

# Associate and Life Membership Policy Motion

Proposer: Dr Lloyd T James (President)

Seconder: Alex Auyang

## Union Notes

1. The Union formerly had an Associate Membership Policy owned by the Board of Trustees, however this is no longer an active Policy.
2. The categories of Associate Member, Life Member and Honorary Life Member still exist, and are referred to in the Bye Laws, however there is no longer any active Policy which codifies the eligibility requirements, rights, and responsibilities of these Members.
3. Currently, the procedures and systems supporting the granting and administration of these memberships are guided by precedent rather than Policy.
4. There was a [proposal](#) at Council last year that Associate Membership should be granted free of charge to students on Interruption of Studies, however in the absence of an extant Associate Membership Policy it's not clear that this was adopted.
5. Additional areas raised for consideration include:
  - a. Students who are accepted onto a course but defer entry, who currently are not able to participate in Union activities if desired.
  - b. Members of Imperial College staff who are currently charged £5 / month for membership. This has been seen to disincentivise engagement of staff with student activities.

## Union Believes

1. For clarity and transparency, the Union should have a formal Policy outlining the eligibility requirements, rights and responsibilities of Associate Membership.
2. This Policy should for the most part align with 'current practice'.
3. Students on Interruption of Studies and deferral who wish to engage with Union activities through Associate Membership should be permitted to do so free of charge.
4. The Union should not seek to make a profit off the Associate Membership of members of Imperial College staff.

## Union Requests

1. The Board of Trustees approve the Associate and Life Membership Policy detailed in the Appendix to this paper.