Council Rep	Chiara Riedel-Loria (CRL)
Working Class Officer	Grace Fisher (GF)

Observers:

Governance Officer	Victoria Agbontaen (VA)
ICSMSU Academic Officer for Early Years	Varja Cuculovic (VC)
Felix Editor	Calum Drysdale (CD)
UAEM Imperial Lead	Toby Pepperrell (TP)

Apologies:

CGCU Vice President (Education)	Aleksander Ziolkowski (AZ)
Community and Faith Sector Chair	Joshua Ofengbai (JO)
Disabilities Officer	Adya Rao (AR)

Absent:

PG NF Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
PG NF Council Rep	<i>Vacant</i>
RSMSU Welfare Officer	Emmeline Poole (EP)
Silwood Park President	Conor Nicoll (CN)

Item	Actions
<p>1. Chair's welcome and Chair's business</p> <p>1.1. Chair welcomed the Council to the second 2020-21 Council Meeting and gave a special welcome to the Council Reps who were recently elected.</p> <p>1.2. Chair reminded Council that the training provided last week was recorded, had been circulated and is available to watch if any members were unable to attend training.</p> <p>1.3. The Chair then started 5 break out rooms to initiate ice breakers for all members of Council which lasted approximately 20 minutes.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies:</p> <p>2.1. Apologies from: Aleksander Ziolkowski (AZ) Joshua Ofengbai (JO) Adya Rao (AR)</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>3.1. Chair confirmed with Council if there were any changes required to be made to the minutes.</p> <p>3.2. No dissensions were put forward</p> <p>3.3. Chair confirmed the minutes as accepted as consensus.</p>	
<p>4. Action Tracker</p> <p>4.1. <i>9.5 - Policy Review Updates</i> – Chair requested for SSB policies to be provided. SL has not got a copy of this but will continue chasing the previous DPF.</p>	SL and AAu to meet regarding updated SSB Policies.
Matters for Decision	
<p>5. Leadership Elections 2021 Key Dates</p> <p>5.1. AS explained that as some poor decisions have been made regarding the operation of elections in the past, to ensure this does not reoccur, it is important for Council to have oversight of the plans.</p> <p>5.2. This includes setting the dates for the Leadership elections in 2021, with the intention to follow the dates/timetable as in previous years.</p> <p>5.3. AS questioned whether Council had any specific views on the dates (week 5 of term 2) but noted that the rules and operation of elections will be discussed at a later date.</p> <p>5.4. RU noted that in terms of the candidate briefing, anyone who is involved in CSP is likely to CSP activity on a Wednesday afternoon. This means that having a briefing on Wednesday at Noon would make it difficult for anyone who is part of a CSP to attend.</p> <p>5.5. RU suggested if the Candidates briefing could be moved to the Tuesday at 5pm after manifestos are closed. Similarly, having Hustings during the day on a Wednesday would make it problematic for anyone who is involved in CSPs to attend.</p> <p>5.6. AS agreed that as the briefing can be recorded, it may be more important to move the day of Hustings instead.</p> <p>5.7. IZ added that the current election rules do not allow for people to campaign on pre-made group chats but as there are no lectures this year, people used to rely on lecture shout-outs to help with their campaigning. AS responded by saying that the Union is looking at ways to allow people to fairly campaign and this will be discussed at a later date.</p> <p>5.8. AT questioned this change in timing, noting that as most students are distanced learning this year, with many students in Asia it would be unfair to move the briefing or hustings timings as it would make it inaccessible to students who are currently abroad, adding that having these at Midday is a good balance for people who are in different time zones.</p>	

