

## Community & Welfare Board Agenda

*The third Ordinary Meeting of the Community & Welfare Board for the 2017-18 Session will be held on Thursday 7 December 2017.*

*Location: Blakett Room 1004*

Deputy President (Welfare)	Fintan O'Connor
ICMSU Welfare Officer	Stephen Naulls
RCSU Welfare Officer	Shervin Sabeghi
RSMU Welfare Officer	Helen Money-Kyrle
BME Officer	Chimdi Igwe
Disabilities Officer	Hisham Abdel Aty
Ethics & Environment Officer	Rhidian Thomas
Gender Equality Officer	Anna Wilson
Mental Health Officer	Ariana Sadr-Hashemi
Aeronautics Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Drew Loynes
Biology Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Natasha Boyd
Chemical Engineering Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Omar Abdulla
Chemistry Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Felix Thompson
Design Engineering Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Laerke Rasmussen
ESE Dep. Wellbeing Rep	Clothilde Venerau
Observers	
Union Council Chair	Owen Heaney
Wellbeing & Campaigns Coordinator	Laura Regan

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### **Formal Business**

1. Chairs business
  - a. Deputy President (Welfare) introduces the Gender Equality Officer to the board
2. Minutes of last meeting
  - a. The minutes of the last Community & Welfare Board meeting were passed
3. Matters arising
  - a. Laura Regan (LR) circulate the survey questions and results
  - b. Deputy President (Welfare) (DPW) informs the board that the alcohol awareness posters are currently with the marketing department

- c. DPW informs the board they are meeting with marketing to ensure the yoyo promotion is made clearer and updated Call It Out posters in the bars highlight the complaints procedure
- d. DPW informs the board that the changes discussed about the Safe Space policy will be made at the time of rewriting and then taken to Union Council

## **Matters for Report**

### 4. Updates from Deputy President (Welfare) **(verbal)**

- a. Working with College leadership on developing a Wellbeing strategy for student wellbeing and support at College. Currently writing a draft version for the strategy itself and its impact
- b. Felix will be publishing what is going on with the Liberation Review and explain what this piece of work is about
- c. Wellbeing Representation Network (WBRN) has been going strongly
- d. Under Pressure has had a massive reach online and in person, with lots of students engaging. Used Under Pressure to raise the profile of the College's Student Space and helping students identify when they are stressed and how to cope with stress

### 5. Updates from Constituent Union Welfare Officers **(verbal)**

- a. ICSMSU Welfare Officer
  - i. Sends apologies for not attending the last CWB meeting
  - ii. Attended every SSLG this term with personal safety being a key theme. Alcohol Awareness campaign will be going ahead in January with a focus on personal safety
  - iii. Passed on the Consent and Sexual Abuse Survey
  - iv. Emotional support for clinical students being discussed at SSLGs. Schwartz rounds for students in clinical years have been proposed. ICSMSU are working with the School of Medicine to implement the idea
  - v. Arranged for students to have a formative paper of a new exam
  - vi. WBRN has been effective, raised issues and come to solutions
  - vii. Looking to improve promotion of counselling services at Charing Cross
  - viii. Working with RCSU to replicate Medics of Imperial in their Faculty
  - ix. Working with ICU marketing to update signposting posters for the Faculty of Medicine and increase their presence on campus
  - x. Moved a Welfare and Personal Tutor tab to the front of Blackboard so it's visible as soon as you login

