

Student Media Regulations Changes – Take 2

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The Trustee Board has expressed concerns about the changes to the Staff Student Protocol passed by Council in March, in particular that it opens up the potential for victimisation by the student media.

Alternative changes which seek to address these issues are presented in this paper.

Imperial College Union notes:

1. At the Council meeting in March, this body voted to pass changes to the Staff Student Protocol.
2. The change approved at the time read as follows:

12. The maintenance of the integrity of the Union as an employer precludes any staff matters, either related to work or personal matters, from being discussed in any open forum of the Union. This does not include the discussion of departments or the performance of a department as a whole save where a department has only one staff member.
3. Some members of the Trustee Board have expressed concerns about this change, believing it exposes members of staff to victimisation and harassment, something the original change was not intended to do.

Imperial College Union believes:

1. The Union's current regulations are preventing the student media from informing the student body on all of the matters that concern them.
2. Interpretation of the regulations varies from person-to-person, year-on-year. Debate about the Student Staff Protocol, especially, repeatedly arises each year. The regulations are a 'grey area' and need clarification.
3. The student media should not be prevented from reporting on stories that are within the public interest.
4. It is in nobody's interest to expose ICU staff to victimisation or harassment by the student media

Imperial College Union resolves:

1. To replace the changes made to the Student Staff Protocol section of the Code of Practice in March with the following: (changes underlined):

12. The maintenance of the integrity of the Union as an employer precludes any staff matters, either related to work or personal matters, from being discussed in any open forum of the Union. This does not prevent the discussion of any activities undertaken by the Union, even if staff-led, as long as staff performance does not feature in said discussion.