Imperial College Union Policy
Scheme of Delegation

Audience: Trustees, staff

Owner(s): Board of Trustees

Last updated: November 2025

Review Date: 25 February 2026

Version Control

Version	Date	Comments/changes
2.2	**25 February 2026**	▪ Clarification on strategic risk register: **approval** at Trustee Board; Finance, Audit and Risk Committee delegated authority to regularly review (**note**) & annually **recommend** strategic risk register and risk management approach. ▪ Delegated authority to the Management Committee to write off student group debts up to £10k.
2.1	November 2025	▪ Payment Authorisation Limit for two of SMT/FC working together increased from between £10k and £25k to between £10k to £50k; Payment Authorisation Limit for MD increased from up to £25k to now be up to £50k.
2.0 (First time version control added to cover sheet)	July 2025	▪ Changing Deputy President Clubs and Societies (DPCS) to Deputy President Activities (DPA) ▪ Remove reference to the Deputy President Finance and Services (DPFS) ▪ To allow the Managing Director to approve aggregated university invoices exceeding the payment threshold, where individual items are within delegated limits. (These changes are all tracked for staff ease).
1.0	February 2025	▪ Delegated authority to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee to approve the student group funding policy and for CSPB to recommend the principles of the policy. ▪ Codifying changes to CSP budget and expenditure approvals, clarifies that relevant activities team staff can approve CSP expenditure up to delegated amounts. This concludes

		the implementation of the 2023/24 student group funding review. ▪ Increased clarity related to sponsorship agreements for commercial and activities staff. This also includes clarity on authority for multiyear sponsorship and contracts agreements. This helps mitigate a large risk area related to multiyear agreements with additional controls.

Scheme of Delegation

Area: Good Governance & Democracy										
	Membership	**Board of Trustees**	**Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee**	**Governance & Membership Subcommittee**	**Officer Trustees**	**Management Committee**	**Managing Director**	**Senior Management**	**Managers**	**College**
Elections	Elect positions.	Appoint RO / DRO. Receive RO's report.		Approve election regulations. Authorise election results. Remove election candidates.						
Board of Trustees Effectiveness		Undertake annual effectiveness review, including subcommittees (Chair). Appointment of new Trustees. Induction of new Trustees (Chair with Managing Director).					Induction of new Trustees (with Chair of Trustees).			
Governing Documents	Approve changes to governing documents via Union Council / referenda.	Ensure compliance with governing documents. Approve changes to governing documents. Undertake quinquennial review of constitution (with College Council).				Review and recommend changes to governing documents.				College Council approve changes to constitution. Undertake quinquennial review of constitution with (Board of Trustees).

	Area: Financial										
	Membership	**Board of Trustees**	**Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee**	**Governance & Membership Subcommittee**	**Officer Trustees**	**Management Committee**	**Managing Director**	**Senior Management**	**Managers**	**All Staff**	**College**
Budgets		Approve budget principles and timeline. Approve budget. Approve CSP grant allocation.	Consider and recommend annual budget to the Board. Approve reforecast. Set provisional figure for CSP grant to be used in budget development. Approve the CSP grant allocation framework, which may be delegated, and the Student Group Funding Policy.			Consider and recommend budget.		FD: Develop budget principles and timeline. FD: Propose budgets and reforecasts.	Develop departmental budgets for SMT review		
Financial Monitoring & Reporting		Approve annual report & accounts and letter of representation. Review quarterly financial performance reports. Receive external auditors report.	Review and recommend annual report and accounts. Monitor financial performance at each meeting, report concerns to the Board of Trustees.				Prepare Trustees Annual Report.	Review financial performance on monthly basis, take appropriate actions required to meet budgets. FD: Ensure financial reporting is accurate and produced in line with agreed timetable. FD: Prepare annual report and accounts for presentation to Trustees.	(Where budget holders) review financial performance against budget on a monthly basis, raise areas of concern with their line manager.		

Financial Control Framework		Approve accounting policies (reserves, capex, investment etc). Approval of any changes to Bank Accounts (including signatories).	Review and recommend accounting policies. Approve Financial Regulations. Receive external auditors reports.								
Investments		Approve new investments. Receive annual investment performance report.	Monitor investment performance and approve changes to investment levels.								
Borrowing		Approve any borrowing of any kind (with College CFO).									Approve any borrowing (CFO).
	Membership	**Board of Trustees**	**Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee**	**Governance & Membership Subcommittee**	**Officer Trustees**	**Management Committee**	**Managing Director**	**Senior Management**	**Managers**	**All Staff**	**College**
Payments							Approval of payments over £50k (with a Senior Manager or Financial Controller)	Approval of payments up to £10k (1 x Senior Manager or Financial Controller) Approval of payments £10-50k (2 authorisers from Senior Managers or Financial Controller) Approval of payments	Approval of payments up to £10k (Financial Controller) Approval of payments up to £10k (with a Senior Manager)		

								over £50k (with MD)			
Expenditure		Approve any expenditure over £50k (except payroll)	Approve unbudgeted expenditure over £10k		President: Approve all expenditure £10 - 50k (or MD) DPA: Approve all CSP expenditure up to 50k (or Student Activities Managers)		Approve all expenditure £10 - 50k (or President) Approve aggregated expenditure over £50k from the College if individual items are within limits. Approve contingency spend Approve capital expenditure over £10k (with FD)	Approve budgeted expenditure up to £10k FD: Approve contingency spend (or MD) FD: Approve capital expenditure up to £10k FD: Approve capital expenditure over £10k (with MD)	(Where budget holders) approve budgeted expenditure up to £5k Student Activities Managers: Approve CSP all expenditure up to 50k (or DPA)	Student Activities Staff: Approve all CSP expenditure up to 10k.	
Tax								FD: Approve tax returns	Financial Controller: Prepare tax returns for approval		

