

**Imperial College Union  
Board of Trustees / 14 July 2021**

**Student Trustee Reflections**

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Purpose: To provide Board with a reflection on the year as a Trustee of Imperial College Union.

**What have you learnt during your time as a Trustee and what went well?**

- Learned a great deal about the operational function of the Union – big picture of finances, personnel structure, what the Union actually ‘does’.
- Board is generally effective in engaging student members and getting them to feel their views are important / worthwhile – particularly pre-remote meetings.

**What did you particularly value being part of the Board as a Trustee and why?**

- Engagement with the Strategy working group – chance to actively participate in the development of the organisation’s vision for the next two years.
- Discussions with other Board members, particularly external trustees – opportunity to learn from these members with extensive experience.

**Did you experience any challenges as part of your role? If so, what were they?**

- Remote meetings presented a clear challenge for obvious reasons. These were dealt with well and did not significantly impede ability of Board to deliver on key matters.
- More difficult this year to ‘get to know’ Board members not met before pandemic. There are members to whom I think I have not directly spoken *at all* this year – not ideal!

**What recommendations would you make for areas of improvement for Student Trustees in the future?**

- More initial training regarding ‘the organisation’ – financial model, staff structure, etc – presentations and Q&A with SMT. Something on paper – ‘trustee handbook’.
- More opportunity for informal small-group discussion with other Board members – hopefully this should follow more naturally during in-person meetings.

My overall experience on the Board these past 2 years has been exceptionally positive. Board is very well-run and (now) well-supported. Without the learning and insight acquired from my time on the Board I would have not likely had the confidence to take up the President role next year. I have looked forward to each meeting, even the remote ones, and I am delighted to be continuing on the Board for another year at least.