

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Democratic Structures Review Working Group

Proposer: Lloyd James, President

Seconders: Democratic Structures Review Working Group [Alex Auyang (Silwood Union President), Stefano Fiocca (UG FoNS Council Representative), Michaela Flegrova (Council Chair), Allan Lee (CGCU Treasurer), India Marsden (Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)), Trinity Stenhouse (RCSU Vice-President Operations), Rea Tresa (UG FoE Council Representative), Hilliam Tung (UG FoE Council Representative), Hayley Wong (CGCU President)]

Union Notes:

1. The Democratic Structures Review was convened by Council at its November 2nd meeting, with a scope including the composition of Council, the composition and structure of Council subcommittees, and other democratic processes. Elections, sabbatical roles, and fundamental changes to volunteer roles were defined as out of scope.
2. The Working Group membership included all interested volunteers from Council and the Governance and Identity Board.
3. The DSRWG met regularly through the first half of 2022, discussing in turn various issues that were seen to be within the scope of the review. The Working Group also commissioned a survey of Council members, which was used to inform the review (the results of which are included as Appendix I).
4. The DSRWG has now produced a report summarising its recommendations. This is included as Appendix A to this paper. These recommendations include changes to the Union's Constitution and Bye Laws, as well as to the Standing Orders of Council. They will therefore need ratification by the Board of Trustees and College Council once approved.

Union Believes:

1. The recommendations of the Democratic Structures Review Working Group are the result of extensive research and deliberation, and should be trusted to set out the Union's future democratic structures.

Union Resolves:

1. To formally endorse the recommendations of the Democratic Structures Review Working Group.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. To mandate Constituent Unions to rework their existing Constitutions into Standing Orders compliant with the new Bye-Law L, by 1st August 2023. Until 31st July 2023, if a Constituent Union has not yet approved Standing Orders, then matters that would be set out in these Standing Orders should be interpreted from the version of their Constitution that was in effect on 31st July 2022.
7. To mandate the Union President to co-design with students at the White City and Hammersmith campuses a set of Standing Orders for a new Constituent Campus Union covering those campuses, in time to come into effect on 1st August 2023.
8. To amend the Standing Orders of Council as set out in Appendix F, enabling proxy voting.
9. To amend Appendix A of the Standing Orders of Council as set out in Appendix G, replacing reporting by Officer Trustees with reporting by the Scrutiny Committee.
10. To amend Appendix B of the Standing Orders of Council as set out in Appendix H, establishing the Scrutiny Committee and making the changes to Council subcommittees recommended by the DSRWG.