



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
Of the first Ordinary meeting of the
Community and Welfare Board
Of the Imperial College Union
In the 2014/2015 session

The meeting of the Community and Welfare Board was held in the Union Building on the 23rd October 2014 at 6pm in Meeting Room 3, Imperial College Union

Present:	
Deputy President (Welfare) – Chair	Christopher Kaye
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Abigail de Bruin
Deputy President (Education)	Pascal Loose
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Alex Savill
President	Tom Wheeler
GSU Chair	Nida Mahmud
RCSU President	Serena Yuen
ICSMSU Deputy President	Anju George
RCSU Welfare Officer	Akash Jyoti
GSU Life Sciences Academic and Welfare Officer	Rachel Vaux
GSU Medicine Academic and Welfare Officer	Mike Asavarut
Ethics and Environments Officer	Rhiannon Holden
International Officer	Katherine Chio
Interfaith Officer	Shamim Ahmed
Education and Welfare Manager	Andrew Keenan
Student Advisor	Nigel Cooke
Representation and Campaigns Coordinator	Sky Yarlett
(Minute taker)	

Apologies ICSMSU President Dariush Hassanzadeh-Baboli, RSMU Welfare Officer Rachel Shuttleworth, LGBT Officer Kyle Hellemans, BME Officer Shiqu Qiu, Gender Equality Officer Madeline Maxwell, CGCU Welfare Officer Juliet Kernohan, RSMU President Ben Warnick

1. CHAIRS BUSINESS

- a) Christopher Kaye introduced himself and the role of Community and Welfare board (CWB), each member present introduced themselves and their role
- b) CK asked if any officer wanted to give a verbal report, none came forward

2. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) None present at this meeting had attended the previous meeting, all looked through the minutes to notice any inaccuracies

3. MATTERS ARISING

- a) Gender Neutral Toilets Update: Marissa Lewis was asked to investigate the costs of changing signage, since the last meeting gender neutral signage has been introduced to the accessible toilets within the union, on floor 2, 2M and the ground floor.

4. ADVICE CENTRE UPDATE

- a) Nigel Cooke updated the board as to what the Advice Centre has been doing over the summary – gave a summary of cases seen, and commonalities.
- b) Common cases included academic appeals, and housing rights cases, more detail can be found in the Advice Centre Update.
- c) Alex Savell asked why about the discrepancy between the in number of Interactions (69) and case work (38) there was a reduction of almost half. NC explained that often initial interactions don't always need to be followed up or translated into coursework.
- d) Nigel also briefly introduced the idea of the Talk to DAS campaign – which will be discussed in more detail later.
- e) NC has been involved in campus outreach – trying to promote the services of the advice centre to students at outlying campuses. NC felt that in particular Hammersmith was very successful.
- f) Advocacy to Action: NC explained the idea behind this work, where the Union recognises common issues which are occurring and ensures that we are working to change these, or run campaigns on these issues.

5. ANNUAL ADVICE CENTRE REPORT

- a) Nigel Cooke presented the Advice Centre's Annual Report to Community and Welfare Board.
- b) That the most common issues to come forward to the advice centre are Housing, money issues, Academic Appeals, and complaints.
- c) Advice centre attendees tend to be Undergraduates, but that there were an increasing number of PhD candidates approaching the Advice Centre.
- d) In the last year the Advice Centre won back £10,000 for students in deposit money, looking to the future the aims of the Advice centre are:
 - i. Increase satisfaction of the Advice Centre by 10%
 - ii. Increase number of interactions in the Advice Centre
 - iii. Work towards the Advice Quality Standard accreditation

6. LIBERATION TRAINING

- a) Sky gave a verbal report of training delivered to 6 liberation officers.
- b) Topics covered included the structure of the union, definitions of each liberation officer role, what does liberation mean to the officers, how to run successful campaigns, and identifying problems and causes, and how to create solutions
- c) The officers gave positive feedback on the training as whole, and SY is looking forward to training the two remaining Liberation Officers.

7. UPDATE ON THE REMAINING ELECTION POSITIONS

- a) Informed the room that currently there are two Liberation Officer positions awaiting election, and several Academic and Welfare Officer positions which remain to be filled.

8. LIBERATION INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY REPORT

- a) Andrew Keenan introduced the report and the ideas behind it, that as part of the Union self-reflection we are aware that student leadership needs to be more diverse.
- b) AK explained that this is part of the union's strategic plan; Alex Savell asked about time frames, AK aimed to be completed by the end of the year.
- c) AK further explained that this may lead to recommending reformation of practices such as elections or structures of current boards such as Council or Community and Welfare Board.

9. DRI EVENT

- a) Christopher Kaye provided the board with a verbal report of DRI, which was an alcohol free night within the Unions venues, CK believes that it was a successful event overall.
- b) It was asked how many people were in the bar overall – CK stated that roughly 100 people in the bar throughout the night
- c) Rachel Vaux asked if it was a one off event –or likely to be repeated. CK and AS joint answered stated they are looking into it at the minute, and also considering the feasibility of a space within the Union to have social events which are not around alcohol.
- d) There was more general discussion about the idea behind DRI and the impact it has on students, that maybe in future we could hold it in January.
- e) Discussion was drawn to a close, taking this feedback into consideration alongside the feedback from freshers of the welcome week events.

