Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 29 July 2026

Bye-Law Updates

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Purpose: To seek approval for bye-law changes carried by Union Council.

Decision: To approve

Useful abbreviations

PG	postgraduate
PGT	postgraduate taught (e.g., MSc)
PGR	postgraduate research (e.g., PhD, MRes)
AWO	Academic and Welfare Officer
CU	Constituent Union
RCSU	Royal College of Science Union (CU representing most natural sciences students at Imperial)
CGCU	City and Guilds College Union (CU representing most engineering students at Imperial)
RSMU	Royal School of Mines Union (CU representing all students in the Departments of Materials and Earth Science and Engineering)
ICSMSU	Imperial College School of Medicine Student Union (CU representing undergraduates in the Imperial College School of Medicine)

1. Background

At its meeting on the 26th of May 2026, Union Council carried three motions proposing changes to the Union's Bye-Laws, subject to ratification by the Board of Trustees. Details of these changes are outlined in sections 2 and 3 below.

2. Postgraduate representation changes

The Union's Postgraduate Representation Coordinator, Jordon Milward, is undertaking a postgraduate representation re-structure, commissioned in response to the recommendations of the democracy review. As an initial step in this restructure, a proposal to implement a number of changes was brought to Council for approval. These changes include:

1. Removing the PGT and PGR AWO positions who make up the existing structure for Faculty-level postgraduate representation. These positions sit outside of the constituent union structure and "report" to a Union-wide PGT Chair and PGR Chair, respectively.
2. Adding two new roles, a PGT and a PGR officer to each of RCSU, CGCU, and RSMU.
3. In recognition of its unique structure and context, a recommendation for a dedicated review of Silwood Park Student Union's representation structure.
4. A three-tier representation structure for ICSMSU, reflecting its unique structure.
5. A representation structure for the remainder of the Faculty of Medicine including a PG Chair, Vice-Chair PGT and Vice-Chair PGR and department-level representative positions.

An additional change was initially proposed to combine the Union-wide PGT and PGR Chair into a single position; however, this was amended at Council in favour of maintaining separate roles.

These changes are reflected in the amendments to Bye-Laws A and F.

3. Officer Trustee role descriptions and constituent Unions

The Union's Democracy and Representation Assistant, Aisha Qadi, brought a paper proposing minor changes to the role descriptions of the Officer Trustees. Additionally, she brought a paper proposing the following bye-law changes regarding CUs:

1. Clarifying the relationship between ICU and CUs.
2. Removing mention of the White City & Hammersmith Students' Union, which has never been operationalised.
3. The duty to explicitly mention postgraduate representation in CU Standing Orders, where relevant.

These changes are reflected in the amendments to Bye-Laws F and L.

4. Recommendation

That Board ratifies the amended Bye-Laws A, F and L as set out in the appendices.