

Executive Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2009

**Proposal to split the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) into Two Sabbatical Officers; Deputy President (Education and Development) and Deputy President (Welfare)**

*Proposed by the President of Imperial College Union*

*Seconded by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare), CGCU Academic Affairs Officer, CGCU Honorary Secretary and ICU Welfare Campaigns Officer*

**The Union notes:**

1. That in Student Unions nationally, Education and Welfare are represented independently,
2. That only 3 Student Unions out of the Russell Group's 20 members still have a combined Education and Welfare Sabbatical Officer; all the rest have separate Education and Welfare sabbaticals,
3. The position of Deputy President (Education & Welfare) was created in 1999 to meet the representation and welfare needs of Imperial Students. The responsibility for this previously lay with the President of Imperial College Union. Since then, student numbers have increased from 9441 FT + 946 PT in the year 1999-2000 to 12319 FT + 1036 PT in the year 2007-08,
4. Since the creation of 2 central Union Sabbatical Officers in 1972, there has been a three-fold increase in the number of registered students at Imperial. There has not been an equivalent increase in the number of Sabbatical Officers,
5. The position of Deputy President (Graduate Students) was created in 2005 because of a gap in Postgraduate Representation. This role was removed from the Sabbatical team in 2007 mostly due to the difficulty of recruiting a Postgraduate Student to the position. The responsibility for representation of Postgraduate Students then fell jointly between the Graduate Students' Association Chair (a full time Postgraduate Student) and the Deputy President (Education & Welfare),
6. That a significant proportion of the Deputy President (Education and Welfare)'s role is representing students through Committees and individual meetings on many issues. These include, but are not restricted to, the following areas:
  - Student Experience
  - Health services
  - Accommodation
  - Careers
  - Personal development
  - Equal Opportunities and Disabilities
  - International Students
  - eLearning
  - Library
  - Humanities
  - Student satisfaction- survey results
  - Quality Assurance
  - Undergraduate Studies Committees
  - Graduate School Committees
  - Recruitment/ admissions
  - Registry Committees
  - Security
  - Fees/ finance
  - Ethics/ environment
  - General Welfare Committees

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7. That leaving the NUS in the summer of 2008 has left a surplus of over £45,000 in the Union's subvention from College this year to spend as the ICU Executive Committee decides,
8. That an extra sabbatical costs in the region of £25,000 a year with the requirement for office space,

**The Union Believes:**

9. The increase in student and course numbers has resulted in a more diverse range of representation challenges which are not entirely met by the current sabbatical structure. Traditionally Postgraduate Students have been the most under-represented,
10. The current responsibilities of the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) cannot be shifted to other sabbatical officers due their considerable existing workload,
11. That Quality Assurance is taken seriously by Imperial College, with student input into delivery of education having an ever-increasing role. This responsibility primarily falls to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare). This role cannot be effectively fulfilled by a staff member,
12. It is important to maintain a presence on College Committees, however this has meant the role of Deputy President (Education and Welfare) has become less Union-focused,
13. That much of the work of the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) is reactive due to time constraints. Two separate Education and Welfare sabbaticals would allow each to research and lobby on student issues proactively,
14. It is important to have a central Union sabbatical to co-ordinate faculty and individual initiatives to improve the delivery of education and welfare services in College,
15. Having separate sabbatical officers for Education and Welfare would mean more focused candidates would run for the respective positions. Traditionally, the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) has been more focused on one aspect of the role,
16. The ICU Community Action Group and ICU RAG would be better supported by a sabbatical involved in projects within the local community,
17. There is space within the Union redevelopment for office space for an extra sabbatical,
18. That there is support from senior College staff for this new position.

