

Postgraduate membership of the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) – an amendment to the proposed Union Bye-Laws

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Union Notes:

1. In the last few years, Postgraduate Students (PGs) have not been classified as Full Members or allowed to stand or vote in RCSU elections. PGs are however members of the constituent Departmental Societies (DepSocs) which the Constituent Unions (CU) oversees.
2. Historically, PGs of the Faculty of Natural Sciences have been members of the RCSU.
3. The RCSU and its constituent DepSocs often invite PGs to events, and PGs do attend events, however as they are no longer Full Members there are no official direct communication channels and no PGs on either committee.
4. The membership composition of the RCSU is mentioned in the new proposed Union Bye-Laws as follows;
 - a) The Royal College of Science Union for the undergraduate students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.
 - a. Postgraduate students in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, are social members of the Royal College of Science Union

(A-22.4, and A-22.4.1 in the proposed draft)
5. The RCSU Constitution defines membership of the RCSU in section 4.2.1 as: a. "All registered students of the Imperial College Faculty of Natural Sciences are automatically Full Members of the Union."

Union Believes:

1. The exclusion of PGs from their Faculty CUs has no benefit to those students and only reduces the opportunities and range of events they receive and membership would only serve to augment their student experience.
2. The academic representation and welfare system should primarily remain within the GSU; the Faculty CUs would serve only to augment this.

3. PGs should be allowed to fully participate in the social and political activities of their Faculty CUs as well as the GSU. This will also result in better communication and co-ordination, as well as access to more resources for events.
 - a. Based on the potential for overlap of roles and responsibilities, and Believes 2, there should be roles exempted from this which will be agreed by accord separately between the Executive Committees of the GSU and the RCSU.
4. The proposed change would give Taught Master's students greater opportunity to socialise with UG Master's students, whom they often share courses with.

Union Resolves:

1. To recognise PGs in the Faculty of Natural Sciences as Full Members of the RCSU by the following amendment of the proposed Bye-Laws

22.4 The Royal College of Science Union for the ~~undergraduate~~ students of the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

22.4.1 Postgraduate students in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, are ~~social~~ full members of the Royal College of Science Union with stipulations noted in their Constitution.