

Imperial College Union
Minutes of the third ordinary Meetings of Union Council
1st December 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)
Community and Faith Sector Chair	Joshua Ofengbai (JO)
Culture Sector Chair	Tin Hang Un (TU)
Ethics and Environment Officer	Stephanie Yeung (SY)
GSU President	Zixiao Wang (ZW)
GSU Vice President (Representation)	Lintong Li (LL)
ICSMSU Academic Chair	Rachel Kwok (RK)
ICSMSU President	Muntaha Naeem (MN)
International Officer	Isabelle Zhang (IZ)
Knowledge Sector Chair	Alexander Nielsen (AN)
PG FoE Council Rep	Ravi Shankar (RS)
PG FoM Council Rep	Subarna Chakraborty (SC)
PG FoM Council Rep	Ebenezer Donkor (ED)
RCSU President	Aparna Pillai (AP)
RCSU Vice President (Welfare)	Maria Borc (MB)
Recreation Sector Chair	Adam Turner (AT)
RSMSU President	Jasmine Crocker (JC)
RSMSU Welfare Officer	Emmeline Poole (EP)
Sports Sector Chair	Geoffrey Sheir (GS)
UG FoM Council Rep	Haider Nazerali (HZ)
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)
PG Non-Faculty Council Rep	Luckme Thakkar
Working Class Officer	Grace Fisher (GF)

Observers:

Felix Editor	Calum Drysdale (CD)
International Student Network member	Harrison Zhu (HZ)
Student	Alfred Baines (AB)
Student	Rory Bardner (RB)
Governance Officer	Victoria Agbontaen (VA)

Apologies:

ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Natania Varshney (NV)
PG Non-Faculty Council Rep	Sabrina Lui
RCSU Vice President (Education)	Daniyar Ghani (DG)
UG FoNS Council Rep	Susan Rutter (SR)
UG FoM Council Rep	Gabrielle Mathews (GB)

Absent:

CGCU Vice President (Education)	Aleksander Ziolkowski (AZ)
CGCU Vice President (Wellbeing)	Matthew Scott (MS)
Disabilities Officer	Adya Rao (AR)
Gender Equality Officer	Priantha Pretheshan (PP)
GSU PGR Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering)	Abderrahim Boualam (AB)
Interfaith Officer	Safi Thanya Siamwalla (SS)
LGBT+ Officer	Keir Logan (KL)
Media Chair	Matej Genci (MG)
Mental Health Officer	Lauren Wheeler (LW)
PG FoE Council Rep	Zhongyao Jiang (ZJ)
RSMSU Vice President (Education)	Katie McCann (KM)
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 third 2020-21 Council Meeting and gave a special welcome to the NF PG Council Reps who were recently elected.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies:</p> <p>2.1. Apologies from: Sabrina Lui (SL) Daniyar Ghani (DG) Natania Varshey (NV) Susan Rutter (SR) Gabrielle Mathews (GM)</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. AAu and SL to meet and discuss SSB policies.</p>	
Matters for Decision	
<p>5. Stance on International Fees</p> <p>5.1. IZ gave a brief overview of the paper highlighting that it is about asking the College to review the fee model for International students as the pandemic has caused a direct negative impact on the financial circumstances of students and their families.</p> <p>5.2. IZ added that it is unfair for the College to expect students to take a year out or endure a reduced quality of teaching but to still be paying the same amount of high fees.</p> <p>5.3. HZ highlighted that from 2021 onward, EU students will be paying full international fees going forward.</p> <p>5.4. MK questioned whether the suspension of incurring extra costs in paying by instalments should be permanently suspended not just due to Covid-19 but also because many other Universities do not charge this fee at all.</p> <p>5.5. IZ said she was not opposed to this, but it is however a separate argument to the pandemic situation which is the focus of the paper.</p> <p>5.6. ZW explained that he had previously discussed International student Fees with the College President and Provost, informing them the fees are too high, however they did not address the reduction of tuition fees and only highlighted the scholarships on offer for students. ZW questioned how Council would lobby to the College if the paper passes.</p> <p>5.7. CRL asked why the paper only applies to International students and not UK students also as all students are in the same position of receiving a reduced quality education due to the pandemic which is affecting all students equally.</p> <p>5.8. AS explained that it is currently a issue of prioritisation as well as focusing on where it is likely for the College to be flexible.</p> <p>5.9. IM highlighted point 5 of Union believes stating that the value of learning should not be included in the paper as that focuses more on all students rather than just solely International ones.</p> <p>5.10. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 26 approve, 2 abstain and 2 reject.</p> <p>5.11. Paper was therefore passed by Council.</p>	

