

**Imperial College Union Board of Trustees**

**30/10/2019**

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| **AGENDA ITEM NO.** |  |
| **TITLE** | Proposal for an Elected PG Trustee |
| **AUTHOR** | Abhijay P. Sood |
| **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** | Brief paper outlining a proposal for a designated seat for a PG student on Trustee Board. This would entail amendments to our Constitution which would require approval from College Council. |
| **PURPOSE** | Seeking decision/recommendation |
| **DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED** | Board support for adding a PG Trustee; specific mechanism to be determined by Union Council |

# Background

* The elected student members of the Board of Trustees currently comprise the five Officer Trustees, two Student Trustees, and the Council Chair.
* After these have been elected, a further two student trustees are appointed, to ensure a full diversity of views is represented at Board.
  + This usually means gender, race, and study programme factor into considerations regarding appointments.
* Often the elected students are exclusively undergraduate students – this year’s two elected postgraduate members are an exception to the rule.
* Around half the students at Imperial are postgraduates – while there needn’t be a strict quota, we do need to make sure their voice is not completely absent from conversations at Board.

# Options

Various options could be pursued for remedying this.

**Nomination:**

1. The GSU President could become a Trustee of the Union
   1. Replacing one of the appointed trustees
   2. Replacing one of the elected trustees
   3. In addition to existing trustees
2. Nominations could be opened to PGs for a new role – “elected PG Trustee” – in our Leadership Elections.
   1. This role could replace one of the appointed trustees
   2. This role could replace one of the elected trustees
   3. In addition to existing trustees

The advantage of 1a over 1b (or 2a over 2b) is that it leaves more students being elected to board, leaving two seats open for any student to run for. The main drawback is that, in reducing the number of trustees we appoint, our ability to correct for other imbalances might become more limited. Options 1c/2c avoid this but could make the meeting less efficient by increasing the number of those present.

**Voting:**

Under option 2, we would need to decide whether all students, or only postgraduates, would be allowed to vote in the election.

# Recommendation

1. That Board support adding a designated seat for a PG on Trustee Board
2. That Board allow the above options to be considered by Union Council

The Constitution would have to be amended accordingly, so this measure would require two thirds approval from Union Council, followed by approval at College Council.