

Imperial College Union
Minutes of the second ordinary Meetings of Union Council
30th November 2021 6:30pm –8:30pm

Council Representative (UG Medicine)	Aigun Gassanova (AG)	Present
Silwood Chair	Alex Auyang (AA)	Present
Council Representative (PG Science)	Ang Li (AL)	
Postgraduate Taught AWO (Medicine)	Anjola Onifade (AO)	Apologies
International Officer	Anvesh Rajeshirke (AR)	Present
RCSU President	Aparna Pillai (AP)	Present
Postgraduate Research AWO (Medicine)	Aryan Niknam Maleki (ANM)	Apologies
CGCU (Wellbeing Officer)	Aurna Maitra (AM)	Absent
Disabilities Officer	Awais Seyyad (AS)	Present
Sports Sector Chair	Beckett Marshall (BM)	Apologies
LGBTQ+ Officer	Calyste Revel (CR)	Present
Ethics and Environment Officer	Camilla Billari (CBi)	Apologies
Postgraduate Research AWO (Natural Sciences)	Ceire Wincott (CW)	Present
Mental Health Officer	Charlotte Barot (CB)	Present
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Christina Wang (CWA)	Present
Council Representative (UG Science)	Ding Ding (DD)	Apologies
Council Representative (PG Medicine)	Eman Adair Adair (EA)	Present
RSM Vice President Welfare	Emily Li (EL)	Present
Interfaith Officer	Esha Kamran (EK)	Present
RSM Vice President Education	George Morgan (GM)	Present
Working Class Officer	Grace Fisher (GF)	Present
CGCU President	Hayley Wong (HW)	Present
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Hilliam Tung (HT)	Present
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	India Marsden (IM)	Present
CGCU (Education Chair)	James White (JW)	Present
RSM President	Jasmine Crocker (JC)	Present
Postgraduate Taught AWO (Business)	Jenaifer Farhad Sethna (JFS)	Apologies
ICSMSU Academic Chair	Julia Komor (JK)	Apologies
Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Lintong Li (LL)	Apologies
Union President	Lloyd James (LJ)	Present
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Camellia Richards (CR)	Apologies
Gender Equality Officer	Malinda Davies (MD)	Present

Postgraduate Taught AWO (Natural Sciences)	Manasa Reddy Sanaga (MRS)	Apologies
Knowledge Chair	Matthew Hamer (MH)	Present
Council Chair	Michaela Flegrova (MF)	Present
Council Representative (PG Business)	Molly Gao (MG)	Present
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Nabeel Azuhar Mohammed (NAM)	Absent
Deputy President (Welfare)	Nathalie Podder (NP)	Present
A&E Chair	Niamh McAuley (NM)	Apologies
RCSU Vice President (Education)	Nicolas Barykin Pankevich (NBP)	Apologies
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Rea Tresa (RT)	Present
Black & Minority Ethnic Students Officer	Rebekah Christie (RC)	Present
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Sam Lee (SL)	Present
ICSMSU President	Samuel Hammond (SH)	Present
Council Representative (UG Science)	Stefano Fiocca (SF)	Present
RCSU Vice President (Welfare)	Tianyu Wen (TW)	Absent
Postgraduate Research AWO (Engineering)	Tin Hang Un (THU)	Present
Deputy President (Education)	Daniel Lo (DL)	Present
Council Representative (PG Engineering)	Yusen Wang (YW)	Apologies
Council Representative (PG Business)	Zhun Tang (ZT)	Apologies

In attendance:

Samuel Lovatt (SLo) – Felix Editor

Helena Schofield – ICU Representation Coordinator

Cat Turhan – ICU Representation & Advice Manager

Neil Alford – Associate Provost Academic Planning (For Item 5 only)

Tom Bailey – Strategic Manager (For Item 5 only)

Item	Actions
1. Chair's welcome and Chair's business 1.1.	
2. Apologies: 2.1. Noted	

