

Proposal for an Elected PG Trustee

Proposer – Abhijay P. Sood, Union President

Seconded – Milia Hasbani, GSU Vice-President (Representation)

This paper is liable to be amended in advance of the meeting on the basis of the decision of the Board of Trustees on 30/10/2019.

Union Notes

- 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.
 - o 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

Union Believes

- While there needn’t be a strict quota, it is important for us to ensure postgraduate students have a voice on the Union’s Board of Trustees

Options

Various options could be pursued for remedying this.

Nomination:

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

Union Resolves

- To introduce an elected PG Trustee to Board in line with one of the above options.

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.