MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

Of the first ordinary meeting of the

**Community and Welfare Board**

Of the Imperial College Union

In the 2016/17 session

The meeting of the Community and Welfare Board was held in the Union Building on the 1st December 2016 at 6pm in Meeting Room 6.

**Present:**

Deputy President (Welfare) Emily Jane Cramphorn

RSMU President Noah Hawkins

CGCU President Milia Hasbani

RCSU President Lloyd James

ICSMSU President Chippy Compton

ICSMSU Welfare Officer Evie Taylor-Davies

CGCU Welfare Fintan O’Connor

Campaigns Officer Andrew Tranter

Ethics & the Environment Officer Dijana Spasnoska

Interfaith Officer Andy Li

International Officer

Mentality Chair Ariana Sadr-Hasmi

Mentality Secretary

Representation & Campaigns Manager Sky Yarlett

Apologies

Emma Louise Little

1. **CHAIRS BUSINESS** 
   1. Emily-Jane Cramphorn (EJC) introduces herself to all those in attendance.
2. **DPWELFARE REPORT**
   1. EJC summarises her report verbally. No questions. The report is informally accepted.
3. **LIBERATION & WELFARE OFFICER REPORTS**
   1. International Students Officer Report
      1. Thisira Nirella (TN) is working with OSC to organise an international food fair.
      2. Current college policy regarding the provision of hot food is creating difficulties, working with the DPFS and DPW to enact changes. ICSMSU President supports the changes.
   2. Interfaith Officer Report
      1. Planning an Interfaith Week, aiming to bring together people from different faiths togetger.
      2. Andy Li (AL) is aware that conflict from faith discrimination take place at other universities but does not seem prevalent at Imperial.
   3. Ethics and Environmental Officer.
      1. Dijana Spasenoska (DS) says that according to the people and planet green league Imperial College is 96th in UK.
      2. DS reports she attended People & Planet Training, has identified a priority is to encourage people to challenge the use of sweatshops .
      3. A challenge or question DS highlights is how to get the college to implement the policy we as a students’ union adopt.
   4. RSMU President
      1. Not much to report as RSM work closely with the relevant departments and tend to tackle any issues in-house.
   5. Campaigns Officer
      1. Andrew Tranter (AT) identifies that the role of Campaigns Officer sits in a difficult place and it is not clear the intention of the roles.
      2. EJC reminds attendees that she has emailed about focus groups looking to review the roles and the more general welfare issues of the union.
   6. ICSMSU Welfare Officer & President
      1. Evie Taylor-Davies (ETD) & Alex Compton (AC) present a joint report.
      2. Over the freshers events they have provided less alcohol-focused events, which appear to have a good impact.
      3. An initiative to tackle stigma ‘Medics@Imperial” has had good reach.
      4. ETD identifies that her role in particular may need some form of suicide prevention training, that she is unsure who to go to generally. EJC identifies this is an agenda point later.
      5. Financal support for medical students. It has become clear that there are a number of students financially struggling. In particular the Graduate Medicine stream being extended from 4-5years has lead to it becoming unfunded as Student Finance will offer no support.

**Action – EJC to follow up with Student Finance**

* 1. Mentality Report
     1. While not formally a member of Community & Welfare Board, as a society they primarily work within the Welfare Remit and want to be more involved with the Unions work.
     2. Their big project for the year is to develop the counselling service and the mental health provisions available at Imperial College. Counselling service is good if you are facing long term stress but not great as long waiting times.
     3. EJC informs Mentality that the Mental Health adviser role exists and aims to share some of this with a focus on mental health.

ACTION: Sky Yarlett (SY) to share campaigns’ ideas with Mentality.