<p>6. LGBT+ Officer Name Change</p> <p>6.1. SS explained that as part of the work that was ongoing last year on changing Liberation and Community, when it came to naming the LGBTQ+ one in the policy, it was realised that the LGBT+ Officer does not have the same name.</p> <p>6.2. SS noted the name change is a procedural minor detail but it important to be raised and updated so the role names on the policy is accurate.</p> <p>6.3. Chair put the paper to members of Council raise any questions or concerns they had around the paper.</p> <p>6.4. No questions were raised and the Chair passed the paper by consensus from Council.</p>	
<p>7. ICU's Stance on Access to Medicines</p> <p>7.1. TP gave a brief overview of the paper nothing that it is an update to a stance that was originally proposed in 2013 that went out of date in 2016.</p> <p>7.2. TP highlighted that he is representing UAEM as the Imperial Lead. TP added that this stance relates to a three-fold problem within the University and applies to all of the innovation coming out of it.</p> <p>7.3. TP noted there is currently a big problem in medical research as it is difficult to avoid non-publication. This stance is an acknowledgment by the Union that research coming out of Imperial should be open knowledge and have transparent publication to all outlets, so it is available for anyone to review.</p> <p>7.4. TP noted that this stance ultimately recommends Union support for Universities access to these challenge as well as discussing health equity earlier in courses.</p> <p>7.5. AS asked if TP could provide verbal clarification on the extent to which the Union would be tied to another organisation. Additionally, it would be helpful to have a more specific resolve with a name next to who would be accountable for the next plan of action.</p> <p>7.6. MN added that he is happy to support/assist and it is key that UAEM is the lead in these conversations as they have the knowledge, experience, and insight into this.</p> <p>7.7. SS added that it is a priority to address campaigns this year with the Representation team.</p> <p>7.8. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote pending the amendments. The results are as follows: 26 approve 5 abstain. Paper was therefore passed by Council.</p>	<p>MN to update Council on any progression with the UAEM.</p>
<p>8. Approval of Standing Orders</p> <p>8.1. RU stated that SPB and SHE standing orders were significantly longer. AAu added that all Council sub-committees also have standing orders which can be found in appendix B.</p> <p>8.2. SS proposed that for CWB standing orders, the following additions are to be made. 5. The Committee's powers shall be: a. Determining Policy governing the roles of Wellbeing Representatives and Community and Liberation Officers, and Union stances and procedures around matters of Welfare, referring decisions to Council where appropriate. b. Have oversight over Union spending around Liberation & Community and campaigns.</p> <p>8.3. MB asked whether there were amendments to be made regarding the removal of Council seats if members were to miss two consecutive meetings. AS said that there would not be formal changes to the rules but that the Union would be slightly lenient with them this year in light of the current situation around covid-19.</p> <p>8.4. SL highlighted that the SO's for SSB are going to be re-written this year as there are changes that are required to be made.</p>	<p>SL to provide new proposed SO's for SSB to the next Council meeting.</p> <p>Sub-committee chairs to provide amended and updated SO's at next meeting.</p>

<p>8.5. AS suggested that all appendix B should be amended and brought back to Council.</p> <p>8.6. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on: Approval of the Union Council Standing Orders (excluding appendix B). The results were as follows: 25 approve 4 abstain Paper was passed by Council.</p> <p>8.7. SS added that up until last year, there would be a vote on the report which helped to give Council members the ability to express dissatisfaction or satisfaction on what the offers had done. SS also said that by voting on OT papers, it ensured that Council paid greater attention to its content.</p> <p>8.8. SS proposed to Council that voting on OT reports at the Council meeting should be re-introduced.</p> <p>8.9. AAu asked SS whether he had considered if the voting should be exclusive to OT reports or whether CU and Felix Reports should be included as part of this. SS recommended that the Felix report and ICSMSU President should be included in this as they are full-time paid sabbatical officers and would not recommend doing this for CU reports.</p> <p>8.10. AS stated that the GSU President and CGCU President are also remunerated and it would therefore be sensible to include all CU'S in this.</p> <p>8.11. AN questioned that if a report fails, is there any meaning or consequence behind this but is in agreement on the sentiment of voting on reports.</p> <p>8.12. AS highlighted that there are other mechanisms that Council can use to hold the officers to account and voting on reports is just one way of doing this with an ongoing record.</p> <p>8.13. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on: Modifying the Standing Orders to Include Voting on Reports (Including CU Reports): The results were as follows: 15 approve 10 abstain 3 Reject Paper was passed by Council.</p>	<p>AAu to hold e-vote to elect Council members on to SSB and GIB.</p>
Matters for Report	
<p>9. CGCU President Report</p> <p>9.1. HW took the CGCU report as tabled and highlighted there three main goals; to increase the CGCU Identity, improve handover and training and to provide CSPs with support through Covid-19.</p> <p>9.2. HW added there are a number of new initiatives being proposed this year, including introducing professional training and other online events.</p> <p>9.3. HW said that the outreach had been three-fold this year so far and she hopes to keep on achieving more and improving on this.</p> <p>9.4. Paper was accepted by consensus and passed by Council.</p>	
<p>10. RCSU President Report</p> <p>10.1. AP took the paper as tabled and asked Council for any questions, feedback, or comments on the paper.</p> <p>10.2. Paper was accepted by consensus and passed by Council.</p>	
<p>11. RSMU President Report</p> <p>11.1. JC noted the three goals for the RMSU were outlined in the report and they are already taking the steps to achieve these goals.</p>	

