

Democratic Structures Review Working Group (DSRWG) Project Plan

Working Group Membership:

- Dr Lloyd James, Union President (Chair)
- Michaela Flegrova, Council Chair
- Hayley Wong, CGCU President
- Allan Lee, CGCU Treasurer
- Alex Auyang, Silwood President
- Trinity Stenhouse, RCSU Vice-President (Operations)
- Hilliam Tung, Council Representative (UG Engineering)
- Stefano Fiocca, Council Representative (UG Science)
- Rea Tresa, Council Representative (UG Engineering)

With support from Clem Jones, Governance and Democracy Coordinator, and Cat Turhan, Advice and Representation Manager.

Key themes:

Council membership:

- What groups need to be represented on Council?
- How should Council membership be allocated? (e.g. designated roles vs more flexible allocation from CUs / subcommittees etc)
- Are any changes needed to Council subcommittee membership?

Council effectiveness:

- How should Officer/CU/Felix accountability be done – as part of Council or some other forum e.g. Town Halls?
- How frequently should Council meetings take place, how long should meetings be?
- Why are few individuals bringing business to Council? Is this a bad thing / does this suggest we should rethink how business is brought to Council?
- Do we need to clarify what Subcommittees can decide vs what needs to come to Council?

Constituent Union governance:

- How can PG representation be implemented in CUs? What is the membership status of PGs in CUs?
- Can CU Governing Documents be more standardised?
- Should CU GD approval be brought under GIB instead of Council?

Campus representation:

- How can the interests of students based at non-South Kensington campuses be most effectively represented? What are the best structures for this? Should these structures be called 'Constituent Unions'?
- How should such structures be 'plugged in' to ICU democracy – through Council, subcommittees, etc?

- How should activities run by campus structures be managed? (CSP vs MG status) How do we support social / events provision at these campuses?

Non-Council democratic mechanisms:

- How should referenda be used by the Union, and are the regulations for these set out in the Bye Laws fit for purpose?
- How should the Union's new petitions system plug in to Union governance / democratic decision-making?
- Are there any other types of meeting (eg Town Halls, General Meetings) that would be of value from a Union democracy point of view?

Key Documents:

- ICU Governing Documents (Constitution and Bye Laws)
- Council Standing Orders & Appendices
- CU Governing Documents (Constitutions, Regulations, Policies)
- PG Engagement Review Report
- Discussion: Breadth of Sources of Council Business paper

Timeline:

- 25/01: Meeting to formulate survey questions
- 28/01 – 4/02: Circulation of survey
- 8/02: Meeting to consider survey responses and discuss **Council membership**
- 22/02: Meeting to discuss **Council effectiveness**
- 8/03: Meeting to discuss **Constituent Union governance**
- 22/03: Meeting to discuss **Campus representation**
- 5/04: Meeting to discuss **Non-Council democratic mechanisms**
- 19/04: Meeting to consider DSRWG 'Green Paper'
- 25/04-29/04: Focus groups with CUs, LCOs, MG Chairs, Lay Council Members
- 3/05: Meeting to reflect on feedback from focus groups
- 17/05: Meeting to consider DSRWG 'White Paper'
- 7/06: Approval of DSRWG White Paper – Union Council
- 13/07: Approval of DSRWG White Paper – Trustee Board
- 15/07: Approval of any Constitutional Changes (if required) – College Council