Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 28 May 2025

Democracy Review Update

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Purpose: To brief Board on the status of Democracy Review reports / the process

Decision(s): To **note**

1. Context

Following the Board's consideration of emerging Democracy Review recommendations at the last Board meeting in February, Union Council also had the opportunity to consider the same report on Tuesday 4 March. Feedback from Board and Union Council at those meetings was received by the external consultants, for taking forward into a final report and updated suite of recommendations.

The report is due to be considered by Union Council on Tuesday 27 May (i.e. the evening before this May Trustee Board meeting), and Union Council will be invited to express a view (through the form of debating a motion containing proposals based on recommendations from the report) regarding which recommendations Union Council agrees with.

The report was circulated to Union Council on Thursday 15 May, so that Union Council members could read it ahead of two drop-in two sessions (held on Tuesday 20 May), in which students could provide further feedback. A revised version of the recommendations incorporating this input is due to be circulated (on Friday 23 May) before the Council meeting takes place.

Due to the proximity of the Council meeting to the Board of Trustees meeting, we are currently providing the Board with a link (above – please begin on p16 of the link) to the initial report circulated to Union Council ahead of their 27 May meeting. We can provide the Board with a link to the revised version once it is available.

2. Next Steps

As there is a quick turnaround between the 27 May Council meeting and the 28 May Board meeting – and the outcome of the Union Council debate is not yet known – we intend to provide a presentation/oral update at the Board meeting regarding the review recommendations passed by Union Council, which would therefore also be coming to Board for endorsement. It is likely that, in order to give Board members enough time to read and digest the outcome of the Council meeting in detail, that an extraordinary Board meeting (e.g. via Teams) will be requested to be arranged in June, so that the Democracy Review report and any recommendations endorsed by Council can be properly considered by the Board, and authorisation granted (if Board is in agreement) to the relevant Union staff to work towards implementation of those recommendations.