

## **Community & Welfare Board Agenda**

*The first Ordinary Meeting of the Community & Welfare Board for the 2017-18 Session will be held on Thursday 19 October 2017.*

*Location: Meeting Room 3*

Deputy President (Welfare)	Fintan O'Connor
CGCU President	Claudia Caravello
CGCU Welfare Officer	Damian Coveney
Disabilities Officer	Hisham Abdel Aty
Ethics & Environment Officer	Rhidian Thomas
ICSMSU President	Rhys Smith
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Stephen Naulls
Interfaith Officer	Adil Ali
International Officer	Rana Khan
LGBT+ Officer	Alessio Incitti
Mental Health Officer	Ariana Sadr-Hashemi
RCSU President	Michael Edwards
RSMU President	Robert Tomkies
RSMU Welfare Officer	Helen Money-Kyrle
Observers	
Wellbeing & Campaigns Coordinator	Laura Regan
Physics Student	Shervin Sabeghi

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### **Formal Business**

1. Chairs business
  - a. Deputy President (Welfare) (DPW) begins introductions of the board
2. Minutes of last meeting – 16 February 2017
  - a. DPW asks the board to review the minutes of the last meeting
  - b. It is noted that the board have not received the minutes

## **ACTION – Laura Regan (LR) to send the board the minutes**

### **Matters for Report**

3. Updates from Deputy President (Welfare) (**verbal**)
  - a. DPW introduces what their role entails in the context of the members of the board
  - b. DPW updates the board they are working with the Director of Student Services to create a Wellbeing Strategy for the College to work in collaboration with the Learning & Teaching Strategy
  - c. DPW gives a brief overview of the new Wellbeing Representation Network (WBRN) and the work that has gone on over the summer
  - d. DPW updates the board on the Liberation Review work completed over the summer by an external consultant. Imperial College Union will be working closely with this year's Liberation Officers to set priorities from the recommendations within the report
  
4. Updates from Constituent Union Welfare Officers (**verbal**)
  - a. RSMU Welfare Officer
    - i. Committee have been promoting the WBRN within RSMU, including lecture shout-outs and Senior Tutors pushing the positions
    - ii. Will be organising lunches with the new Departmental Wellbeing Reps to establish a relationship and understand their aims for the year
    - iii. Looking to instigate tea and cake afternoons during exams season
    - iv. A priority this year is to promote gender equality and make RSMU events inclusive. The committee have sent out a survey to all first year students based on the welcome events
  - b. CGCU Welfare Officer
    - i. Considered how the CGCU will use the WBRN this year and contributed to a Felix article on this topic. Given information to all departments about the WBRN
    - ii. The committee have been handing out free condoms and rape alarms. The committee are looking to run mindfulness sessions and puppy petting activities
    - iii. The committee are pursuing Mental Health First Aid training
    - iv. CGCU would like to use the WBRN to poll and survey students
  - c. ICSMSU Welfare Officer
    - i. The committee have been doing a lot of promotion for the WBRN
    - ii. Representatives from ICSMSU spoke at a Medical Symposium about the Medics @ Imperial campaign and the WBRN which was well received. Currently collecting stories for Medics @ Imperial
    - iii. Looking to help Environmental Society on a zero waste campaign
  - d. RCSU President
    - i. The committee have met with Imperial College Union staff over the summer regarding the WBRN to ensure that RCSU concerns with

the initiative were being addressed. Have also been speaking to Faculty staff to look how plans can be changed to fit FoNS. Although a lot happier the committee would still like to see some things changed

- ii. Have promoted the WBRN and attending as many events as possible to promote RCSU welfare
- iii. This year would like to bring more unity to welfare provisions within the Faculty and work on community building
- iv. Would like to use the WBRN to help with campaigns about self-care and will be meeting with the Reps when elected

## 5. Updates from Liberation Officers (**verbal**)

### a. Disabilities Officer

- i. Have been focussing on awareness of disabilities and accessibilities issues. Currently speaking with College to fix accessibility issues in the car park
- ii. Meeting with staff to discuss accessibility on the new White City campus and going on a tour
- iii. Awaiting a response from the Disabilities Advisory Services (DAS)
- iv. Will be running a campaign for Disabilities Awareness Month with multiple events. Would like the board's help in recruiting volunteers and promoting events
  1. ICSMSU President asks whether they have considered non-South Kensington campuses for their initiatives and offers help with reaching out to these campuses
  2. Mental Health Officer suggests approaching a guide dog charity for the visually impaired

