



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
of the third 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 20th March 2014 at 6.05pm in Meeting Room 1 Beit Quad, Imperial College (South Kensington).

**Present:**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>
Deputy President (Welfare)	Marissa Lewis – Chair
President	David Goldsmith
Deputy President (Education)	Natalie Kempston
Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Kieron Creagh
C & GCU Welfare Officer	Juliet Kernohan
RCSU President	Plabon Saha
RCSU Welfare Officer	Douglas Imrie
Representation Coordinator	Zoe Richardson
LGBTa Portfolio Officer	Nia John

**Apologies:**

GSU Medicine Academic & Welfare Officer	Nuha Yassin
GSU Physical Sciences Academic & Welfare Officer	Max Boleininger
RSMU Welfare Officer	Hayley Meek
ICSMSU President	Steve Tran
GSU Engineering Academic & Welfare Officer	Mohammad Ahmadzadeh
Education & Welfare Manager	Andrew Keenan
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Yas Edwards
Student Advisor	Nigel Cooke
Education & Welfare Manager	Andrew Keenan

**1. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

**i) Report of email decision for RCSU Welfare Week Campaign Application**

The meeting has not achieved quorum therefore the committee is unable to approve the application.

**2. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 5 DECEMBER 2013**

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

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) There were no matters arising.

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#### **4. RATIFICATION OF E-MAIL DECISION**

- a) Insufficient responses to an e-mail sent to all committee members asking them to vote on the campaign proposal from RCSU failed to reach quorum, so the committee was unable to either approve, or reject the campaign.
- b) As this meeting has failed to reach quorum this was put forward as a matter for discussion. It was established that freebies and events would be given to RCSU students first and foremost, although all students were able to access these.
- c) It was decided that due to the upcoming proposed campaign date and the committees failure to meet quorum upon two occasions that the campaign would be put to Executive committee instead.

#### **5. VERBAL REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Nia John

- a) LGBT History month was held in February. Nia liaised with IQ society but as it was a busy month for many members they were unable to dedicate as much time to it as was hoped.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Juliet Kernohan

- b) Nothing to report.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Plabon Saha

- c) Would like to receive funding for RCSU's proposed campaign.

RECEIVED: Verbal update by Douglas Imrie

- d) Would also like to receive funding for RCSU's proposed campaign.

#### **6. CAMPAIGN PROPOSAL – RCSU WELFARE WEEK BUDGET**

- a) As this meeting has failed to reach quorum the committee was unable to vote on the campaign. This will now be put to the Executive committee for voting.

#### **7. GENDER-NEUTRAL TOILETS**

- a) There has been call for gender neutral toilets to be introduced to the Imperial College Union building. This would ensure that people feel comfortable using toilets in the building if they are transgender.
- b) This would involve re-labelling existing toilets that do are not assigned to either gender or are currently labelled as disabled toilets. A sign would be added to indicate that these are gender-neutral toilets. The Sir Alexander Fleming building currently has toilets labelled as being gender-neutral.
- c) Nia would like for the whereabouts and existence of gender neutral toilets to be publicised widely throughout imperial.
- d) One potential issue raised would be the feelings of students with disabilities whose toilets are re-labelled. It was suggested that the proposed changes be put to students with disabilities through the Disability Advisory Service, and these students given the opportunity to comment upon the proposed changes.
- e) A quote for the costs involved will be looked into.
- f) Nia John is encouraged to apply for funds from the committee.

ACTION: Marissa Lewis to investigate into the costs involved in making these changes.

ACTION: Nia John to contact the Disability Advisory Service regarding the proposed changes.

#### **8. Stress Less – What do you want to see?**

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- a) A petting zoo as used last year was requested. It was suggested that this may be an issue due to security concerns which were raised last year regarding animal right's activists and associated costs.
  - b) Outdoor games were popular – inflatable assault courses, bucking bronco, swings and other playground items, a ball-pit, an outdoors marquee area, ice lollies, nap pods, cushions on the lawn, lounge area.
  - c) Massages, head massagers, massage chairs, free tea, a tea-party.

**9. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**

- a) The committee was asked to suggest ideas for the week which is designed to raise awareness of mental health issues. The Equality & Diversity Unit are currently organising this event. Plans include meditation sessions and a depressed cake shop.
- b) One suggestion was to utilise an existing art installation which is currently in the library based upon mental health issues.
- c) It was suggested that a link between Stress Less and the week could be made to cross-promote.
- d) An exhibition featuring those who have contributed to science, technology, mathematics and medicine having experienced mental health issues was suggested.
- e) The use of statistics to highlight how common mental health issues are was raised. It was suggested that the campaign should ensure mental health issues beyond depression are focused on, particularly anxiety.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) There was no other business.

**Meeting closed 6:35pm**

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

on \_\_\_\_\_ 2013/14

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of the Meeting