Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 29 July 2026

AOB: Approval of Expenditure for Imperial College Underwater (SCUBA) Club

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Purpose: To request board approval for the payment of up to £85k for the SCUBA Club following a grant award received from Imperial College, and to delegate authority to the Managing Director, with the President, to sign related contracts.

Decision(s): To **approve**.

1. Context

The Harlington Grant Fund is an Imperial funding pot which provides equipment and capital expenditure funding for ICU clubs and societies. The fund is fully managed by Imperial and funded by the Imperial endowment.

In March 2026 the Harlington Grant Fund Committee agreed to fund the purchase of a replacement rigid-hulled inflatable boat (RHIB) for Imperial College Underwater Club. The total grant awarded was £31,434.09, and Imperial College Council approved the grant award in July 2026.

The dive boat is an essential asset for the club, reducing the cost of diving for students by over 70% and enabling the training and recreational diving required by its constitution. The current boat, purchased in 2006, is reaching the end of its cost-effective lifespan.

The replacement boat has been quoted at **£82,204.80 including VAT**. As SCUBA is a VAT exempt sport, the Union is unable to claim back VAT on this purchase.

The club has been saving for this purchase since 2014 and have built up a significant balance in their Designated Members Fund (savings) accounts of £52,000.00. Therefore, the purchase is intended to be part-covered by their DMF accounts (£50,770.71) and the full Harlington Grant (£31,434.09).

The ICU Scheme of Delegation[1] requires that the Board of Trustees approve all expenditure over £50k.

As such, the Board is requested to consider approving expenditure of up to £85,000, including a contingency in case of a slight increase in cost. The Board should note that the £31,434.09 grant award has been confirmed by Imperial and the funds have already reached the Union's accounts.

2. Recommendation

The Board of Trustees is asked to **approve** the expenditure, up to a limit of £85,000.

The Board of Trustees is asked to **approve** delegated authority for the Managing Director, with the President, to sign contracts up to the value of £85,000 in relation to the purchase of the Underwater Club's new RHIB.

[1] 14 Scheme of Delegation Feb 2026