

Community & Welfare Board Agenda

The fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Education & Welfare Board for the 2017-18 Session will be held on Thursday 15 March 2018.

Location: Meeting Room 3, Union Building

Deputy President (Welfare)	Fintan O'Connor
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Tom Bacarese-Hamilton
GSU Academic-Welfare Officer	Luke Delmas
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Stephen Naulls
RCSU Welfare Officer	Shervin Sabeghi
RSMU Welfare Officer	Helen Money-Kyrle
Disabilities Officer	Hisham Abdel Aty
Ethics & Environment Officer	Rhidian Thomas
Mental Health Officer	Ariana Sadr-Hashemi
Chemical Engineering Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Omar Abdulla
Design Engineering Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Laerke Rasmussen
ESE Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Clothilde Venerau
Materials Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Jessie Harrison
Mathematics Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Chenyu Lin
Observers	
Student campaigner	Chinar Berry
Wellbeing and Campaigns Coordinator	Laura Regan

Formal Business

1. Chairs business
 - a. Deputy President (Welfare) (DPW) begins introductions for new attendees
2. Minutes of last meeting
 - a. The board accept the minutes of the last meeting as accurate
3. Matters arising
 - a. DPW has not yet spoken to RCSU President about student experience and liaison officers, this will be scheduled in the coming weeks

- b. DPW and ICSMSU Welfare Officer have met to discuss a meeting with Imperial Secrets Facebook group admins
- c. DPW received feedback from ICSMSU Welfare Officer on Mitigating Circumstances (MCs). Feedback has been sent to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC)

Matters for Report

- 4. Updates from Deputy President (Welfare) **(verbal)**
 - a. DPW asks that Matters for Report be reserved for asking for advice or assistance with upcoming projects.
 - b. Members of the Board raise the following points:
 - i. Chemical Engineering Dep Wellbeing Rep states the board who accept/reject MCs go away at a crucial time in the year which creates a longer waiting period for students
 - ii. RCSU Welfare Officer asks whether feedback on MCs can still be submitted. DPW confirms they can give verbal feedback at QAEC in addition to submitted feedback for papers
 - iii. ICSMSU Welfare Officer informs the board of a campaign beginning on Monday 19 March called #OnlineHonestly and calls for people to get involved

AP – ICSMSU Welfare Officer to circulate promotional material for #OnlineHonestly to the Board

- iv. Ethics & Environmental Officer informs the Board of a teach-out happening Friday 16 March at 14:00 in the Union Building
- v. Mental Health Officer informs the Board of a Swimathon raising money for Cancer Research and asks for volunteers to get involved as a group
- vi. RSMU Welfare Officer informs the Board of the Engineering Dog Spotting Bingo in Hyde Park on Sunday 18 March at 10:00

Matters for Discussion

- 1. Campaigns on Non-SK Campuses
 - a. ICSMSU Welfare Officer introduces the paper they have taken to Union Council and asks for feedback from the Board
 - b. The Board give the following feedback:

- i. RCSU Welfare Officer asks for clarification on what constitutes a Union supported campaign and whether this includes campaigns which are specific to one Constituent Union. ICSMSU Welfare Officer clarifies this is any campaign which receives central Union support (marketing, finances, advice)
- ii. Mental Health Officer suggests a change to the wording to include 'central Union support'
- iii. DPW informs the Board of the current campaigns procedure and clarifies that if the paper is passed by Union Council there will be an additional step for Union staff to ensure campaigns reach non-SK Campuses
- iv. Mental Health Officer questions whether Constituent Union budgets need to be spent on advertisement at non-SK Campuses. ICSMSU Welfare Officer clarifies if the paper is passed some funding should be spent on resources for non-SK Campuses. DPW clarifies this will be written into the campaigns procedure and staff will guide students through it accordingly
- v. RCSU Welfare Officer asks for clarification on whether money allocated from the Union campaigns fund for a Constituent Union specific campaign needs to be spent on reaching non-SK Campuses. DPW confirms any money from the Union campaigns fund must reach more than one campus
- vi. ICSMSU Welfare Officer clarifies the paper aims to rewrite the current campaigns procedure to ensure that Union resources are available for all students
- vii. Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) (DPCS) asks whether planning campaigns will take into account Silwood. ICSMSU Welfare Officer states they would like to see consultation with students at Silwood on how campaigns can best reach them
- viii. ICSMSU Welfare Officer states Silwood as an example for how campaigns can have a physical presence with flyers which might encourage volunteers to run satellite events
- c. DPW asks the Board to vote on their support for the paper. There is unanimous support

2. Question Posed by DPCS: What makes a welfare event? Is free food essential?

- a. DPCS gives the Board a background on how block grant is allocated to Clubs & Societies
- b. DPCS asks the Board for feedback on how essential food is for the running of free welfare events. The Board give the following feedback:
 - i. Societies who can't generate their own funds need to be able to budget for this as food contributes as part of the core activity

