**Minutes of Community & Welfare Board**

*The first Ordinary Meeting of the Community & Welfare Board for the 2021-22 Session was held on Thursday 18th October, 18:00.*

*Location: MR4*

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| **Voting members:**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Full Name** | **Role** | **Attendance** | | Nathalie Podder | ICU Deputy President (Welfare) (DPW) | Present | | Rebekah Christie | ICU BME Officer | Present | | Malinda Davies | ICU Gender Equality Officer | Apologies | | Grace Fisher | ICU Working Class Students Officer | Apologies | | Awais Seyyad | ICU Disabilities Officer | Present | | Camilla Billari | ICU Ethics & Environment Officer | Present | | Anvesh Rajeshirke | ICU International Officer | Present | | Calyste Revel | ICU LGBTQ+ Officer | Present | | Lottie Barot | ICU Mental Health Officer | Present | | Esha Kamran | ICU Mental Health Officer | Absent | | Tianyu Wen | RCSU Vice President (Welfare) | Present | | Emily Li | RSMU Vice President (Welfare) | Present | | Camellia Richards | ICSMSU Welfare Chair | Absent | | Philippa Jackson | ICSMSU Welfare Vice Chair | Absent | | Aurna Maitra | CGCU Wellbeing Chair | Absent | | Aisha Azlin | CGCU Wellbeing Officer | Absent | | Karthikeyan Ponniah | PGT Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering) | Absent | | Tin Hang Un | PGR Academic & Welfare Officer (Engineering) | Absent | | Manasa Reddy Sanaga | PGT Academic & Welfare Officer (Natural Sciences) | Present | | Ceire Wincott | PGR Academic & Welfare Officer (Natural Sciences) | Present | | Anjola Onifade | PGT Academic & Welfare Officer (Medicine) | Absent | | Aryan Niknam Maleki | PGR Academic & Welfare Officer (Medicine) | Absent | | Jenaifer Farhad Sethna | PGT Academic & Welfare Officer (Business) | Absent |   **Non-voting members:**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Full Name** | **Role** | **Attendance** | | Uddeshya Saini | Department Representative – Aeronautics | Present | | Pansy Pan | Department Representative – Biochemistry | Present | | Elisa Soliani | Department Representative – Bioengineering | Apologies | | Kauthar Benrissa | Department Representative – Biological Sciences | Apologies | | Cameron Aldren | Department Representative – Chemical Engineering | Absent | | Chinny Lee | Department Representative – Chemistry | Present | | Mohammed-Omar Diab El-Arab | Department Representative – Civil & Environmental Engineering | Apologies | | Arjun Banerjee | Department Representative – Computing | Absent | | Frederick Seidler | Department Representative – Design Engineering | Absent | | Reha Chandresh | Department Representative – Earth Science & Engineering | Present | | Eleftheria Safarika | Department Representative – EEE | Absent | | Ishaan Reni | Department Representative – EIE | Present | | Shirley Xu | Department Representative – Materials | Present | | Desmond Lin | Department Representative – Mathematics | Apologies | | Angela Sun | Department Representative – Mechanical Engineering | Absent | | Anthea MacIntosh-La Rocque | Department Representative – Physics | Present | | Theo Charalambous | Department Representative – JMC | Absent | | Hayley Wong | CGCU President | Absent | | Jasmine Crocker | RSMU President | Absent | | Aparna Pillai | RCSU President | Absent | | Alex Auyung | Silwood Park Chair | Absent | | Samuel Hammond | ICSMSU President | Present | | Lloyd James | ICU President | Absent | | Daniel Lo | ICU DP Education | Absent | | India Marsden | ICU DP Clubs & Societies | Absent | | Sam Lee | ICU DP Finance & Services | Absent |   **Apologies:**  Grace Fisher, Malinda Davies  **Additional observers:**  Thom Astle, Senior Sports Coordinator  **Minute taker:**  Liberation & Campaigns coordinator – Sophie van der Ham |

**Chair’s business**

Nathalie Podder, the Deputy President Welfare (DPW) welcomed everyone to CWB.

Thom Astle joined this meeting to speak on Anvesh’s paper and introduced themselves.

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

DPW misplaced the minutes of the last meeting but promised to send them round next time.

**Updates on actions**

None, see above

**Matters for report**

DPW updated on:

* + The work on spiking and student safety in venues
  + Disciplinary Review Town Hall. The attendees have three days to review and provide feedback to the summary.
  + ICU sexual misconduct survey will be published on WonkHE.com
  + EDI strategy for the Union

**CU VPW Reports**

**Tianyu (RCSU)**

1. Survey at the beginning of the year asked for in-person teaching including lectures. Ask for assessments to be remote.
2. Chemistry asked for a blacklist for unsafe venues for students
3. Welfare week at the start of March

**CGCU**

None present

**Reha (RSMU)**

1. Beat the blues week, including yoga, baking, rock-painting
2. Event with dogs in Hyde Park
3. Attendance was lower than expected but probably due to exams
4. Christmas dinner postponed and very well-attended
5. Quite a few events lined up
6. Sports matches organised and due to go on sale 1 Feb
7. Frustration around move to learning to hybrid learning. Working with DOS to fix.
8. Delayed field trips and changed to UK trips
9. Creating a personal tutor feedback form
10. Materials students made use of Mums & Dads scheme
11. Uncertainty over online or in-person exams in summer for materials
12. Wellbeing events on sleep and time managements.
13. New Year’s dinner was well-attended

**Sam (ICSMS)**

1. Drinks spiking awareness campaign is continuing. Social media comms has gone out.
2. Campaigns officers started a healthy habits campaign
3. BMA charter work is ongoing in response to racial discrimination. Pushing for training on the issue.
4. Meeting with BLM working group with the Faculty of Medicine on career trajectory and retention for Black and Asian students. It’s a four-week programme with scholarships.
5. New Director of Student Support for the Faculty of Medicine. She is interested in working on issues around discipline and sexual misconduct.

