



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the secondary ordinary meeting of the  
**Education and Representation Board**  
of the Imperial College Union  
in the 2012/2013 Session

The meeting of the Education and Representation Board was held in the Union Building on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 6.00pm in meeting rooms 4 of the East Basement, Imperial College.

**Present:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Deputy President (Education)	Doug Hunt - Chair
President	Paul Beaumont
GSU AWO (Physical Sciences)	Ross Webster
GSU AWO (Engineering)	Nicholas Ng
Chemical Engineering Undergraduate Dep Rep	Will Brown
Mathematics Undergraduate Dep Rep	Freddie Barker
Education & Welfare Manager	Andrew Keenan
Representation Coordinator	Zoe Richardson

**Apologies:**

GSU AWO (Life Sciences) - Helen Pennington, GSU AWO (Business) - Simon Schillebeeckx, ICSMSU President - Shiv Vohra, ICSMSU AO Years 1,2 & GE – Ken Wu. RCSU Academic Affairs Officer – Cécile Borkhataria, RSM President – Lewis Ryan, Silwood Education Officer – Catherine Kerr, Aeronautics Dep Rep – Alessandro Marani, Chemical Engineering Dep Rep – Theodor Bergstrom, Civil Engineering Dep Rep - Michele Swalens, Earth Science and Engineering Dep Rep – Simon Stephenson, Mechanical Engineering Dep Rep – Teddy Szemberg O’Connor, Mechanical Engineering Dep Rep – Julius Heyne, Biology Dep Rep – Aaron D’Souza, Chemistry Dep Rep – Christopher Roberts, Student Advisor– Nigel Cooke.

**Not present:**

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) – Henry Whittaker, Deputy President (Welfare) – Becky Lane, CGCU President – Temi Ladega, CGCU Academic Affairs Officer – Leonardo Paoli, GSU AWO (Medicine) – Natalie Kempston, ICSMSU AO (Years 4, Biomed, Pharm) – Matt Hutchins, ICSMSU AO (Years 3, 5 & 6) – Sybghat Rahim, RCSU President – James Tsim, RSM Academic Liaison Officer – Paddy Goodarzi, Silwood President - Isabel Fenton, Aeronautics Dep Rep – Sam Lishak, Bioengineering Dep Rep – Ka Chow, Computing Dep Rep – Tom Wilshere, Electronic and Electrical Engineering Dep Rep – Yiang Mavrosocanti, Electronic and Information Engineering Departmental Representative – Richard Bennett, Materials Dep Rep – Ezra Feilden-Irving, Biochemistry Dep Rep – Zahra Aboukhalil, Physics Dep Rep – Jonathan London, Membership Services Manager – Phil Power.

**1. CHAIR'S BUSINESS.**

- a) There was no business from the chair.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 14 JANUARY 2013**

- a) The minutes were accepted by the board.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) There were no matters brought to the board's attention.

**4. SURVEY AND FEEDBACK**

The Board was invited to consider Agenda Item 4 and report their views on the surveys noted within this.

- a) It was felt that the volume of surveys was too great and that there was too much overlap between surveys.
- b) The possibility of merging smaller surveys or running these at the same time as larger ones was raised.
- c) The depth and quality of analysis of the findings of internal surveys was raised. The board felt that findings of surveys were rarely fed back to students nor analysed sufficiently. It was felt that students have become demotivated completing surveys when the results of such surveys are not visibly analysed nor acted upon. Concern was expressed regarding College's perceived disinterest in the results of the finding.
- d) The prospect of including surveys about Graduate Teaching Assistants and Final year projects was well received. The idea of incorporating these into SOLE was raised.

NOTED: The board would like to see assurances from College before internal surveys are undertaken that the findings will be analysed, made available to departments and plans put in place to implement any changes needed. Students need to be made aware of the findings of surveys within their departments, the plans which result from these and the actions which occur. Academic representatives' support in publicising and promoting the completion of such surveys amongst their constituents is reliant on this.

NOTED: The board take the view that the Student Barometer survey is a waste of College resources and time as the results have little impact upon decision making.

ACTION: Doug should contact the College about ERB's views.

**5. OPEN COURSEWARE POLICY**

The board was invited to consider the paper entitled 'OpenCourseWare Policy discussion' and to consider whether the costs and other resources involved in creating an Imperial MOOC would be too great.

- a) It was noted that the use of MOOCs to enable part-time distance courses is of little benefit to Imperial as a Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine institution.
- b) The notion of a virtual open day was seen as having significant potential to attract students who would not be easily able to travel to South Kensington (non-EU and EU students, those outside of London amongst others) and could come out of the College's resources for access.

c) MOOCs potential for sharing up to date research with undergraduate cohorts was noted.  
NOTED: The board believes that resources should be used to improve existing students' experience rather than to attract potential students. Whilst the idea of a virtual open day is supported the wider concept of a MOOC is deemed too expensive to justify its use for just attracting students – it needs to also improve Imperial's students' educational experience. OCW was also deemed far too expensive and was not a good use of College resources.

#### **6. EXAM PAST PAPERS**

- a) Significant variation between departments exists regarding how many past papers are made available to students. However of the most concern is unfair access to past papers within departments within certain friendship groups.
- b) It was discussed whether ICU should encourage students to share their exam past papers with fellow students. The implications of doing so for students and ICU were discussed.

NOTED: ICU should look into the legal applications of when students get caught distributing past papers and that ERB fundamentally disagree with departmental staff's argument.

#### **7. INTERMIN STAFF-STUDENT COMMITTEE SURVEY 2012-2013**

- a) The Board are encouraged to read the Staff-Student Committee Summary (Agenda item 4) available on the ICU website and send any corrections to the Deputy President (Education) or the Representation Coordinator.

#### **8. STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY 2012 RESPONSE AND RESULTS BROKEN DOWN BY DEPARTMENT**

- a) The Board are encouraged to read the Student Experience Survey available on the ICU website.

**Meeting closed 7.00 pm**

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of the Education and Representation Board

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2012/13

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of the Meeting