10. FEMINISM FORUM / YOB CULTURE

- a) SY presented the ideas of Feminism Forum to the group, linking it to the Yob Culture. Overall aim is to give students an opportunity to identify issues around sexism, or sexist behaviour to support each other in identifying solutions. Emphasis on working with clubs and societies to ensure behaviour is inclusive and welcoming.
- b) Discussion amongst members of the board about the name of the feminism forum – whether it should be changed to the Gender Equality Forum to be seen as more inclusive, there was wide discussion about the merits of each, no clear consensus was reached in regards to the name.

11. PERSONAL SAFETY CAMPAIGN

- a) Andrew Keenan presented this campaign, and its origins, which comes from a number of incidences which occurred during fresher's week.
- b) The outputs of the campaign are to create more news on the Imperial College Union website, and reviewing and ensure the information we have is clear.

12. INTERNATIONAL IMPERIAL

- a) Katherine Chio the International Students officer presented International Imperial, which is collaboration between the International Student Support office and the Union.
- b) The aim is to get societies which are international to showcase their events and to build up stronger communities between international students and non-international students.
- c) We're looking for more students to be involved – and the week is from the 10th – 14th November.
- d) Nida Mahmud complimented the Cosmopolitan Café event which was run.

Action: Sky to put Abi De Bruin and Katherine in contact

SY / NM / KC to discuss PG International Students

13. INTERFAITH WEEK

- a) Shamim Ahmed the Interfaith Officer introduced Interfaith week which is going to take place from 16th – 22nd November
- b) Ideas are still in tendering process, but overarching themes are bringing together different faith societies and students, as well as the chaplaincy to discuss commonalities and create relationships and understanding.
- c) We're keen to launch an Interfaith Forum which students can attend which will focus on a topic, however currently faith societies haven't responded.

14. AFFORDABLE IMPERIAL

- a) Tom Wheeler explained that recently The Guardian published an article which seemed to say that students want to live in deluxe, expensive accommodation, which according to our students is not true, that they'd much rather have affordability and location as prime factors in choosing halls.
- b) TW further explained the history of Colleges recent redevelopments of halls and the affects that's happen, with particular reference to Evelyn and Fisher halls.
- c) Question was raised as to what is happening to Weeks Hall

Action: To find out what is happening to Weeks Hall

15. OUT IN SPORT

- a) Sky explained on behalf of Kyle the LGBT Officer Out in Sport research plan
- b) The aim is to identify if there are real and perceived barriers to LGBT people being involved in Sports clubs and teams at Imperial College Union. As well as looking at the work that Sports Teams and Clubs are doing to be more inclusive.
- c) This research will take the format of a survey, focus groups and individual interviews.

16. STRESS LESS

- a) AK presented the Stress Less campaign idea, the key events will be held in January February, targeting students around key deadline periods. Stress Less has been in occurrence for two year already, the aim is to have an enjoyable event which gets students thinking about stress, how stress originates and how they can manage stress. High levels of stress have been normalised at Imperial, and we're keen to tackle this and also to look into the academic origins of stress.
- b) Tom Wheeler mentioned that Debra Humphris wants to do an audit of courses, looking at when deadlines fall and assessing if there is a way to create less pinch points of stress.
- c) Rachel Vaux asked if the Union through this project could look in depth at PG stress – the 18 month transfer window is a key point in this.

Action: AK, SY, CK, NM & RV to meet and discuss PG stress

17. YOB CULTURE

- a) Discussed earlier as part of the feminism forum.

18.UNSEEN IMPERIAL

- a) AK – this is a planned event at the end of the year to showcase the campaigns and work done by liberation and other students.
- b) This year we're looking to host an exhibition, with possible expansion to further events.

19.DISABILITY ADVICE SERVICE CAMPAIGN (TALK TO DAS)

- a) This campaign is between the DAS and the Union, its being managed by Nigel Cooke. The aim is to ensure that people are disclosing their disabilities to DAS, and understand the services and provisions that DAS offer.
- b) Imperials disclosure rates are significantly lower than the national average – there is also concern about international students and disability, in that they may find a stigma attached to seeking support, or being disabled.

ACTION: NC, International Student Support, International Students Officer and Disabled Students Officer & Chris Kaye together to plan how to communicate to International Students.

20.CAMPAIGNS WITHIN THE UNION (HOW TO CAMPAIGN)

- a) AK explained the unions new capacity to support campaigns, in addition explained the campaigns fund. Said as a union we are good at supporting Clubs, Societies and Projects but we aren't able to strongly support student campaigns – but hoping this will change in the course of the year. A redevelopment of the website will be part of this.
- b) Any questions about Campaigns or ideas, Sky is able to work to develop these.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) If people wish to be anonymised on the Union website we're able to do that – just contact Andrew Keenan
 - i. Alex Savell – we are looking into two projects
- b) Alcohol Impact – which is a Home Office / NUS funded scheme where 8 unions are attempting responsible drinking initiatives – we're keen to see how the results pan out and use ideas here.
- c) Green Impact – We're taking part in scheme, where the union is working to be greener.
- d) Bursaries – Tom Wheeler briefly explained the proposed changes to the bursary scheme – and how students could be more involved
 - i. Alex Savell – We are also looking to formulate a new policy on Higher Education Policy, we'll be doing this through providing an online consultation.

Reminder that the next meeting of CWB is: 4th December

Meeting finished at 7.10pm