**PG AWOs**

**Faculty of Natural Science**

1. Little change to teaching and learning due to Plan B.
2. Faculty hired two well-being officers who act as a service for students to refer to other services

**LCO Reports**

**Ethics & Environment**

1. Sustainability week is happening 21-27 March. Collaborating with the Environmental society and the Union as the College is not working pro-actively on the week.
2. Screening a five-part documentary; lunch time talks; talk by the CEO of Amazon Protection Pollination; Imperial professor who is on the IPCC panel
3. Gardening session with ESoc; work with Felix
4. Shifting to sustainable period products on campus
5. Educational video on sustainability in halls and at home

**LGBTQ+**

1. Have organised LGBT+ history month. Lots of events have been planned.
2. Planning to submit a paper to Council about UCL’s withdrawal from Stonewall

**International**

1. Parity between home students and international students and promote bonding. Wrote paper about the Imperial Premier League.

**BME**

1. Meeting with externals to discuss events and working on International Women’s Day
2. **Working Class**
3. Grace sent her apologies
4. **Disabilities**
5. Blog post for Disability History Month
6. Instagram takeover for Union & College
7. Working on making education more accessible for disabled students due to e-learning and keeping certain COVID-provisions

**Mental Health**

1. Set of talks around mental health in collaboration with LCO’s
2. Review of student counselling service with the aim of procuring more funding
3. Mental health awareness week in May

**Gender Equality**

1. Organising IWD, specifically, TikToks about the female student experience; self-defence workshop; dance battle between female dancers from different societies.
2. She sent a summary of a survey on lighting on campus to the College and will schedule a meeting with the College.
3. She is working on a response to represent female students re the disciplinary review.

**Matters for discussion**

1. Paper submitted by Awais Seyyad, Disabilities officer.
2. The move to online assessment has made learning more accessible for disabled students. Now that the College is moving back to in-person teaching and learning, it feels like that support is being rescinded. Disabled students face a lower retention rate due to difficulties navigating the barriers in higher education. Now that the work has been done to make learning and assessment easier to access (due to the pandemic), there is little reason to not continue to implement it – perhaps as a reasonable adjustment.
3. Nathalie suggested that this paper should be shared on College committees, and her and Daniel (DPE) will actively take it forward.
4. Grace, working class officer, shared comments in advance:
5. *I think it's so well put together and outlines key issues that the Union and college need to tackle. Being a disabled student myself, although not physically tiring work and online labs greatly benefited my health. It was so much easier to manage my day-to-day life and I've heard the same from many other disabled people's for resolve one. For resolve two she said: I really think this is a great idea and will support it. However, I can see this resolve is something that college really won't like. I think if we would go forward with such a resolve that we would need a large number backing people and a lot of help from the Union to emphasize what an important adjustment this is. I think we should also need extensive comments from disabled students and support such resolve, which I would be so happy to help collate.*
6. Anvesh asked for more clarifications about how assessment is made more accessible, and Awais shared his experience with reasonable adjustments.
7. The paper received support from Ceire Winscott, Kauthar Benriassa and Camilla Billari. Calyste Revel, Manasa Reddy, Ceire Wincott, Uddyeshya Saini, Anthea MacIntosh-LaRocque, Benriassa Kauthar, Camilla Billari, Lottie Barot offered to second it.
8. Anvesh wrote a paper to organise a Premier League. He says this idea will promote teamwork in different departments, and parity between home and international students.
9. Thom Astle added that some CUs have fixtures through BUCS or NUSSL. He suggested introduce Imperial Leagues and have separate sub branches.
10. Grace submitted feedback in advance and asked how many students are interested in the League.
11. Anvesh replied that he spoke to international students during campaigning for his role and had a meeting.
12. Grace asked about the phrase ‘special credits’. Anvesh replied that it is to incentivise students to do physical activities. Nathalie suggested to use the Imperial Award submissions.
13. Grace asked about how to ensure a team is a mix of international and home students. Nathalie suggested to have a chat with Sophie to work out the details.
14. Thom added that building this from scratch is a big project and requires a lot of planning, and may be better off starting it with a one-off match.
15. Manasa Reddy and Calyste Revel seconded the paper.

**AOB**

* Manasa Reddy. She would like to find out what welfare services to focus on through a survey and she will contact Nathalie to start planning. She’s also thinking of organising events aimed at relaxation and socialisation.
* Ceire Wincott showed everyone her cat and that received a lot of support.

**Action Points:**

* AP: Sophie to look into Imperial Award for credits for the Premier League and work with Anvesh on implementation.

**Close of meeting**

DPW thanked everyone for coming and writing papers and closed the meeting.

**Next meeting**

21 March at 6pm in MR 4