<p>3. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>3.1. Chair went through minutes for amendments</p> <p>3.2. Approved</p>	
<p>4. Action Tracker</p> <p>4.1. Item 7 - Extending VONC and Censure Powers</p> <p>i Will be progressing once democracy review working group is set up</p> <p>4.2. Item 6 Cheerleading training meeting</p> <p>i Change deadline to January meeting</p> <p>4.3. Postgrad Engagement review</p> <p>i Complete</p> <p>4.4. Democratic Structures Review Group</p> <p>i Hayley, Michaela, Alex A, Stefano, Hilliam</p> <p>4.5. Appointments to Union Subcommittees</p> <p>i Complete</p> <p>4.6. Felix Report</p> <p>i Complete</p> <p>4.7. Union president report</p> <p>i Complete</p>	
<p>5. Estates Strategy Presentation (NA & TB)</p> <p>5.1. Need spaces for academics and students to collaborate</p> <p>5.2. Expanded academic space by just under 10% in 5 years, mostly through White City campus</p> <p>5.3. Based around sustainability, collaboration, good quality space, accessibility</p> <p>5.4. Space for students reduced as student numbers have grown</p> <p>5.5. Kept balance of space unchanged – added more office space, study rooms, breakout spaces</p> <p>5.6. Refurbishments in South Kensington and White City</p> <p>5.7. Condition of estate better than historically</p> <p>5.8. Need to use teaching space better across the College</p> <p>5.9. 4% of 1.1b on amenities, of that 4%, 90% was spent on South Kensington</p> <p>5.10. Sport facilities under pressure</p> <p>5.11. Aim to use spaces sufficiently</p> <p>5.12. What are the priorities regarding space for students?</p> <p>5.13. Significant investment made in making new halls</p> <p>5.14. JW - How much impact will this have on Wilson House with a North Acton village being created?</p> <p>5.15. NA - Looking down the line will have to look at how we deal with sustainability. Those older halls are difficult to pass the sustainability criteria</p> <p>5.16. MD – Generally students in North Acton are less well off than those in South Kensington, so how will you reduce this gap?</p> <p>5.17. NA – question of how we achieve parity across experiences. Constantly on catch up with how expensive it is to live in London.</p>	

<p>5.18. MF - Rent prices comes to Union Council every year</p> <p>5.19. AA – Silwood scored poorly. Any recommendations regarding Silwood and will Silwood students' Union be consulted?</p> <p>5.20. NA – Investment in Silwood is the same as some of the hospital campuses</p> <p>5.21. SH – Are there plans to recuperate losses to students who lost a building?</p> <p>5.22. NA – Plans we have will make the same amount of space at South Kensington and White City as there was at St Mary's. Repurposing Sir Alexander Fleming. Can provide same amount of space.</p> <p>5.23. LJ – Why is that the position for Silwood? Should there be a more centralised approach on how we approach college space?</p> <p>5.24. NA – Disparity between some estate. Bigger question around Silwood is asking how connected they feel to South Kensington</p> <p>5.25. RT – For the last couple of years there has been an issue in Bioengineering where they are moving to White City and cut off from the rest of the faculty. Building originally built for research purposes. Is there anything being done regarding safety at White City?</p> <p>5.26. NA – investment at White City was £130m. Trying to work with local council to make White City safer by adding cycle lanes to Wood Lane. Things in progress.</p> <p>5.27. GM – Is there a plan to accommodate for sports?</p> <p>5.28. NA – Had plans to do that but don't have the money to expand. Improving facilities though.</p> <p>5.29. MH – Have you considered renovating halls at Penbridge etc?</p> <p>5.30. TB - Often older halls are listed which means renovating costs more. Always the ones that need the most investment in sustainability.</p> <p>5.31. SF – How is cohesion between two villages being created?</p> <p>5.32. TB – Campus services would be better to answer that question.</p> <p>5.33. SF – Are there any plans to expand accommodation so halls can be offered to years that aren't first years?</p> <p>5.34. NA – Prioritising first years at the moment</p>	
Matters for Decision	
<p>6. Council happy to vote GF back into seat after missing 2 consecutive meetings</p>	

<p>7. Motion of no confidence: DramSoc Lighting Director 7.1. Received resignation earlier in the day</p>	
<p>8. Inter-departmental Coordination on Shared Modules (RT) 8.1. Issues around shared modules in Faculty of Engineering 8.2. Raised in SSCs for the past three years 8.3. Frequent delays in information, exam schedules, and everything to do with shared modules 8.4. Informed by department that this is an issue beyond them as it involves depts outside of Engineering 8.5. Process usually handled by admin staff to sort out information to do with shared modules 8.6. Taken a toll on students who experience frequent delays 8.7. No mediation at faculty or college level which means students doing shared modules don't have a formal route to down 8.8. Came from department of Bioengineering, but after talking to other department reps, it's clear that other departments in Engineering also have this issue 8.9. Jason Riley acknowledged these issues 8.10. Purpose of paper is to facilitate the process of shared modules by faculty mediation 8.11. Would like to see more timely release of timetable and information and more formal route of handling issues, supervised by external department member of staff within faculty of Engineering 8.12. Mandate DPE and Faculty of Engineering reps to put this system in place 8.13. SL – Focussed on Faculty of Engineering but stems outside of this faculty. Can we expand the scope of this paper to include those as well? i Amendment to be added to say that resolution/lobbying is to be applied to all faculties 8.14. IM – Scope to think about this on wider level. Might be worth considering systems that different departments use. Think about the guidance on different systems. Finding a way to unify different departments' resources, processes etc. 8.15. AA – The Union resolves 1 – wording external body is unclear. What is it external to? 8.16. RT – External with respect to the departments (but internal of faculty) i MF – Would it be more clear if we replace with 'faculty level member of staff'? Amendment to be added 8.17. LJ – What is the role of central timetabling in coordinating this? 8.18. MF – Not sure, maybe this should be added to the paper 8.19. LJ – Could we add it to their remit?</p>	<p>Action – IM to catch up with DL on point around unifying different departments' resources</p>

