

Club and Society Board  
13<sup>th</sup> October 2009

Subject: Appeal against the rejection of AIESEC Imperial Student Society

I am writing to you on behalf of AIESEC Imperial, to submit a formal appeal against the Club and Society Board's decision to reject AIESEC Imperial as a student society at Imperial College London in June 2009. We therefore would like the decision to be considered by the Club and Society Board to debate whenever to invalidate their previous decision, after considering the rest of this letter.

We believe the topics discussed in the brief meeting in June 2009, has led to misconception developed by the members on the CSB about AIESEC Imperial. We also took on their recommendations for the development of AIESEC Imperial and spent the summer of 2009 looking into details about the feasibility of their recommendations. Also other factors may have affected the brief meeting between AIESEC Imperial and the CSB in June 2009.

The content of this appeal letter will cover:

1. How AIESEC Imperial was not given a fair platform to present its society
2. What AIESEC is really about
3. Why AIESEC Imperial should not be allocated under the Imperial College London Careers Advisory Centre

We, AIESEC Imperial, feel that we were not given a fair platform to present the society to the CSB in the first in June 2009. This was because the members on the board made it clear to us that they would like to make this quick as possible even though we arrived on time and was left waiting for a long period of time. Hence, this applied unnecessary pressure on us. Also this message was reinforced by the fact that one of the board members ran down the stairs (in the Union building) after the meeting overtaking us even though we left the room before him. This did not create a good impression on the CSB, hence we belief they did not listen to us to their best of their ability. However, I have discuss this situation with Jenny Wilson who have reassured me that this guy would not be sitting on the board this year and this kind of situation would not likely occur in the future.

During the meeting, we believe the CSB did not develop a proper understanding of the AIESEC Society, in general. Hence, I have included a description what our society about and what we could do and what benefits we could bring to the student/recent graduate population of Imperial College London.

"AIESEC is the world largest international non-profit student society in the world which spans in 107 countries and consist of approximately 35000 members worldwide. Whilst in the UK, there are 23 local AIESEC committees in different universities covering Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Being an AIESEC member and going through the AIESEC experience would enable members to contribute to their personal development. The AIESEC Experience (XP) consist of 5 philosophies

1. Take responsibility for your leaning and learning of others
2. Build a network of contacts

3. Self reflection and meta-cognition
4. Build your theoretical and practical skills
5. Challenge your world vision

AIESEC delivers leadership positions for students to help them develop their leadership and potential so to enable them to have the ability to stand out from crowd and create opportunities for themselves and others. Consequently, AIESEC envision the peace and fulfilment of humankind's potential by empowering their AIESEC experiences to have a positive impact on society throughout their lives.

AIESEC Imperial will adopt the AIESEC UK recommended structure to help create the position of leadership. Leadership skills will be gained by collaborating with other teams and leading a team to ensure they achieve the targets set. Each team have their own personal objectives (e.g. developing new traineeships, recruiting new members and looking after current ones, raised new Exchange Participants (EPs) for the WAP and sending them abroad). Throughout the year, they will be focused on their goal and will have to meet up regularly to ensure everyone is productive. It must be noted that EVERY member has a position of responsibility inside the society.

AIESEC also runs a Work Abroad Program (WAP) which provides students and recent graduates with the opportunity to live and work in another country. They will have the opportunity to gain access to the comprehensive AIESEC network and find internship which ranges from 6 weeks to 18 months long to suit themselves. Internship can be categorized into 4 groups: Education, Development, Management and Technical Internships. Working abroad is extremely beneficial to students, in today's international global society and economy. Here, students and recent graduates will able to be in position of responsibilities on their exchanges where they will be learning by doing and gaining vital skills and learning to life experiences. I, myself have been on an AIESEC Internship for 6 weeks to Ghana where I was in charge of marketing for the AIESEC's AfriTour Project. I believe I have learnt a lot and it has changed my perspective about myself and also on life. One of the reasons for me to go on an AIESEC Internship was the fact that I wanted to be "investing into my future" and to develop myself as an "all rounded individual". Having worked in a different country for a long period, I believe my personality has changed for the better and I have gained new skill sets that I was beneficial to my personal and future career. What we aim to do is offer Imperial College Students and recent graduate the opportunities to work abroad in an area of their interest.

AIESEC Imperial has the opportunity to run various projects which are extremely beneficial for its members. They are the Leadership Tournament (LT) and the Developing Leaders Day (DLD).



In the leadership tournament, AIESEC Imperial's members and all students/recent graduates will the opportunity to enter this tournament. Here the Local Committee (LC) will be able to organise local heats for 40 individuals or more to come together into teams and compete in a project so they could reach the final which is being hosted by AIESEC UK. The Leadership Tournament is extremely beneficial to members especially towards their learning and developing their CV. Also external companies e.g. GSK are known to endorse these kinds of events and rate them highly. Whilst on DLD,

all students and recent graduates will be able to learn and understand the concept of leadership from external people/companies.

AIESEC members also have the opportunity to attend conferences in UK or around the world, which allows them to develop networks with other universities and different types of people. The power of networking is vital, since from being an AIESECer, only then you can get a truly international experience and broaden your view about the world. These conference are always inspirational and a lot of fun for student. Hence, the AIESEC network always has the ability to increase the potential of any students!”

In the meeting with the CSB, they clearly suggested that AIESEC Imperial would be better served under the Careers Advisory Service Centre rather than the Imperial College London Student Union. Hence during the summer of 2009, we had a meeting with the Career Advisory Service Director, Elspeth Farrar. Me, Charlotte and the President of AIESEC UK were present at this meeting. We discuss the possibility of AIESEC Imperial being setup. The conclusion of this meeting clearly identified what AIESEC Imperial should and should not do and we have agreed with her and willing to work within these boundaries. After further discussion, she gave permission for us to promote AIESEC on campus.

