

**Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 13th July 2022**

Implementation of Recommendations of Democratic Structures Review

Author(s): Lloyd James (President)

Purpose: To approve changes to the Constitution and Bye Laws implementing the recommendations of the Democratic Structures Review

Decision(s): To approve

1. Democratic Structures Review

ICU has concluded a full review of its democratic structures, including Council, subcommittees of Council, and Constituent Unions. A review working group made up of interested members of Council and the Governance and Identity Board was convened by Council at its November 2nd meeting, and this Democratic Structures Review Working Group (DSRWG) has met regularly since. The decisions of the DSRWG were informed by a survey of Council members, as well as the group's own experience.

This review has produced a wide range of recommendations which were approved by Union Council on June 28th. While the Union's democratic structures and processes do not sit under Board's remit, the changes recommended to the Union's Constitution and Bye Laws require Board approval. The changes to the Constitution will also be put forward for approval by College Council at its July 15th meeting.

2. Summary of Recommendations

The Report of the DSRWG containing its recommendations is included as Appendix A to this paper. In summary, these recommendations are to:

- To increase the representation of Postgraduate students on Union Council by conferring Council Membership to all Postgraduate Academic and Welfare Officers.
- To permit proxy voting for Union Council meetings, if the proxy is suitably qualified to represent a given constituency and is approved by Council.
- To make Council more accessible by making information easier to find on the Union website, reforming the training for Council members and making resources available on the website, and permitting remote attendance at Council meetings for students not based at South Kensington.
- To replace Council Reports as a method of Officer accountability with a Scrutiny subcommittee of Council that will meet to consider and discuss the work of the Officer Trustees, and report to Council directly (with possible recommendations of Censure or No Confidence).
- To replace most formal subcommittees of Council with non-policy-making discussion fora.
- To codify the overlapping elements of the separate constitutions of Constituent Unions as a single Bye Law of Imperial College Union, leaving Constituent Unions each with a set of Standing Orders detailing their committee roles and subcommittee structures.
- To establish distinct categories of "Faculty Constituent Unions" and "Campus Constituent Unions," and develop a new Campus Constituent Union to represent students at the White City and Hammersmith campuses.

3. Changes to Governing Documents

Implementation of these recommendations requires changes to the Constitution and Bye Laws, changes to the Council Standing Orders, and mandating of Union Officers. Board is asked to approve the changes to the Constitution and Bye Laws as described here and detailed in the Appendices to this paper:

- To amend the Constitution of Imperial College Union, as set out in Appendix B, removing the need for Constituent Unions to have independent Constitutions, effective 1st August 2022.
- To amend Bye-Law A as set out in Appendix C, changing the membership of Union Council to that recommended by the DSRWG, and replacing Officer Trustee reports at Council with Scrutiny Committee reports, effective 1st August 2022.
- To amend Bye-Law F as set out in Appendix D, identifying only the Constituent Faculty Union Academic Affairs Officers and Welfare Officers as Officers of the Union, effective 1st August 2022.
- To establish Bye-Law L as set out in Appendix E, codifying much of the governance of Constituent Unions and establishing the two distinct classes of Constituent Faculty Unions and Constituent Campus Unions, effective 1st August 2022.

I request the Board confirm its assurance that this Review has been undertaken properly, and approve the indicated changes to the Imperial College Union Constitution and its Bye Laws A, F, and the creation of the new Bye Law L.