

Council  
19<sup>th</sup> January 2008

**Proposal to split the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) into Two Sabbatical Officers; Deputy President (Education and Development) and Deputy President (Welfare)**

*Proposed by the President of Imperial College Union*

*Seconded by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare), CGCU Academic Affairs Officer, CGCU Honorary Secretary and ICU Welfare Campaigns Officer*

**The Union notes:**

1. That in Student Unions nationally, Education and Welfare are represented independently,
2. That only 3 Student Unions out of the Russell Group's 20 members still have a combined Education and Welfare Sabbatical Officer; all the rest have separate Education and Welfare sabbaticals.
3. The position of Deputy President (Education & Welfare) was created in 1999 to meet the representation and welfare needs of Imperial Students. The responsibility for this previously lay with the President of Imperial College Union. Since then, student numbers have increased from 9441 FT + 946 PT in the year 1999-2000 to 12319 FT + 1036 PT in the year 2007-08, with a particular rise in the number of International Students,
4. The position of Deputy President (Graduate Students) was created in 2005 because of a gap in Postgraduate Representation. This role was removed from the Sabbatical team in 2007 mostly due to the difficulty of recruiting a Postgraduate Student to the position. The responsibility for representation of Postgraduate Students then fell jointly between the Graduate Students' Association Chair (a full time Postgraduate Student) and the Deputy President (Education & Welfare),
5. That a significant proportion of the Deputy President (Education and Welfare)'s role is representing students through Committees and individual meetings on many issues. These include, but are not restricted to, the following areas:
  - Student Experience
  - Health services
  - Accommodation
  - Careers
  - Personal development
  - Equal Opportunities and Disabilities
  - International Students
  - eLearning
  - Library
  - Humanities
  - Student satisfaction- survey results
  - Quality Assurance
  - Undergraduate Studies Committees
  - Graduate School Committees
  - Recruitment/ admissions
  - Registry Committees
  - Security
  - Fees/ finance
  - Ethics/ environment
  - General Welfare Committees

**The Union Believes:**

6. The increase in student and course numbers has resulted in a more diverse range of representation challenges which are not entirely met by the current sabbatical structure. Traditionally Postgraduate Students have been the most under-represented,
7. The current responsibilities of the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) cannot be shifted to other sabbatical officers due their considerable existing workload,
8. That Quality Assurance is taken seriously by Imperial College, with student input into delivery of education having an ever-increasing role. This responsibility primarily falls to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare). This role cannot be effectively fulfilled by a staff member,
9. It is important to maintain a presence on College Committees, however this has meant the role of Deputy President (Education and Welfare) has become less Union-focused,
10. That much of the work of the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) is reactive due to time constraints. Two separate Education and Welfare sabbaticals would allow each to research and lobby on student issues proactively,
11. It is important to have a central Union sabbatical to co-ordinate faculty and individual initiatives to improve the delivery of education and welfare services in College,
12. Having separate sabbatical officers for Education and Welfare would mean more focused candidates would run for the respective positions. Traditionally, the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) has been more focused on one aspect of the role,
13. The ICU Community Action Group and ICU RAG would be better supported by a sabbatical involved in projects within the local community.

**This Union Resolves:**

14. To amend the following sections of the constitution:
  - a. Regulation Three- Officers of the Union
    - i. Remove Deputy President (Education and Welfare) from the list of **A. Officers of the Union,**
    - ii. Add Deputy President (Education and Development) to the list of **A. Officers of the Union,**
    - iii. Add and Deputy President (Welfare) to the list of **A. Officers of the Union,**
    - iv. Remove Deputy President (Education and Welfare) from **C. Job Descriptions for the Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor.**
    - v. Add Deputy President (Education and Development) to **C. Job Descriptions for the Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor,** with the following job description:

The Deputy President (Education and Development) shall:

      - i. Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union,
      - ii. Take on Presidential duties as appropriate,
      - iv. Be responsible for coordinating the provision of student development and progression within Union and College activities,
      - v. Be responsible for coordinating information relating to academic practices in the College's Faculties and Departments and identify issues of student concern,
      - v. Be responsible for keeping College informed of student opinion on academic affairs,
      - vi. Be responsible for the academic concerns of all Union members,
      - vii. To liaise with the relevant Union staff to ensure that adequate initial training and