### b. International Officer

- i. Have been doing lecture shout outs and giving information on the WBRN
- ii. Currently focusing on first year students who might be suffering from culture shock
- iii. Have contacted other London universities about hosting a multicultural event. Other universities are keen on forming an association and running an event for January/February
- iv. Looking to campaign for funding and scholarships for International students

### c. Ethics & Environmental Officer

- i. Written a paper on Divestment that was ratified at the last Union Council of 2016-17 and will be the main focus for the year
- ii. Pursuing Union funding for campaigning activities and will be meeting with volunteers in the coming weeks
- iii. Working with the group who wrote the Greening Imperial survey and looking to get involved with the data
- iv. Looking to work with Environmental Society on campaigns including a zero waste campaign
  1. RCSU President states the Managing Director is working on a Corporate Responsibility Policy which might interest the Ethics & Environmental Officer

### d. LGBT+ Officer

- i. Working on getting gender neutral toilets in every building at College and have a survey of where there are gender neutral toilets
  - ii. Aim is to make College a safer spaces for transgender and non-binary students, looking to run campaigns and lobby College for inclusive training for members of staff
  - iii. Looking to engage long term allies from the local community
  - iv. Looking to collaborate with Clubs & Societies and get their support with LGBT+ initiatives, already working with Fashion Society to have a gender neutral line in their Fashion show
  - v. Work with Liberation Officers to tackle intersectional identities
  - vi. Engaged with students at the Fresher's Fair gathering a mailing list
    - 1. CGCU President states the safe space policy is out of date and the LGBT+ Officer might be interested in contributing to the update
    - 2. Interfaith Officer states they are looking at whether there can be Muslim showers in some toilet facilities on campus
- e. Interfaith Officer
- i. Updates on where there are currently facilities for Muslim students which are limited and South Kensington based. Looking at obtaining prayer and washing facilities at every campus
  - ii. Consulting faith societies on implementing an Interfaith society to have a centralised base, the Interfaith Officer would be the Chair
  - iii. Interfaith week is nationally observed in November however Imperial will be observing celebrations in term 2 due to workload
  - iv. Looking at implementing an interfaith football league, obtaining funding and finding facilities near South Kensington. Islamic Society are trialling the league for Charity Week
    - 1. CGCU President states they have football goals the Interfaith league can borrow for
    - 2. ICSMSU Welfare Officer asks the Interfaith Officer considers other NHS sites as well as Charing Cross regarding prayer space
- f. Mental Health Officer
- i. Created a WhatsApp group to help facilitate intersectional activity
  - ii. Helped establish a weekly Liberation Column in Felix which will hopefully increase student's knowledge on liberation issues
  - iii. Looking to publish the results of the Mentality survey, 2016-17
  - iv. Supporting Mentality with community building activities such as coffee mornings, creating a safe space for students to relax
  - v. Ran events for World Mental Health Day in October and will be meeting with the Education & Welfare Manager to evaluate it
  - vi. Main campaign for the year is to lobby College to expand the Counselling Service and make it more visible and accessible for students. Working with College staff already regarding space and funding
  - vii. Would like to run a Town Hall meeting to engage people in liberation and other Union activity, hopefully an annual event
  - viii. Spoke at Mental Health talks in departments during Welcome week and have spoken to staff who are keen to support campaigns
  - ix. Working with Young Minds as an external charity

- x. Would like to work on making teaching and Union activity more accessible for neurodivergent students, hope the WBRN can assist with this
6. Successes, relationships established and future plans **(verbal)**
- a. DPW notes these topics have been covered and celebrated in the verbal updates given by Officers

### **Matters for Discussion**

#### 7. CWB Standing Orders

- a. DPW informs the board the constitution is being renewed, including evaluating how the sub-board of Union Council are conducted
- b. DPW invites the board to comment on the standing orders proposal
- c. The board give the following feedback
  - i. Change the title to 'welfare' instead of 'wellbeing'
  - ii. Anyone who is running a campaign should be invited to keep them engaged with the Union
  - iii. Invite Deputy Welfare Officers where appointed
  - iv. Promote meetings to the wider membership and invite Ordinary Council members
    - 1. DPW notes the meetings are on the What's On calendar
    - 2. The Constituent Unions can promote meetings as well as the Union's Facebook page
  - v. The board discuss open membership in the context of sensitive topic discussions
- d. DPW asks the board to consider what will make the meeting useful
- e. The board give the following feedback
  - i. We discuss things going to council first (like the safe space policy), we want to have tangible impact – a lot more cumbersome if it has to go back and forth from Council to Subboards
  - ii. Live stream of these meetings? Would be good to make these meetings more accessible from home, have comments section, maybe Facebook live – lets push it again
  - iii. Instead of being reflective to make it proactive – help to foster links between CUs and LOs.
  - iv. Still quite useful knowing what people have done and share best practice
  - v. Submit written updates instead of verbal

