Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 26 February 2025

Union Council Chair Update

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Purpose: To report on the work of the Union Council Chair and Union Council

Decision: To note

1. Introduction

There have been three Council meetings since the last Board of Trustees meeting.

An acknowledgement to Zahra Butt (Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator), Hannah Corsini (Democracy and Campaigns Assistant), Helena Schofield (Representation Manager) and Clem Jones (Governance & Executive Manager) for all their support with Council so far this year, particularly with navigating the intricacies of the democracy review.

2. Council Meeting Highlights

December

Council was briefed on the rent negotiations, followed by a presentation from Alan Roberts of Counterculture on findings and potential recommendations emerging from the democracy review.

Papers from this Council, including Alan's presentation slides, can be accessed here.

January

A paper proposing the addition of a postgraduate officer to the committee of the Royal College of Science Union, one of the constituent unions, was presented. This sparked discussion about how the Union can effectively represent postgraduates. The paper was accepted, subject to amendments, although the wider question of postgraduate representation remained unresolved.

Nico and Camille updated Council on the conclusions of the rent negotiations.

Papers for this Council can be accessed here.

February

Council voted in favour of a motion to lobby the College to improve the provision of prayer facilities at the University and to acknowledge the impact that inadequate and inaccessible facilities can have on Muslim students' wellbeing and academics.

As circulated by Camille, Council also voted to remove the Deputy President (Finance & Services) role from the Leadership elections.

Finally, Council voted in favour of a motion supporting the gradual transition to 100% plant-based catering on campus, specifically:

1. To advocate for a gradual transition to university-wide 100% plant-based catering, including all university-owned and licenced outlets (i.e. those owned by Taste Imperial).
2. To propose the following timeline for a gradual transition:
    a. All university-owned/licensed outlets to serve 50% plant-based options by 2027/28.
    b. Increase plant-based options by an additional 10% annually until all offerings are plant-based, with a yearly review to evaluate revenue losses.
3. For the Union to include a requirement in future contracts with external providers operating SU outlets to increase plant-based options and reduce animal-derived menu items in line with the proposed timeline outlined in Union Resolves 2.
4. To publicly endorse Plant-Based Universities' call for a gradual transition to 100% plant-based catering (e.g. through university newsletters or blog posts, posters around campus).
5. To ensure the new menus will provide accessible, affordable, comparably nutritious, minimally processed, tasty and appealing plant-based food for all and ensuring students are consulted to make sure the criteria is met.

The outcome of this motion was covered in media outlets such as *GB News* and *Plant Based News*.

All three motions received high levels of engagement from Council members.

Papers for this Council can be accessed here.

3. Remaining Council dates

The remaining dates for Council this year are below. If any member of the Board would be interested in attending a meeting, they would be more than welcome.

Remaining meeting dates 24/25
04/03/2025
29/04/2025
27/05/2025
24/06/2025