- on-going support is available for all academic representatives,
- vii. Shall maintain and run a Representation Network for the Academic Representatives of the Faculty Unions and other student bodies,
- viii. Advise students called to attend academic discipline and appeal hearings and attend as a representative, if requested,
- ix. Liaise with the Graduate Students Association Chair on all matters concerning students registered on postgraduate courses,
- x. Liaise with Union and College staff as appropriate,
- xi. Attend the relevant Union Committees,
- xii. Represent the Union on external committees as appropriate,
- vi. **Add Deputy President (Welfare) to C. Job Descriptions for the Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor, with the following job description:**
  - The Deputy President (Welfare) shall:
    - i. Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union,
    - ii. Take on Presidential duties as appropriate,
    - iii. Be responsible for welfare issues and services for all Union members,
    - iv. Be responsible for union actions pertaining to students' mental and physical health, well-being, safety, security, and resources to cope with hardship and/or disability.
    - v. Keep abreast of University and national developments in relevant policy as it affects students' welfare.
    - vi. Be responsible for working with College to develop welfare provision and encourage sharing of best practice,
    - vii. Be responsible for representing the needs of minority or under-represented groups in the Union,
    - viii. Be responsible for coordinating and publicising all campaigns concerning equal opportunities and welfare issues.
    - ix. Be responsible for maintaining and running a Welfare Network for the Welfare Officers of the Faculty Unions and other student bodies,
    - x. Assist the President in enforcing the Union's Equal Opportunities Policy,
    - xi. Liaise with Union and College staff as appropriate,
    - xii. Attend the relevant Union Committees,
    - xiii. Represent the Union on external committees as appropriate,
    - xiv. Report to Union Committees as appropriate, and
    - xv. Negotiate other duties with the President.
- vii. **Change the Equal Opportunities Officer in D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers, to add:**
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare)'
- viii. **Change the International Students' Officer in D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers, to add:**
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare)'
- ix. **Change the Welfare Campaigns Officer in D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers, from:**
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) for the research and implementation of campaigns' to,
  - 2. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare) for the research and implementation of campaigns',
- x. **Change the Faculty Academic Affairs Officers in D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers, from:**
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty' to,
  - 2. Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Development) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty',

- xi. Change the Faculty Welfare Officers in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers**, from:
  - 1. 'Be responsible to the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty' to,
  - 2. Be responsible to the Deputy President (Welfare) for academic representation of Undergraduate Students in the Faculty',
- xii. Change the Postgraduate Representatives in **D. Job Descriptions for Other Union Officers**, from:
  - 1. 'Assist the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) and Graduate Schools Association's Chair in the co-ordination of academic and welfare representation of Postgraduate taught or research students in their Graduate School Department' to,
  - 2. 'Assist the Deputy President (Education and Development), Deputy President (Welfare) and Graduate Schools Association's Chair in the co-ordination of academic and welfare representation of Postgraduate taught or research students in their Graduate School Department'.
- b. Regulation Five- Composition of Union Committees
  - i. Remove Deputy President (Education and Welfare) from the list of **A. The Council**,
  - ii. Add Deputy President (Education and Development) to the list of **A. The Council**,
  - iii. Add and Deputy President (Welfare) to the list of **A. The Council**,
  - iv. Remove Rag and Community Action Group from **C. The Clubs and Societies Board**,
  - v. Add the following point to **D. The Representation and Welfare Board**:
    - 1. The Representation and Welfare Board shall oversee the activities of Rag and the Community Action Group.
  - vi. Change point 26 in **D. The Representation and Welfare Board** from:
    - 1. 'The Representation and Welfare Board shall be chaired by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare)' to:
    - 2. 'The Representation and Welfare Board shall be chaired alternately by the Deputy President (Education and Development) and the Deputy President (Welfare)',
  - vii. Change point 32 in **D. The Representation and Welfare Board** from:
    - 1. 'The Halls Committee shall be chaired by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare)' to:
    - 2. 'The Representation and Welfare Board shall be chaired alternately by the Deputy President (Welfare)',