* 1. RCSU President (On behalf of RCSU Welfare)
     1. Creating an online quiz to help identify which service is best to help.
     2. Looking at doing a Welfare Week in second term. Focus around fun activities aiming to reduce immediate stress.
     3. Lloyd James (LJ) identifies that CU presidents should also be training in issues relating to welfare, they often interact with a lot of students.
  2. CGCU Welfare Officer.
     1. Focusing on more engagement, as it has been quiet and students haven’t proactively been coming forward.
     2. Want to work alongside ICU and help extend work into CGCU.
     3. Need for training mentioned before echoed.

1. **TRAINING**
   1. EJC acknowledges that this is high on everyone’s agenda, asks those in the room to identify particular training needs.
   2. Training needs: First Aid, Mental Health, Community Organising, How to run an effective campaign, Who’s Who, Policy Making, Signposting, College Policies, Health & Safety – Risk Assessments (CU Presidents)
   3. It was identified that training in future should take place after elections and before summer break.
   4. Ultimately the aim of the training will be to ensure consistently across experiences, we want to ensure that Mentality committee are trained as well as other societies such as IQ.
   5. The board discussed mental health training, agreed that both short term stress management but long term chronic MH conditions should be tackld.
2. **WELFARE ROADMAP**
   1. EJC outlined her vision for the welfare road map, that the college as a whole is making significant changes in order to provide better student support.
   2. LJ identifies that boards such as CSPB exist which brings together people in something similar to a support network, that there should potentially be something similar for Welfare people in clubs.
   3. EJ also asked the board to consider defining the roles of Welfare Officers in CUs.
      1. The role may appear unclear, and poses a great risk to student wellbeing if Welfare officers are acting as Councillors.
      2. How to support work between liberation officers and societies.
      3. We need to discuss the campaigns officer and the duties of the role as it doesn’t tend to find to a specific group in the same way.
      4. The role of campaigns shouldn’t be down to one officer, but maybe a campaigns committee, which should seek to support campaigns and raise profile of campaigns across the union.
      5. EJC thanked everyone for their contributions and reminded the board we will be continuing his conversation upto January.
3. **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**
   1. While campaigning students told TN that they want the union to solve the issue that there is no bursary for EU students.
   2. EJC is working on an issue relating to the bursary with DPFS.
   3. The discussion covered how to engage students in wider issues, supporting sudents to submit papers and to be able to take on issues.
4. **LGBT HISTORY MONTH**
   1. This is in Feburary but we want to be led by the LGBT Officer.
5. **UNDERPRESSURE**
   1. EJC introduces UnderPressure, as the evolution of previous ‘StressLess’.
   2. Running on a tight timeframe, but seeking to do information, to encourage people to be kind to themselves,
   3. Mentality – Can the Union sell the fidget cubes?
   4. A discussion around the library being 24 hours, mixed opinions about whether it is a cause of the high culture of stress, or whether that is not the problem.
   5. Discussion moves on to the culture of Imperial. About being the best, that it is rooted from Academics chasing the idea of excellence and that it falls onto to students.
   6. AT – this permeates into academic culture, including postgraduates.
6. **VICE-PROVOST EDUCATION** 
   1. EJC informs those in attendance who the VPE is, and that she is keen to meet with the Lib&welfare officers.
   2. Many around room express interest in this opportunity.
7. **WELFARE ROADMAP**
   1. The idea behind this is to create a roadmap for welfare services, itd be similar to signposting.
   2. An idea of creating an app , which would be downloaded onto college ipads – something similar to already existing in ICSMSU.
   3. Discussion focused on the platform of this roadmap, all agreeing it must be mobile friendly
   4. Another idea was to put emergency details on the back of a college card, so that for short term help it would be clear where to go. Everyone has a college card.
8. **CONSENT**
   1. The college has purchased consent matters program, a feedback form has been produced.
   2. Discussions on policy re: sexual assault are currently taking place.
   3. Looking to move forward the trialling process.
   4. Considering options such as the ‘good lad’ workshops.
   5. Overall looking for consistency of information and ensuring that cases are handled in similar way.

**Action: Invite those interested in tackling issues of consent, and sexual assault together in order to share thoughts.**