**ACTION – DPW to set up a Facebook Group for Community and Welfare Board membership**

#### 8. Wellbeing Representation Network

- a. DPW acknowledges communication regarding the WBRN has been staggered and Liberation Officers might wondering how they interact with the network
- b. DPW welcomes comments on the new initiative from the board
  - i. RCSU President raises and outstanding concern that Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is not compulsory.
  - ii. RCSU President states they are investigating whether the FoNS would help fund training
  - iii. The board discuss MHFA training, the complications with offering this specific session and whether it is something they think the Wellbeing Reps should be offered
  - iv. The board discuss the possibility of MHFA training leading to Reps thinking they are more qualified to deal with situations than they are
  - v. DPW states the content of the training is not flexible due to intellectual property laws
  - vi. DPW states the Union are currently pursuing alternative training from Student Minds to best support the Reps and emphasises the WBRN is not a support service

#### 9. Liberation Review

- a. DPW gives an overview of the Liberation Review (paper attached)
- b. DPW updates the board on the work being done and informs the board Union staff will be meeting with the Liberation Officers to set key priorities and help inform an action plan
- c. ICSMSU President comments that section 2d. should extend training to Constituent Unions and not just Liberation Officers. They comment that section 2e.ii. should also include Constituent Unions who can be allies

#### 10. Plans for Term One

- a. DPW welcomes the board to identify the aims they have for term one and where the other Officers can support these initiatives
  - i. Mental Health Officer would like to see '*Nothing about you without you*' initiative to be organised by the end of term one for delivery in term two, looking towards plans for it to be an annual event
  - ii. Interfaith Officer would like a mailing list for outreach officers within faith societies

**ACTION – LR to send Interfaith Officer names of relevant student volunteers**

- iii. ICSMSU Welfare Officers introduces several campaigns which have begun planning:
  - 1. Diversity Week, championed by the Dean of Undergraduate Medicine. Would be open to ideas
  - 2. Alcohol Awareness campaign in January
  - 3. '*Do good feel good*' campaign in the lead up to Christmas
  - 4. Looking to run Schwartz rounds for students. Mental Health Officer suggests using community connections

- iv. RSMU President states they are also going to run a campaign and suggest collaborating
- v. The board discuss all the Constituent Unions running satellite events for a larger campaign about alcohol awareness

**ACTION – LR to invite RSMU President and Welfare Officer to a meeting about alcohol awareness campaigns**

- vi. Interfaith Officer would like to run a diversity week
- vii. LGBT+ Officer would like to make the Imperial community more accepting of transgender students
- b. RSMU President asks for clarification on the earlier discussion of MHFA funding
- c. Mental Health Officer suggests it is too late to pursue this particular training

11. Under Pressure

- a. DPW introduces the Union-led campaign '*Under Pressure*', it's purpose and when it is running in 2017-18. DPW for suggestions and help during the campaign
  - i. Mental Health Officer offers support
  - ii. ICSMSU Welfare Officer asks there are events happening at campuses central to medical students
  - iii. DPW states it may be difficult to reach Silwood but non-South Kensington campuses will be considered in the planning

**AOB**

12. RCSU President – Hall Representatives

- a. RCSU President states there has historically been representatives from the Halls of residences and questions whether these students should be included in the new standing orders
- b. DPW asks the board to consider the membership of the meeting including the newly elected Departmental Wellbeing Representatives and whether it is better to keep it to key stakeholders so the meetings have a clear focus
- c. DPW suggests another forum is set up to establish a better relationship with the Halls of Residences
- d. ICSMSU Welfare Officer states if the Halls representatives are invited they should not be voting members

13. RCUS President – Active Bystander Training

- a. RCSU President thanks the Union for the Active Bystander training that was delivered to Hall Seniors and states many of their peers found it useful

- b. Shervin Sabeghi asks whether this training can be offered to other Representatives and students
- c. DPW states there is a large piece of work going on with the College and they are looking at expanding this training when possible

**Meeting Concludes: 20:13**