**This Union Resolves:**

19. To remove the position of Deputy President (Education and Welfare) from the sabbatical team and introduce a Deputy President (Education and Development) and Deputy President (Welfare) in effect from the academic year 2009-10\*,
20. That if the motion is passed at this council it shall be null and void if assurance is not given before the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2009 that the funding originally budgeted as NUS affiliation fee will be retained.
21. No money shall be cut from the Clubs and Societies budget as a consequence of the introduction of a new sabbatical officer,
22. To make the following specific amendments to the Imperial College Union constitution:
  - a. Regulation Three- Officers of the Union
    - i. Remove Deputy President (Education and Welfare) from the list of **A. Officers of the Union,**
    - ii. Add Deputy President (Education and Development) to the list of **A. Officers of the Union,**

- iii. Add Deputy President (Welfare) to the list of **A. Officers of the Union,**
- iv. Remove Deputy President (Education and Welfare) from **C. Job Descriptions for the Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor.**
- v. Add Deputy President (Education and Development) to **C. Job Descriptions for the Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor,** with the following job description:
  - The Deputy President (Education and Development) shall:
    - i. Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union,
    - ii. Take on Presidential duties as appropriate,
    - iii. Be responsible for identifying and informing College of student opinion on academic affairs and suggesting areas for development,
    - iv. Work with College on enhancing the student experience and provision for student development,
    - v. Be responsible for the training and running of a Representation Network for the Academic Representatives of the Faculty Unions and other student bodies,
    - vi. Liaise with the Faculty Unions and Graduate Students Association on all academic matters concerning Undergraduate and Postgraduate students respectively,
    - vii. Liaise with Union and College staff as appropriate,
    - viii. Attend the relevant Union Committees,
    - ix. Represent the Union on external committees as appropriate,
    - x. Report to Union Committees as appropriate, and
    - xi. Negotiate other duties with the President.
- vi. Add Deputy President (Welfare) to **C. Job Descriptions for the Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor,** with the following job description:
  - The Deputy President (Welfare) shall:
    - i. Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union,
    - ii. Take on Presidential duties as appropriate,
    - iii. Be responsible for identifying and informing College of student opinion on welfare issues and suggesting areas for development,
    - iv. Be responsible for representing the welfare needs of all students, including minority or under-represented groups to the College,
    - v. Be responsible for coordinating and publicising all campaigns concerning equal opportunities and welfare issues.
    - vi. Be responsible for maintaining and running a Welfare Network for the Welfare Officers of the Faculty Unions and other student bodies,
    - vii. Assist the President in enforcing the Union's Equal Opportunities Policy,
    - viii. Liaise with Union and College staff as appropriate,
    - ix. Attend the relevant Union Committees,
    - x. Represent the Union on external committees as appropriate,
    - xi. Report to Union Committees as appropriate, and
    - xii. Negotiate other duties with the President.
- vii. Change the Equal Opportunities Officer in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers,** to add:
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare)'
- viii. Change the International Students' Officer in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers,** to add:
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare)'
- ix. Change the Welfare Campaigns Officer in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers,** from:
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) for the research and implementation of campaigns' to,
  - 2. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare) for the research and implementation of campaigns',
- x. Change the Faculty Academic Affairs Officers in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers,** from:

1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty' to,
2. Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Development) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty',
- xi. Change the Faculty Welfare Officers in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers**, from:
  1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty' to,
  2. Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty',
- xii. Change the Postgraduate Representatives in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers**, from:
  1. 'Assist the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) and Graduate Schools Association's Chair in the co-ordination of academic and welfare representation of Postgraduate taught or research students in their Graduate School Department' to,
  2. 'Assist the Deputy President (Education and Development), Deputy President (Welfare) and Graduate Schools Association's Chair in the co-ordination of academic and welfare representation of Postgraduate taught or research students in their Graduate School Department'.
- b. Regulation Five- Composition of Union Committees
  - i. Remove Deputy President (Education and Welfare) from the list of **A. The Council**,
  - ii. Add Deputy President (Education and Development) to the list of **A. The Council**,
  - iii. Add and Deputy President (Welfare) to the list of **A. The Council**,
  - iv. Remove Rag and Community Action Group from **C. The Clubs and Societies Board**,
  - v. Add the following point to **D. The Representation and Welfare Board**:
    1. The Representation and Welfare Board shall oversee the activities of Rag and the Community Action Group.
  - vi. Change point 26 in **D. The Representation and Welfare Board** from:
    1. 'The Representation and Welfare Board shall be chaired by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare)' to:
    2. 'The Representation and Welfare Board shall be chaired alternately by the Deputy President (Education and Development) and the Deputy President (Welfare)',
  - vii. Change point 32 in **D. The Representation and Welfare Board** from:
    1. 'The Halls Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare)' to:
    2. 'The Halls Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy President (Welfare)'.

\* Nominations for the sabbatical positions open on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2009