<p>i MF – Change union resolves to DL will be working with Faculty of Engineering and central timetabling support office</p> <p>8.20. HW – Should we include Business School in this too?</p> <p>8.21. RT – Number of students have increased but not sure if capacity of Business modules is increasing.</p> <p>Amendments for paper on Interdepartmental Coordination on Shared Modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To also lobby the College to make sure this is implemented across other Faculties as well - Resolves 1: instead of "external body" -> "a Faculty staff member" - DPE to work with the FoE as well as the CTSO (Resolves 2) <p>To vote with amendments: Accept: 30 Reject: 0 Abstain: 1</p>	
<p>9. UCU Industrial Action</p> <p>9.1. Last week the Union held a referendum on whether it supported UCU strike action</p> <p>9.2. Third time in four years that the UCU has voted to go on strike. Previous two times, this Union Council held the vote whether to support. This time, a decision was made that it would be more democratic to open up this decision to all students to vote on.</p> <p>9.3. Vote was overwhelming in favour of strike action, so this is now the Union's position.</p> <p>9.4. Has not determined what the Union should be doing to show that support.</p> <p>9.5. Outlined in the paper what the Union decided in previous two instances. Looking for Council's views on what we should be doing this time.</p> <p>9.6. AA – Is there a good resource for student reps to understand the rationale of UCU and why strikes are occurring to communicate this to students?</p> <p>9.7. LJ – On the ICU website there is an FAQ page around the referendum with some context on strikes. LJ – Representation Team already working on this so will make sure this is taken forward.</p> <p>9.8. SLo – Head of UCU wrote a piece in Felix about their rationale which might be useful for reps to read.</p> <p>9.9. MF – Does anyone have any views on what we want to do to support?</p> <p>9.10. LJ - UCU keeping banners etc in our offices, and SL & LJ letting them in to collect in the mornings.</p> <p>9.11. Consensus to carry out similar actions to what has been done previously</p> <p>9.12. LJ – Write to Ian, LJ & rep team to communicate to reps what we expect of them</p>	<p>LJ – Write to Ian</p> <p>LJ, CT, HS – Communication to reps on actions from paper</p>

Matters for Report

10. Silwood Union Report

- 10.1. A few things pending, lots going on and a few issues, but overall things are improving.
- 10.2. Direct questions can be taken now or to his email.
- 10.3. Paper taken as read
- 10.4. MF – Impressed that we are getting Silwood Union report. Hopefully Silwood Union will do really well this year.

11. DPE Report

- 11.1. DPW, Rep team & I co delivered lots of year rep training online and in-person
- 11.2. Assisted in Advice centre caseworker interviews
- 11.3. Taking report as read
- 11.4. JW – Can we have an update on situation with Electrical & Electronic Engineering department reps?
- 11.5. DL – The department reps approached DL & JW with communication in EEE & EIE departments. I followed up from SSC on how to deal with situation. Sent email to department rep after SSC to which they responded saying they don't require further action.
- 11.6. JW – NSS recommendation updates?
- 11.7. DL – Encouraged department reps to follow up on NSS recommendations with departments. Most department reps have had conversations with Director of Undergraduate Studies. DL also sent them to the Vice-Dean Education. Continuous throughout the year will monitor the process on how the departments and reps work together
- 11.8. JW - In the table, turnout for Faculty of Natural Sciences training was lower than other faculties, is there any reason for this?
- 11.9. DL – We scheduled training 12pm-2pm for the online sessions, and maybe the timings weren't suitable for everyone, so we can look timings for future rep trainings
- 11.10. HW – Summer exam arrangements – is there an update?
- 11.11. DL – Invited to in-person exam group to discuss arrangements for summer exams. Collected feedback from department reps on how students feel about exam arrangements. DL plans to feed this back to committee.