<p>6. Mandatory Recording of All Lectures</p> <p>6.1. MF gave an overview of the paper, stating that results from a recent survey shows that 95% of students took part believe all lectures should be recorded.</p> <p>6.2. HW questioned whether the College can enforce lectures to be recorded and whether MF has considered staff resistance to having all lectures recorded as a lot of staff have previously stated that as they had designed the course/course notes, recording the lectures would cause copyright issues.</p> <p>6.3. MF explained that the Policy outlines all of the copyright issues that Lecturers may have an issue with.</p> <p>6.4. MN said that within medicine, Lecturers have said they cannot release recordings in some cases, i.e. filming of live patient consultations due to ethical standpoints and how those instances factor into the paper.</p> <p>6.5. MF said there are medics in the working group and there are provisions around patient confidentiality and those sections would not be recorded or released.</p> <p>6.6. VS questioned whether this would cover Horizons. MF said it would as Horizons are classed as lectures.</p> <p>6.7. Chair put the paper to members of Council. The results are as follows: 26 approve, 2 abstain and 2 reject.</p> <p>6.8. Paper was therefore passed by Council.</p>	
<p>7. Greenwashing</p> <p>7.1. AB gave an overview of the paper, highlighting that he has agreed to make two amendments to the paper as agreed with AN.</p> <p>7.2. SL added that the issue with the paper is that it will be incredibly difficult to enforce as well as legal sponsor ship contracts that cannot be back tracked.</p> <p>7.3. AS stated that although he believes many people are sympathetic to the principle of the paper, there are a few issues with it including that this would not be enforceable this academic year if the paper were to be passed and it is practically an unenforceable policy.</p> <p>7.4. AS suggested to abandon the resolves in their current form as they are not enforceable but counter-suggested for SL to lead a review on sponsorships and affiliations to firms that the Union is comfortable promoting.</p> <p>7.5. AB said if freedom of speech would not be affected as the paper outlines the key words, 'without challenge' so speakers can not make untrue statements without challenge.</p> <p>7.6. AN further added that if this policy is passed, it will mean that Imperial students would be left out of these events which will mean students will have less opportunities to speak with these large companies. AN stated that recruitment events should be exempt. VS stated that Imperial's ethical viewpoint should not be based on what other Universities are doing.</p> <p>7.7. AT added that there are other major companies in other industries that are not being held to account and this should not be ignored, and the current approach appears to be quite flawed.</p> <p>7.8. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote pending the amendments. The results are as follows: 4 approve, 10 abstain and 10 reject. Paper was therefore rejected by Council. Chair highlighted that although the paper was rejected it does not mean Council members are in favour of Greenwashing.</p>	<p>SL to bring 'Greenwashing' issue to SSB and update Council with a resolution.</p>

<p>8. Improving Facilities & Amenities in Halls</p> <p>8.1. JW explained that it is evident that in comparison to other halls that have printers and other facilities, Wilson is clearly lacking these items students require, especially during lockdowns.</p> <p>8.2. JW said that the purpose of the paper is to ensure that all the halls should have the same facilities and should be brought up to the same standards.</p> <p>8.3. SS highlighted that the resolves for the paper should be, 'lobby for' rather than 'do', as it is important to state that the College runs halls.</p> <p>8.4. SS suggested that resolves 3 should be amended as printers should come out of an equipment budget rather than funds that are meant for halls social activities. JW accepted the amendment suggested by SS.</p> <p>8.5. AS explained he agreed with the paper adding there is a need for clear standards and necessary facilities in all halls.</p> <p>8.6. SS suggested an amendment be made to increase the budget in all halls (not just Wilson) to raise the standard across the board. JW accepted.</p> <p>8.7. Chair put the paper to members of Council to vote pending the amendments. The results are as follows: 28 approve and 2 abstain. Paper was therefore accepted by Council</p>	<p>SS to start up work on improving facilities in halls (meeting with JW and Wardens) and feedback to Council.</p>
<p>9. GSU Restructure</p> <p>9.1 ZW stated that the purpose of the paper is to divide the Vice President positions into four new roles. VP (operations) will be divided into two. The titles of new positions are GSU Vice President (Events and Activities) and GSU Vice President (Public Relations).</p> <p>9.2. The reason for this spilt is to oversee communication for the social media team and to also have a rep who is responsible for maintaining connections with PG Officers from other Unions.</p> <p>9.3 ZW added that as PG Research and Taught student experiences are completely different, they would like the GSU Officers to represent this, which is why the GSU VP (Representation) will be spilt into two.</p> <p>9.4. SS asked whether the GSU Committee has approved these changes. ZW said at the Committee meeting, there was a vote which approved these changes.</p> <p>9.5. MN questioned how this change would affect the wider dynamic and if ZW felt the change would cause a rise in oversight for the President overall.</p> <p>9.6. ZW explained that this new structure would be a trial for one year and it is possible for it be further amended. However, for now the current structure has many problems and a change is required to see improvement for the GSU. ZW said he felt comfortable to provide support to all VP's.</p> <p>9.7. AAu questioned which two VP's would be on Council as only two are allowed. ZW said this will be discussed for next year and will not directly affect this year.</p> <p>9.8 Chair put the paper to members of Council to. The results are as follows: 19 approve, 7 abstain and 2 reject. Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	
<p>Matters for Report</p>	
<p>10. Felix Report</p> <p>10.1. CD gave a brief overview of what Felix has been doing this term, including a new website that Felix have secured.</p> <p>10.2. CD added that Felix have produced a new layout for the paper, along with moving the Felix from the West Basement to MR5.</p> <p>10.3. CD said that they have been issues with late publication which he is trying to improve on for next term along with working more actively on student engagement as well as getting the Union's voice to students.</p> <p>10.4. AS stated to CD that it is disappointing that his report has come into Council so late and in the form that it has. As recommended that</p>	

