



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
of the first ordinary meeting of
the
Community and Welfare Board
of the
Imperial College Union
in the 2013/14 Session

The meeting of the Community and Welfare Board was held in the Union Building on 24th October 2013 at 6.05pm in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Beit Quad, Imperial College (South Kensington).

Present:

Position	Name
Deputy President (Welfare)	Marissa Lewis – Chair
Deputy President (Education)	Natalie Kempston
GSU Chair	Andreas Thomik
RSMU President	Emily Pennington
ICSMSU Welfare Officer	Sunila Prasad
GSU Medicine Academic & Welfare Officer	Nuha Yassin
GSA Engineering Academic & Welfare Officer	Nicholas Ng
LGBT Officer	Nia John
Ethics & Environment Officer	Max Heaver
International Officer	Nida Mahmud
Disabilities Officer	Moeko Maiguma-Wilson
Gender Equalities Officer	Sarah Sturrock
Student Advisor	Nigel Cooke
Representation Coordinator	Zoe Richardson

Apologies:

President David Goldsmith, Deputy President (Finance & Services) Kieron Creagh, ICSMSU President Steve Tran, GSU Business Academic & Welfare Officer Ruxandra Luca, Campaigns Officer Christopher Kaye ICSMSU President Steve Tran, Education & Welfare Manager Andrew Keenan

Not Present

RCSU President Plabon Saha, CGCU Welfare Officer Juliet Kernohan, RCSU Welfare Officer Douglas Imrie, RSMU Welfare Officer Hayley Meek, GSU Engineering AWO Mohammad Ahmadzadeh, GSU Physical Science AWO Max Boleininger, GSU Life Science AWO Mart Sawicka, BME Officer Mohammed Riyaz, Interfaith Officer Tagore Nakornchai

1. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

NOTED:

- a) Members of the new Committee introduced themselves.

2. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

NOTED:

- a) The minute of the previous meeting were accepted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- a) There were no matters arising.

4. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) REPORT

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Marissa Lewis, Deputy President (Welfare).

- a) The next Sexual Health Clinic will be held on 19th November at Imperial College Union.
- b) Condom distribution scheme has now been launched within College Halls of residences. Condom representative volunteers are being recruited, to ensure condoms are not sabotaged or run out.
- c) Disability Advisory Service week took place last week, with events being held in the Sherfield foyer.
- d) The Student Experience Survey is currently being created and will be released in December for students to complete.
- e) Marissa attended the Student Welfare Committee.

5. CWB FINANCE REPORT

RECEIVED: The Committee was shown Agenda Item 4 - a table of the CWB budget for the 2013/14 academic year.

6. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Sunila Prasad, ICSMSU Welfare Officer.

- a) Sunila has been establishing contact with and aiding increased communication between the students by establishing a Facebook group. It has been noted that is a more effective method of getting in contact with students than via e-mail.
- b) ICSMSU wishes to establish a mental health awareness campaign. The Welfare Officer from Kings College London has been in touch with a view to collaborating together. They are currently sharing ideas.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Max Heaver, Ethics & Environmental Officer.

- a) It has been noted the societies within the Union tend to be autonomous, therefore efforts are being made to increase collaboration between these.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Moeko Maiguma-Wilson, Disabilities Officer.

- a) Moeko has been working on a mental health awareness campaign which she will be discussing later on in the meeting.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Nia John, LGBT Portfolio Officer.

- a) Nia would like to see dental dams to be added to the safe sex supplies being offered within Halls of residence.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Sarah Sturrock, Gender Equality Officer.

- a) Sarah is in the process of establishing a mentoring system and met with Marissa to discuss this.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Andreas Thomik, President (Graduate Student's Union).

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- a) A number of supervisor-student issues have been raised to the GSU and these are currently undergoing investigation.
 - b) Andreas is keen to know about campaigns Liberation Officers are running and how Postgraduate students can become involved.

7. CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL – STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OFFICER

- a) Moeko wishes to run a Mental Health awareness campaign, primarily aimed at students with depression. The aim of the campaign is to encourage students to disclose their illness and seek help.
- b) Key aspects of the plan proposed include sharing psychiatrists' knowledge, myth busting, inviting speakers along and having a strong Facebook presence.
- c) The effectiveness of the campaign will be measured with an online survey, the strength of social media presence and the number of students who have chosen to disclose their illness to the disability advisory service.
- d) ICSMSU is interested in creating a joint-campaign regarding mental health and fitness to practice concerns. ICSMSU welfare officer and Moeko will discuss this.
- e) Creating anonymous case studies about students who have accessed College medical services using student media was discussed. It was recommended that Moeko contact the counselling service.
- f) Nuha researched into a similar issue at previous university and is happy to share her findings with Moeko. She would be happy to collaborate.
- g) A vote was taken and the motion to fund the campaign was unanimously passed.

8. CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL – STUDENTS WITH GENDER EQUALITY OFFICER

- a) Sarah is keen to organise a campaign to encourage clubs and societies to pledge to avoid sexist behaviours and to include ideas from the other liberation officers in this. The aim is to ensure students feel safe and confident at all Imperial events.
- b) An idea to publicise this and to encourage groups to join in with the pledge is to ask them to take a photograph with a copy of the pledge, upload these online and ask students to vote for their club or society. The clubs or society with the most votes (proportionally) will then win a prize. Involvement will be purely optional.
- c) A vote was taken and the motion to fund the campaign was unanimously passed.

9. SHAG Week

- a) Sexual Health & Guidance Week will be taking place 11th – 17th November. The aim of this event is to promote services to their students.
- b) Consent and healthy relationships are both issues which could be discussed within the week. Sarah knows of some videos which could be promoted.

ACTION: Sarah to let Marissa know about the details of these videos.

- c) Current possibilities for SHAG fair events include: different external companies each day of the week, life drawing classes and a film screening. Marissa has not been able to get in touch with anyone regarding life drawing classes.

ACTION: Yas will let Marissa know about a potentially useful contact for life drawing classes.

- d) A pee-in-the-pot testing session will also be arranged if possible. The question of whether a pee-in-the-pot session could be arranged at Reynolds was discussed, especially when a Bob is being held.

ACTION: Zoe to investigate into the possibility of a pee-in-the-pot at Reynolds in the near future.

- e) Drugs and their effect in sexual encounters and relationships was raised. This could be linked with issues regarding consent.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Marissa would like to introduce a safe space policy for all Imperial College Union venues, particularly the night club and bars. Currently there is no sexual harassment policy in place. Having a policy would make the removal of individuals causing issues easier and would be included in the training of all stewards. This was generally seen as a good idea by members of the board.
- b) The issue of boundaries regarding bad taste and insensitive fancy dress in particular was raised. This is an area with particularly unclear boundaries and it was suggested that policies could prevent regular costumes.
- c) Drinking games were also raised as an issue affecting a number of students, particularly Freshers. The right to say no should be respected and promoted. It was noted that policies relating to clubs and societies exist, but could be expanded to include social groups. Publicity regarding this could be sent to Freshers before their arrival at Imperial.
- d) Nuha raised concerns regarding fees at Imperial and the apparent discrepancies between those who pay full fees for Postgraduate study and those who pay 50% of the full fee amount due to being classed as Imperial staff. This can lead to students in very similar circumstances studying the same course to be doing so under very different circumstances.

Meeting closed 6.45pm

Approved as a correct record at a meeting of the Community and Welfare Board

on _____ 2012/13

_____ Chair of the Meeting