Should not:

-  Contact external agencies/companies using the Imperial name.
-  AIESEC Imperial is not allowed to setup any careers fair.

Should

-  Promote working abroad

However, with the Careers Advisory Service Centre support, we feel that AIESEC Imperial would not be able to run efficiently. This is because we believe AIESEC Imperial is not solely a “service” provided to the students, and is not similar to Pimlico Connections as first thought by members on the CSB. For AIESEC Imperial to work efficient and effectively in providing the AIESEC Experience, we believe we should be working WITH the Careers Advisory Service centre and NOT working FOR the Careers Advisory Service Centre.

Reasons why:

1. Their suggestion goes against the meaning of AIESEC
2. Confusion would be created among students about what is AIESEC
3. The long term sustainability of AIESEC Imperial would be threatened.
4. The benefits of the AIESEC Experience would not be felt by Imperial College Students.
5. AIESEC Imperial ability to achieve its aims would be severely restricted
6. It would create confusion to who has the responsibility to give official status to an prospective student society

Fundamentally, AIESEC is an international student organisation which is run by students for the students. Effectively, prospective members at Imperial College would not be able to recognise this fact because they will see AIESEC as a facility or service provided by the Careers Advisory Board. This

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will create the wrong impression of AIESEC and less willing to benefit from the AIESEC XP. This effectively will threaten the future of AIESEC Imperial and its sustainability to retain the interest of the students because people would be less interested in holding a position of leadership within the society because they will see themselves as “working for the careers advisory service centre” and not for other students. Consequently, after we have left university, we worry for the long term future of this society since a personal aim of mine is to fully establish AIESEC Imperial as a permanent fixture within the student societies at Imperial College London. From experience, we have seen a lower growth of interest in AIESEC after we were recommended to work under the Careers Advisory Service Centre. A student quoted that

*“If we work for the Careers Centre, it is like that we are working for free for the Careers Centre. Why would I want to do that?”*

The recruitment of new members will be made harder by the fact we will not be recognised as a student society so we will miss vital events (e.g. Fresher’s Fair) while student satisfaction would be lower since they would enjoy their leadership roles less since they would not be seen helping other students.

Getting the benefit of the AIESEC XP is important, since students who want the full XP who are extremely limited since there would be less opportunities to practise their skills and develop a larger diversity of networks within the AIESEC Society. To make AIESECers take responsibility of their own learning and other, we must ensure that AIESEC Imperial is easily approachable and accessible to students. Since we would be under that the Careers Advisory Service Centre, people would see us as employees of Careers Advisory Service Centre and not as students.

Also as an AIESEC Society, every member must pay a membership fee to gain a leadership role. This is essential because it would help differentiate people who are interested and committed and those not. Membership is needed for administration purposes because AIESEC Members are entitled to more benefits (e.g. attending AIESEC Conferences). To charge a membership fee, would be extremely unsuitable if we were located under the Careers Advisory Service Centre because the Careers Centre is a facility which is free for Imperial College Students to use, hence technically everyone is a “member” of the Careers Centre, therefore based on this theory, everyone would be a member of AIESEC Imperial. Consequently, AIESEC Imperial has no grounds to charge a membership fee, which will contribute to the running of the society. This is not sustainable since people in leadership roles would be constantly changing throughout the year, if members are not controlled. It must be noted that, it is not necessary for people interested to go on a WAP to be a member.

The responsibility of who can create an official student society would be debated, since the CSB suggested which should be a society under the Career Advisory Service Centre. It is known, that Careers Advisory Service Centre does not have the responsibility to support student societies. Since, their budget is not decided to accommodate this and also they focus on helping individuals to develop their career. Whilst, the Student Union is responsible for the welfare of the students and has the budget plan to support student societies and initiative. The student union has the power to

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recognise new student societies, whilst if this power was distributed to different bodies around Imperial College there would be a lot of confusion on the number of clubs at Imperial College.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that we should not be working for the Careers Advisory Service Board. But we would like to be working with the Careers Advisory Service Centre, closely so that we can help benefit each other for the betterment of Imperial College Students and recent graduates. We strongly feel that leadership and teamwork are important skills to develop and we have the opportunities for everyone to develop these vital skills.

We believe AIESEC Imperial is a unique society since the former rector; Sir Richard Sykes is a patron of AIESEC. Where AIESEC is strongly supported by the corporate world (e.g. Accenture, KPMG, Pricewaterhouse Cooper and GSK) and many companies are extremely interested in recruiting AIESEC graduate since they have developed their leadership skills and stands out from the rest. AIESEC is extremely beneficial to Imperial College Students, since we provide them the opportunity to develop their all round ability whilst they are student; enabling them to develop their personal life and future career. The skills, they learnt are life essential skills which they could use for years to come.

My AIESEC XP has personally affected me as a person and without a doubt I feel AIESEC has a lot to offer for those who want more opportunities and a change of lifestyle. By setting up AIESEC Imperial, you will be enabling students to have these opportunities and experience, which will have a huge positive impact of their life. Currently, students are not aware of the vast amount of opportunities there are in this world so our objective is to promote and spread the AIESEC way to Imperial College Students and open up their eyes to life and career experiences.

I would like to say thank you for reading this letter. I feel passionately for AIESEC and know that it will be a success at Imperial College London for future to come. Therefore I would like to reiterate AIESEC Imperial's desire to be recognized as an official student society. Consequently we would like the CSB to overturn their previous decision and invalidate it and resubmit the application to the Club and Society Board for their judgement based on the content of the letter and the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

Again, we appreciate you for reading this email and we look forward to your favourable response.

Your Sincerely,

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