Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 27 May 2026

Union Council Chair Update

Author: Anthea MacIntosh-LaRocque (Union Council Chair)

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

Decision: To note

1. Introduction

Owing to the Easter break, there has only been one Union Council meeting since Board last met.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in making Council work so far this year, not least Aisha Qadi (Democracy & Representation Assistant), Nicole Carmeni (Content & Communications Coordinator), Zahra Butt (ICU Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator), Ruben Kretek (Senior Web Developer), Helena Schofield (Representation Manager), Clem Jones (Governance & Executive Manager), Ashley Cory (Director of Support Services), Annie Willmot (Director of Membership Services).

2. Council 4 (17 March 2026)

In the March Council meeting, Rob Pegg (ICU Director of Commercial Services) responded to questions from Council members regarding the commercial operations of the Union. Following this, Annie Willmot (ICU Director of Membership Services) led a consultation on ICU's Digital Strategy & Membership Engagement Plan. This was in response to the frustration felt by many students regarding Union communications and digital systems.

As the Board is already aware, Council sought further clarification regarding the process of re-appointing student trustees to Board. The Board's response will be shared with Council in the upcoming paper pack.

All papers discussed at this meeting can be found here.

3. Suggestions

One of the democracy review recommendations involved creating an online platform for students to submit their suggestions for change at the Union, University or in the wider community. The idea is that this platform acts as a "catch-all" for students submitting feedback or ideas which can then be triaged by the Council Chair and the representation team. The hope is that this allows more student ideas to be discussed at Forums and ultimately passed as policy at Council.

The system is now live, having launched in mid-February. As of writing, the platform has received seven submissions. We have experienced technical issues relating to SUMS which we have been working with ICU's systems team to resolve. As this requires raising customer support tickets with SUMS, resolving these issues has taken longer than anticipated. We are currently waiting until these issues are resolved to further publicise the platform.

4. **Remaining Council dates 2025-26**

Union Council will take place on the following dates this academic year:

- 26 May 2026
- 9 June 2026

Any member of the Board is welcome to attend Council; please let me know and I can send you the meeting details.