<p>11.2. JC highlighted that the only concerns is around bottle match due to the constant changes as to what is happening with bottles.</p> <p>11.3. Paper was accepted by consensus and passed by Council.</p>	
<p>12. ICSMSU President Report</p> <p>12.1. MN noted that the report that had been provided was very comprehensive but the main points to highlight are the work they are doing around communication. Due to covid-19, they have been focusing on engaging more students and creating a strong online-digital presence.</p> <p>12.2. MN added that ICSMSU had been working over Summer to revamp their visual identity from their website to their newsletter, including publishing their meeting minutes for the first time.</p> <p>12.3. Due to covid-19, there has been a lot of challenges and they have tried to be supportive of the medic students and urging the Faculty to do all they can to support the students.</p> <p>12.4. MN added ICSMSU have tried to better engage new students and incoming freshers by introducing buddy schemes and q&a sessions for them.</p> <p>12.5. In terms of welfare, ICSMSU have been advocating for the implementation of the BME Charter and racial harassment. Working groups have been set up and they will be working on this to push for change. Active by-stander and welfare training has also been offered to all of the committee this year to ensure people are always getting the support and help that they need.</p> <p>12.6. Paper was accepted by consensus and passed by Council.</p>	
<p>13. GSU President</p> <p>13.1. ZW highlighted that after the Autumn election, almost all the positions on the GSU had been elected except the publicity officer and the Silwood officer.</p> <p>13.2. ZW described GSU activity being divided into two parts; operations and representation. ZW stated they will attend the National PG Conference in November where they will propose to start a UK National campaign for the introduction of the minimum research supervision hour to ensure enough help is being provided to students. Secondly, they are looking to form a UK PG Leader association.</p> <p>13.3. ZW noted that most activities are happening online only due to covid-19 but they do have plans to invite a Professor to speak to GSU students.</p> <p>13.4. ZW added that there will propose a change in the structure of the GSU to change the Vice-President roles into four different positions in order to increase representation.</p> <p>13.5. Paper was accepted by consensus and passed by Council.</p>	
<p>14. Felix Editor Report</p> <p>14.1. CD to present report at next Council meeting.</p>	
<p>15. DPE Report</p> <p>15.1. MF took the paper as tabled, highlighting that the first few months of the DPE role had consisted of work around the NSS.</p> <p>15.2. MF added that she is PG application fees to a meeting today and would provide feedback on this at the next Council meeting.</p> <p>15.3. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on: DPE Report: The results were as follows 24 Approve 4 Abstain Paper was passed by Council.</p>	<p>MF to provide update on PG application fees.</p>

<p>16. DPW Report</p> <p>16.1. SS took the paper as tabled, noting the key updates were that the Liberation Community networks that were brought in last year have now been established and currently being developed.</p> <p>16.2. Volunteer training week took place which was successful and a CWB meeting took place which SS found to be positive.</p> <p>16.3. SS added that he has developed a comms plan for the OTs to allow for structured and clear communication to students.</p> <p>16.4. AN questioned whether there are plans for more regular consultations with CSPs and what the framework would be for that. SS clarified that this plan is demonstrate what the information OT's plan to communicate out to students rather than an engagement type of work.</p> <p>16.5. AB questioned whether there is an update with halls rent. AS said that due to a College pause and the impact of the pandemic, halls rents are still in line with what they had previously been over the last five years.</p> <p>16.6. MN questioned what the reasons had been for the delays in the petitions system. AS stated that the Union's Systems team have been prioritising a back-end change to website which should be completed in November. Following this, the petition system will become the main priority.</p> <p>16.7. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on: DPW Report: The results were as follows: 25 approve 1 abstain Paper was passed by Council.</p>	<p>SS to set-up meeting with CD to discuss how Felix is included in the OT Comms plan.</p> <p>AS to come back with a timeline on when the petition system will begin.</p>
<p>17. DPCS Report</p> <p>17.1. Due to time constraints, RU took the report as tabled to Council highlighting that there had been lots of training, reacting to Covid-19 and providing support to CSPs.</p> <p>17.2. RU said that CSPB is the main forum to bring issues regarding student consultation around decisions being made about CSPs. Further adding that the Union relies on MG's talking with clubs in order to bring urgent issues forward. RU noted however, there are some issues that are undertaken without consultation of CSPB due to urgency around them, but the majority of big decisions go through the student body.</p> <p>17.3. HT asked whether there was an update on room bookings. RU explained that an automated room booking system is ready but is currently unusable due to lockdown.</p> <p>17.4. AT questioned what the standard turnaround time is for CSP activity risk-assessment confirmation from point of first contact. RU advised that the average time is four working days.</p> <p>17.5. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote on DPCS: The results were as follows: 24 approve 1 abstain Paper was passed by Council.</p>	
<p>18. DPFS Report</p> <p>18.1. DPFS to present report at next Council meeting.</p>	
<p>19. President Report</p> <p>19.1. President to present report at next Council meeting.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>AS added the election of members to SSB and GIB should be done prior to the next Council meeting. AS gave a brief overview of what the purpose and responsibilities of those sub-committees are.</p>	