

Imperial College Union

SUSPENSION OF TIME LIMIT ON NOMINATIONS OPENING FOR THE GSA CHAIR VACANCY

A note by the President

Background

Following the resignation of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Chair at the last meeting of Council there are now no members of this committee. On Tuesday I held a meeting with the DPEW and several postgraduate students who have previously been involved with the GSA to discuss how we should move forward. Constitutionally in the event of a vacancy occurring election nominations must open within 10 College days but the consensus from the sabbatical team and those present at the meeting thought that given that the GSA currently has no committee and zero profile it would be best to re-establish student involvement and the GSA brand before we advertise elections and that given the 3 unsuccessful attempts to run cross-campus ballots for GSA Committee positions it would not be a good idea to attempt to do so again until we have engaged a lot more students.

Section C of Regulation Four of the Union Constitution gives Council the power to extend this 10 day deadline as it sees fit by two-thirds majority. It would be impractical to call an emergency meeting of Council to discuss this one item at such short notice so I am asking that the Trustee Board takes this decision and for it to be reported back to the next meeting of Council. The most appropriate time to hold an election is currently under discussion but will ultimately depend on the level of activity that takes place over the coming month. Concern was expressed that if we hold an election towards the end of term then it would be difficult to engage the electorate as this is the time when people are under a lot of academic pressure. The postgraduate meeting group was unanimous that elections should take place no later than January 2008 and so I am asking this committee to suspend the ten day requirement until Council in consultation with the postgraduates involved in helping to re-establish the GSA decide when would be the best opportunity to run a successful set of elections.

Decision required

1. On behalf of Council use the power granted in Regulation 4 C 18 to suspend the opening of nominations for the elections to the positions of GSA Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Nominations for these positions must open no later than January 2008 upon resolution of Council to lift this suspending order.
2. To mandate the Council Chair to report this decision to the next ordinary meeting of Council.