



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the first ordinary meeting of
the
Community and Welfare Board
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2012/13 Session

The meeting of the Community and Welfare Board was held in the Union Building on 31st January 2013 at 6.00pm in meeting rooms 3 of the East basement, Imperial College (South Kensington).

Present:

Representation

Becky Lane (Welfare)
Paul Beaumont
Deputy President (Education)
Deputy President (Finance & Services)
ICSMSU Welfare Officer
GSA Engineering Academic & Welfare Officer
GSA Physical Sciences Academic & Welfare Officer
GSA Webber
GSA Humanities Academic & Welfare Officer
Disabilities Officer
GSA Life Sciences Academic & Welfare Officer
GSA Biosciences Academic & Welfare Officer
International Officer
Addictions & Welfare Manager
Nigel Cochrane
Representation Coordinator

Apologies:

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) – Henry Whittaker, ICSMSU President – Shiv Vohra, GSA Chair – Maryam Habibzay, C & GU Welfare Officer – Carol-Ann Cheah, GSA Medicine Academic & Welfare Officer - Natalie Kempston, Campaigns Officer - Chinemelu Ezeh, LGBT Portfolio Officer – Elizabeth Campbell, Ethics & Environmental Officer – Laura Johnston, BME Officer – Bilal Khan, Gender Equality Officer – Marissa Lewis.

1. CHAIR’S BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) Unseen Imperial - campaign launched to deal with hidden issues affecting students.
- b) Mental health day – may take place in February.
- c) Green Initiatives – for discussion at the next meeting.
- d) Personal Safety - a website may be launched to promote this.
- e) Sexual health clinics at Imperial – discussions in progress.
- f) Student led campaigns – overview and explanation given.
- g) Student Experience Survey – analysis underway. Response being constructed by union.
- h) Personal Tutors & PhD supervisors – system under discussion to monitor meetings.
- i) Exam Stress initiatives – under discussion.

2. WELFARE OFFICER UPDATES

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the Disabilities Officer

- a) Mental health campaign day. Plans are underway.
- b) Mental Wealth Group. Plans are underway.

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the ICSMSU Welfare Officer

- a) Website updated to include contacts and Union details.
- b) An Accident & Emergency doctor took part in an alcohol awareness talk to ICSMSU students. Over 120 attendees.

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the International Officer

- a) Concern over tuition fees arose. Advised paper sent to union council and being considered by the Deputy Rector and the head of strategic planning.

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the GSA Physical Sciences Academic & Welfare Officer

- a) Communication issues with physics department were raised.
- b) Currently seeking a departmental representative for the Mathematics department. Issues regarding liaison with department for nominations were raised.

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the GSA Life Sciences Academic & Welfare Officer

- a) Initiatives to unite students in both campuses (Silwood & S. Kensington) through football games, social activities.
- b) E-mail communication now re-established to increase communication levels.

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the GSA Humanities Academic & Welfare Officer

- a) Closure of translation union discussed. Effect upon existing students discussed, particularly PhD students.

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the Business Academic & Welfare Officer

- a) Student status of PhD students under consideration.

RECEIVED: Verbal report from the Engineering Academic & Welfare Officer

- a) Inability for existing students to access newly formed scholarships discussed.
- b) Often only available to EU students.

RECEIVED: Update from CGCU Welfare Officer (Carol Ann Cheah) summarised by the chair.

- a) Handbook aimed at Freshers created.
- b) Discussions with Becky Lane regarding potential changes to personal tutor support provisions.
- c) Implementation of welfare office hours stalled due to insufficient venue and other commitments. Since refurbishment the Guilds office may be a venue for this in the future.

3. 'YOUR CAMPAIGN' PROPOSAL FROM 'ACTION SYRIA' GROUP

- a) Campaigns aim to raise awareness.
 - i. Direct money to relevant charities and inspire political action.

- ii. Human Aid, Save the Children and other charities.
 - 1. Legitimate and ethical status of charities needs to be established before directing students towards these.

- b) Methods utilised to raise awareness
 - i. Balloons in public areas in campaign colours.
 - ii. ACTION: 'Action Syria' campaign will seek permission to place balloons in public places.
 - iii. Board agrees to approve the 'Action Syria' campaign.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Need to ensure campaigns are not seen to reflect the Union's opinions.
 - i. Campaigns kept separate to the Union.
- b) The closure of the translation unit could use 'Your Campaigns' to have their say.
 - i. Designed to bring issues to students' attention that would otherwise not have heard of.
- c) Update on funding of Syrian students previously funded by the government. Consultations with international Office and college underway.
 - i. 'Médecins sans Frontières' contacted to engage ICSMSU membership.
- d) Budget of campaigns established as negotiable.
 - i. Question raised whether Union's cash will go directly to charities.
 - ii. Established as illegal.

Meeting closed 6.41pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of the Community and Welfare Board

on _____ 2012/13

_____ Chair of the Meeting