Contracts					President: Approve all other contracts (with MD) DPA: Approve CSP contracts up to two years and up to 50k in value (or Student Activities Manager)		Approve all other contracts (with President)	(Where budget holders) Approve contracts up to three years in line with their budgets and remits.	(Where budget holders) approve contracts up to one year and up to 10k in value, in line with their budgets and remits. Student Activities Managers: Approve CSP contracts up to two years and up to 50k in value (or DPA)	Commercial staff: Approve contracts up to one year and up to 5k in value (or up to 10k with approval from their line manager), in line with their budgets and remits. Student Activities Staff (direct reports to Student Activities Managers): Approve CSP contracts up to one year and up to 10k in value.	
Student Group Debt			**Receive** an **annual** report on Student Group Debt.			Approve the write off of student group debts, charged to the Activities Development Fund, up to a maximum of £10k per individual case and only where sufficient funds remain within the overall Activities Development Fund budget for the year.					

Area: Human Resources										
	Membership	**Board of Trustees**	**Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee**	**Governance & Membership Subcommittee**	**Officer Trustees**	**Management Committee**	**Managing Director**	**Senior Management**	**Managers**	**College**
Performance Management		Chair: Performance management of MD (with President).			President: Performance management of MD (with Chair).					
Recruitment		Chair: Lead recruitment and induction of MD. Board: Approve panel for MD appointment. A Trustee: On panel for all Senior Management appointments.			On panel for Senior Management appointments.		Appointment of Senior Managers.			
Restructuring		Approve changes to structure of Senior Management Team. Approve restructures (if over three staff face redundancy).					Approve changes to staffing structures below Senior Management.			Approve restructures (if over three staff face redundancy).
Disciplinaries		Disciplinary process at appeal stage for MD.			President: Disciplinary process at appeal against dismissal stage for senior managers where required.			Responsible for managing disciplinary matters in line with policy.		

Area: Strategy										
	Membership	**Board of Trustees**	**Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee**	**Governance & Membership Subcommittee**	**Officer Trustees**	**Management Committee**	**Managing Director**	**Senior Management**	**Managers**	**College**
Strategic Plan, Mission & Values	Consulted on strategic plan, mission & values.	Approve strategic plan. Monitor progress against strategic plan.			Lead student engagement and consultation.	Review and recommend strategy to Board for approval.	Lead on development of strategic plan/ Ensure plan is measured against KPIs and reported to Board.	Consulted on strategic plan, mission & values. Model organisational values. Translate strategic plan into operational plans.	Responsible for operational planning and delivery.	Consulted on strategic plan, mission & values.
Financial Strategy			Approve financial strategy. Monitor performance against financial strategy.					FD: Develop financial strategy.		

Area: Risk Management										
	Membership	**Board of Trustees**	**Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee**	**Governance & Membership Subcommittee**	**Officer Trustees**	**Management Committee**	**Managing Director**	**Senior Management**	**Managers**	**College**
Strategic Risk		Approve ~~Set~~ the organisation's approach to managing risk. **Annually review** and **approve** the strategic risk register.	**Recommend** to the Board the strategic risk register and organisation approach to risk management **ahead of the annual Board review**. ~~Regularly r~~Review **(note)** the strategic risk register **routinely**, and **monitor** and track progress on~~to reduce or mitigate risk.~~risk mitigation activities.			Monitor strategic risks biannually.	Overall responsibility for risk management.	Regularly review organisation's risk profile. DoSS: Maintain strategic risk register.		Review Union risk register annually.

Operational Risk			**Review** at least **annually** the Union's risk escalation procedure **Review annually** the Union's business continuity plan.-					Regularly review operational / departmental risk registers.	Maintain operational / departmental risk registers.	
H&S Risk		Receive an annual report on H&S management.	Approve H&S policies. Monitor progress of H&S action plan.				Overall responsibility for H&S management as the designated Safety Officer.	DoSS: Lead collaboration with the College on H&S matters.	Implement H&S policies. Facilities, H&S Manager: Maintain training and policy monitoring.	

Area: Equality, Diversity & Inclusion										
	Membership	**Board of Trustees**	**Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee**	**Governance & Membership Subcommittee**	**Officer Trustees**	**Management Committee**	**Managing Director**	**Senior Management**	**Managers**	**College**
Policy		Approve ED&I policies.								
Monitoring and management		Monitor performance of ED&I initiatives alongside other HR metrics.			President: Appoint a lead OT representative on EDI.		Overall responsibility for ED&I management.	Role model inclusive leadership practice.	Implement ED&I policies.	