- ii. You need incentive for welfare and campaigns related events to engage the students who wouldn't chose to come ordinarily
- iii. The incentive doesn't have to be food but the events reach is improved with the added investment
- iv. Food is essential to some events like tea & biscuit afternoons
- v. The purpose of the event might fail if the incentive is taken away
- c. DPCS asks the Board if a welfare event would have the same impact if the incentive wasn't food. The Board give the following feedback:
 - i. Food makes it easier to socialise over
 - ii. Some events need food, i.e. smoothie bikes
 - iii. Food is the best incentive to engage people with events
 - iv. Other activities might require storage which societies don't have
 - v. You don't have to commit with food, you can drop by, whereas with a film or games you have to be motivated to stay
 - vi. People don't feel they're actively engaging with food but the aims of the event are still be achieved
- d. DPW asks the Board to reflect on what defines a welfare event. The Board give the following feedback:
 - i. Positive wellbeing
 - ii. Inclusive
 - iii. An incentive that is good value for money, what is the value of food
 - iv. Evoke change and have a cohesive thought and/or message
 - v. Engaging the community and making more cohesive
 - vi. Educating the community on welfare related topics
 - vii. Supporting and engaging the community in indirect ways, i.e. tea and biscuit events with Senior Tutors and Wellbeing Reps
 - viii. Event must have an aim, i.e. engage with network, learn something new
 - ix. Definition has to be broad enough to include things like lobbying the College to make a change but also relaxation and community building

3. Sexual Consent Survey and Campaign

- a. Chinar Berry presents her findings from the Sexual Consent Survey which closed in December
- b. DPW asks Chinar what the next steps are for the campaign. Chinar informs the Board of current plans:
 - i. Hosted a Clothesline Project, many people didn't have opinions which reinforces the issue
 - ii. Would like to run a free event with food to reach those students who aren't passionate about the topic
 - iii. Working on creating a video talking about people's experiences and looking at the issue nationally

- iv. Looking to host a talk in September 2018 for first year students
- v. Looking to host a consent workshop and invite local organisations in to support the event
- c. ICSMSU Welfare Officer informs Chinar he Faculty of Medicine will be hosting wellbeing workshops in the first two weeks of term which could be an opportunity to work together
- d. ICSMSU Welfare Officer asks Chinar how the Board can support her work. Chinar asks for support to reach individual departments and spread the word about upcoming events

AP – Laura Regan (LR) to send Chinar Berry relevant links in order to access the Board’s contact details

4. Counselling Service Waiting Times

- a. Mental Health Officer informs the Board about an anecdotal increase of up to 15 weeks for a Counselling appointment after an initial assessment
- b. Mental Health Officer is working with DPW to get:
 - i. The Counselling Service to recommend local external services for students who cannot wait
 - ii. Financial support for students who need to access private, external counselling services (looking into Student Finance and the Dean’s Funds)
- c. DPW informs the Board of how the Counselling Service assessment of students works and how the severity of student cases is determined. DPW clarifies that the long wait time is currently for students who are not the most severe cases
- d. The Board raise the following points:
 - i. Can the assessment form could include an option to note whether the student case is an evolving situation or something that happened in the past
 - ii. Is this initiative working with Hannah Bannister’s (Director of Student Services) (HB) to reduce wait times? DPW clarifies HB is working on securing funding for the academic year 2018/19 whereas this initiative is trying to find a fix for students now
 - iii. Is the wait time equitable for non-SK campuses

AP – Mental Health Officer and DPW to find out what the wait time is for appointments at non-SK campuses

- iv. Disability Advisory Service offer drop-in sessions in the Maths department and they refer students onto services. DPW clarifies this just adds them to the waiting list

- v. Is the 15 week wait after initial triage? DPW confirms this is true
 - vi. Is the cut off on the assessment scale based on the Counselling Service's capacity to provide appointments? DPW clarifies assessments are made on clinical need
 - vii. If you're accessing additional funding shouldn't it be spent on getting more internal counsellors rather than sending students to external services? DPW confirms that would not solve the current wait time issue
 - viii. If this is achieved can it be communicated to Senior Tutors
 - ix. At what point, and which students, would be referred. DPW suggests it is advertised as soon as students have their initial assessments
 - x. Will the applications for funding be means tested
 - xi. Why are we subsidising and not offering to cover the entire cost, there is a gap in the College's service and they're failing students
 - xii. The funding would need to last the academic year for Postgraduates which ends in September
 - xiii. Would an MC application be accepted on the basis a student can't access counselling quick enough
- e. DPW thanks the Board for their feedback.

Meeting concludes at 19:55