

**Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 23 July 2025**

Democracy Review Update / Changes to Bye-Laws A & F and Scheme of Delegation

Author(s): Clem Jones (Governance & Executive Manager)
Purpose: To brief Board on the status of Democracy Review
Decision(s): To **note** and to **approve**

1. Update since the last Board meeting

At the 24 June Union Council meeting, a motion (Annex 1 to this paper) proposing that Council endorse the Democracy Review recommendations as appended to the motion was **carried** (20 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 2 abstentions) with minor amendments. Council has therefore passed a motion that contains the following 'Union Requests': -

Union Requests

1. Endorsement/consideration by the ICU Board of Trustees of passed recommendations, so that work towards passed recommendations can begin.

The full Democracy Review Report is included in the Exhibition Book, however, the recommendations are summarised in the motion in Annex 1. Board is asked to endorse the Democracy Review recommendations so that work on implementing the changes requested/recommended by Council can [continue to] be implemented in earnest. There are a few items requiring Board's particular attention (most related to the Democracy Review but one other Union Council item as well): -

Recommendations with Financial Implications

Some of the recommendations emerging from the Democracy Review have resource implications for the Union. Such recommendations were therefore worded in the Council motion to make clear that allocating resource is within the purview of trustees and would need to be considered by the Board. Recommendations 2.4 and 3.1 (highlighted in yellow in Annex 1) ask that trustees consider prioritising resource in the following areas: -

- resource to support postgraduate community and representatives via additional staff support e.g. a Postgraduate Coordinator (most likely fixed-term role in the first instance)
- a funding pot for volunteers to use to deliver community organising initiatives and events

It is the paper author's understanding that facilitation of the above has been incorporated into the proposed 25/26 ICU Budget, which is being presented to Board separately at this meeting for approval. SMT will be able to provide confirmation of this at the Board meeting.

DPFS (Bye-Law F)

At the 24 June Union Council meeting, Camille Boutrolle (Union President) proposed a motion distinct from the Democracy Review to remove the role of the Deputy President (Finance and Services) from the Bye-Laws (specifically from Bye-Law F at this time). This motion differed from the proposal in the Democracy Review motion, which suggested that the role should go unelected for a year. An amendment was added during the meeting to also change the name of the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) role in Bye-Law F to Deputy President (Activities), in line with a Council-endorsed Democracy Review recommendation. This motion was approved by Council.

As Bye-Law changes are made jointly by the Board and a two-thirds majority of Union Council, Board is asked to approve the proposed changes to Bye-Law F (Annex 2)

Estranged and Care-experienced Network (Bye-Law A)

At the 1 July extraordinary Council meeting, a motion to establish an Estranged and Care-experienced Students Liberation and Community Network was carried. This motion contained the following 'Union Resolves': -

1. To amend Byelaw A to include 'Estranged and Care-experienced' as point 30.10

As Bye-Law changes are made jointly by the Board and a two-thirds majority of Union Council, Board is asked to approve the proposed change to Bye-Law A (Annex 3).

Scheme of Delegation

With the proposed removal of the DPFS role, and the changed name of DPCS to DPA, updates to the Union's Scheme of Delegation are required.

A separate operational issue that we would like to take this opportunity to also fix is to allow the Managing Director under the Scheme to approve aggregated university invoices exceeding the payment threshold, where individual items are within delegated limits. (This has arisen from a >£50k invoice to Imperial for BUCS recharges, which would otherwise require Board approval as it is expenditure over £50k; however, historically the Union has taken the view that as this is not one piece of expenditure, but dozens added together – so we would like to make this explicit in the Scheme).

2. Recommendation

Board is asked to

- Accept the recommendations of the Democracy Review as endorsed by Union Council (Annex 1)
- Approve the updates to Bye-Law F (Annex 2)
- Approve the updates to Bye-Law A (Annex 3)
- Approve the updates to the Scheme of Delegation (Annex 4)

Annexes

In the paper pack:

- a. Annex 1 – Democracy Review motion from 24 June Union Council meeting*
- b. Annex 2 - Bye-Law F*
- c. Annex 3 - Bye-Law A*
- d. Annex 4 - Scheme of Delegation*

In the exhibition book:

- e. Annex 5 – DPFS Removal from Bye-Law F motion from 24 June Union Council meeting*
- f. Annex 6 - Establishing an Official ICU Estranged and Care-experienced Students Network motion from 1 July Union Council meeting*
- g. Annex 7 - Democracy Review Full Report (Final Version)*