12. DPW Report

- 12.1. Union held a town hall for students who had ongoing concern about safety in venues and spiking. Got constructive feedback.
- 12.2. Setting up working groups for disciplinary procedures and how to perform a culture review around consent which will take place next term. The College's working group on disciplinary procedures will start in January.
- 12.3. AP – Commendation on phase one rollout of period products, and prompt response to spiking situation
- 12.4. AP – Great to have update on objective 1. Given updates on restrictions, how does that effect that objective. Can that be included in future thought processes?
- 12.5. AP – JC curious about what anti-spiking measures were?
- 12.6. NP – Lids that students can ask for, once we manage to increase number in stock we can keep some outside bar too, providing test strips, dedicated first aid and quiet spaces, security have received their own written guidance on how to support students who have been spiked. Working with neighbouring venues and SUs to encourage them to also take part in these measures.
- 12.7. AP – Would like to know more on anti-spiking town hall? What was the attendance like and what kind of points were raised?
- 12.8. NP – Between 20-30 attended. 269 invited. Attendance could have been to short notice, but we wanted to do something quickly. Got a letter with ongoing concerns that students had about safety at the Union. NP thought it would be good to have open communication, and continuous feedback on our measures. Suggestions to do a security review, implementing welfare support staff, more in-depth review on tender to security firms, GF came up with the idea to create a working group on how to change cultural view on consent.
- 12.9. AP – Will consultation with students continue?
- 12.10. NP – First one went well so it would be good to see how we can get more students to attend

13. DPCS Report

- 13.1. Ran around 5 Imperial Athlete consultation town halls. Will be taking forward for next year.
- 13.2. All CSP processes and everything to make sure societies can function
- 13.3. Taking as read
- 13.4. GF – Were you on selection panel for the Presidents community fund?
- 13.5. IM - Yes
- 13.6. GF – How is the recruitment with activities team going to help improve functionality of processes?
- 13.7. IM – Recruitment will allow us to expand and develop beyond just functioning. One new role will be focussed entirely on improving CSP processes.
- 13.8. JW – Management Group election happening – any updates?
- 13.9. IM – Some sectors didn't have anyone running but we have candidates for most positions.

IM to let MF know when the management group role is elected

14. DPFS Report

- 14.1. Services & Sustainability Boards – will be one before Christmas
- 14.2. Ethics & sustainability policies will be priorities for next few weeks. Will be running working groups in early January. Members to let SL know if they are interested.
- 14.3. Venues work – security review, EPOS review, supply issues that are being worked on
- 14.4. HT – Union ethics policy – what is the timeline?
- 14.5. SL – Next term project, working with Representation Manager to set out a timeline. Includes consultation, CSP sponsorship etc. Will form a report which will be made into recommendations and next steps.
- 14.6. HT – 2nd objective?
- 14.7. SL – focus with campus services is on allergen stuff and a new approach, co-creating committee for this. Looking to diversify range of catering we provide. Estates – the focus is setting groundwork of the importance of providing student input and prove that we need to be on the committees
- 14.8. HT – What is EPOS and why does it need changes?
- 14.9. SL – EPOS system is the till systems we use in the bars and shops – how we track what we're selling, what we purchase. Current system is sub-optimal and has been for a long time. In process of getting it to a place where we can rely on the system.

15. Union President Report

- 15.1. Graduation – 3 ceremonies missed due to circumstances. College secured one date in March in the Hall which is incredibly difficult. College doesn't expect to get further dates. Question around which ceremony to prioritise. Have been lobbying college to prioritise those who have been on 3 & 4 year degrees (UGs and PhDs) over students on 1 year degrees on the basis that there is more of an attachment to College. College have now decided to go with this decision as a result of our lobbying. Difficult decision but the College has guaranteed there will be something to celebrate others.
- 15.2. HW – Good updates and seems like you are working well towards objectives. Phrasing of language around sitting on disciplinary panels to be considered
- 15.3. HW – A lot of acronyms which could be elaborated on in future for new members of Council
- 15.4. HW – Objective 3 quite brief – could you elaborate?
- 15.5. LJ – Less progressed than other objectives. Will get to it in term two when other objectives are completed. New section to be added to student experience survey around student community. Those questions will provide useful information around this objective and what consists of a student community
- 15.6. HW – Objective 4 – you said you have actioned, what does this mean?
- 15.7. LJ – Objective 4 on to do list but don't have a clear timeframe yet. Will become priority once the PG engagement review is complete.
- 15.8. HW – What happened at the town hall?
- 15.9. LJ – Responded to some comments which LJ felt were unfair in the town hall which is what that update is regarding which was then reported to Felix.

Close of meeting

Next meeting on Tuesday 11th January