<p>CD review other Felix reports from previous years to gauge the standard of reports that Council expects from the Felix Editor.</p> <p>10.5. ZW added that the GSU Felix Officer submitted an article to the Felix Editor but has had no response for over two weeks which was disappointing. The GSU Felix Editor would like a response to confirm if her article would be published in Felix.</p> <p>10.6. CD explained that issue 1755 is delayed due to issues with publication but it is still due to come out before the end of term. MB suggested it would be good to acknowledge to students that Felix would be delayed, and this would be helpful to keep everyone informed.</p> <p>10.7. Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 13 approve, 10 abstain, 5 reject.</p> <p>10.8. Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	
<p>11. DPE Report</p> <p>11.1. MF outlined the paper, focusing on the NSS. MF stated there are currently some soul cycles being running to see what improvements can be made.</p> <p>11.2. MF updated Council on the PG application fee, explaining that there have not been many updates, but it is going ahead and the concerns regarding the fee has been acknowledged. However, this is not something that College have decided to make changes to.</p> <p>11.3. MF added that there have been discussions on how to make the PG courses more accessible as the application fee is one part of accessibility.</p> <p>11.4. Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 22 approve and 3 abstain.</p> <p>11.5. Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	
<p>12. DPW Report</p> <p>12.1. SS briefly outlined his paper, highlighting on his current work with Comms, individual student work as well as the usual covid meetings.</p> <p>12.2. AN said that he has found the student newsletter very interesting and enjoyable to read.</p> <p>12.3. Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 23 approve, 2 abstain and 1 reject.</p> <p>12.4. Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	
<p>13. DPCS Report</p> <p>13.1. RU took the paper as tabled, explaining that he has been focusing on projects around support for CSP's given no in-person CSP activities can currently take place due to government guidelines.</p> <p>13.2. Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 25 approve, 1 abstain.</p> <p>13.3. Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	
<p>14. DPFS Report</p> <p>14.1. SL outlined his objectives for the year which focuses on conducting a commercial services review, developing a framework for the Union building/spaces, CSP processes and services, developing a CRM system, etc.</p> <p>14.2. SL explained although the recent weeks have been very admin heavy, they have also been very strategic in looking at how the DPFS role is changed to be more suitable to the Union.</p>	

<p>14.3. SL said the table service app for the bar is a project he is working on to ensure the bar is up and running over Christmas.</p> <p>14.4. AN questioned what the timeline is for the Sponsorship contract work to be handed over to the Student, Opportunities and Development team. SL said Declan from this team would be taking over this work so the aim for this to be handed over to the team would be at the start of next term.</p> <p>14.5. SL stated that the current outstanding Sponsorship contracts would be completed by the end of the week.</p> <p>14.6. Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 25 approve.</p> <p>14.7. Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	<p>SL to update Council on whether the SDP team have taken over dealing with Sponsorship contracts.</p>
<p>15. President Report</p> <p>15.1. AS explained that his objectives for the year have been set against both his manifesto and the needs of the organisation. This includes challenging the College, medium stabilisation of the Union, governance changes and the steps AS has taken in these areas.</p> <p>15.2. AS added there has been tangible progress on scholarships for refugees in order for increased accessibility for these students.</p> <p>15.3. AS explained that the majority of his time is spent dealing with matters pertaining to College Council.</p> <p>15.4. MN asked if there was an update as to when the online petition system will begin. AS said as the Drupal 8 update is now completed, this is one of the key projects the Systems team will be working on.</p> <p>15.5. Chair put the report to members of Council to vote. The results are as follows: 24 approve, 1 abstain.</p> <p>15.6. Paper was therefore accepted by Council.</p>	<p>AS to inform Council of any progress/updates to the online petition system.</p>
<p>Any Other Business N/A</p>	