- xi. Medics grateful about the Under Pressure campaign coming to Charing Cross today
  - xii. Met with new FEO Welfare for Medicine and will be working together with them on new projects
  - xiii. DPW states that the College should have more responsibility about making students aware of the counselling service and effective signposting
- b. RSMU Welfare Officer
- i. Changes within DepSocs upcoming events have been made in light of the Wellbeing survey results, also working with Senior Tutors regarding the survey results
  - ii. Increased attendance at the RSMU arts & crafts lunch times
  - iii. Had positive feedback about Under Pressure
  - iv. Looking to continue fortnightly tea & biscuit de-stress sessions
  - v. Working as closely as possible with Wellbeing Year Reps, ensuring they are coping with workload
  - vi. Engagement from Wellbeing Reps has been really good, each department has regular meetings with their Senior Tutor
- c. RCSU Welfare Officer
- i. Officially added the Wellbeing Board into the constitution and the Welfare Officer role will be an executive officer role
  - ii. Chemistry had the first Wellbeing Student Staff Committee (SSC)
  - iii. Life Sciences and Maths Wellbeing Representatives are doing an audit on Personal Tutors
  - iv. Helped at the Under Pressure stall on Wednesday in the JCR
  - v. Hoping to have a Physics Wellbeing Dep Rep in the new year
  - vi. Organising the first FoNS Wellbeing SSC which will be a forum to share best practice across departments
  - vii. The board discuss the issue of Personal Tutors (PTs) across different faculties to establish whether there are similar issues. The main issues with PTs were: experience was varied from student to student, students aren't comfortable with their PTs and PTs aren't reaching out to tutees to ensure they are coping. The group discuss the benefits of compulsory PT sessions each term and increased PT training

**ACTIONS – DPW to discuss with ICSMSU Welfare Officer about a centralised survey on PT experience.**

**ICSMSU Welfare Officer to send LR Faculty of Medicine recommendations for PTs for circulation to the Board**

**LR to circulate the minutes of the FoE Wellbeing SSC**

## **DPW to talk to RCSU Welfare Officer ahead of FoNS Wellbeing SSC**

- d. Chemical Engineering Dep. Rep on behalf of CGCU Welfare Officer
  - i. Working with an animal charity in the hope of getting animals on campus at the end of March for a petting zoo
  - ii. Welfare survey has a slow uptake, presumably because it's the end of term. It will be updated in line with surveys other Constituent Unions have sent out
  - iii. CGCU are sending out newsletter updates with a welfare section
  - iv. CGCU are running out of free welfare supplies, demand is high
  - v. Mental Health Officer notes it is Mental Health Day on 1 March which could coincide with the petting zoo

### **6. Updates from Liberation Officers (verbal)**

- a. Gender Equality Officer
  - i. Looking to create a platform that deals with all levels of sexual assault complaints as there currently isn't one. Currently writing a proposal for this which will also help the College and the Union understand what issues there are within Imperial

#### **ACTION – DPW to find out whether the results of the Sexual Consent and Violence Survey can be shared with the Gender Equality Officer**

- b. Disabilities Officer
  - i. It's currently Disabilities History Month, there have been volunteers from four different departments and the Union President is getting involved too
  - ii. The next thing to work on is looking how to contact people I represent as there is currently no way of doing so
  - iii. DPW informs the board the Liberation Review is looking into how this can be tackled for all Liberation Officers as it is a consistent issue
  - iv. The group suggest looking at collecting names of students who self-identify through departmental Disabilities Tutors and the Disabilities Advisory Service as well as the staff network, Able @ Imperial
- c. BME Officer
  - i. Next term the College is hosting a Diverse at Imperial week, trying to get undergraduate students from ethnic minority backgrounds to contribute stories for an exhibition

- ii. Most of the cultural societies have their showcase exhibitions in term two and it would be good for the Union to advertise them as a showcase of culture at Imperial. Have found it difficult to get responses from societies
- iii. DPW informs the board Imperial College Union is looking to improve their calendar of events alongside the Liberation Review

**ACTION – DPW to follow up with BME, International and Interfaith Officers on contacting cultural societies through the Union**

- d. Ethics & Environments Officer
  - i. Have been to meetings with the Union Finance team to discuss divestment, based on a paper passed at Council last year
  - ii. Looking to get an email to Alice Gast before the end of term regarding negotiating with College to divest
  - iii. Working with the President of the Energy Society to form a funding assessment for solar panels on rooftops at Imperial, beginning with Halls of Residence. Initially approaching the College, once the solar panels are paid off any profits can be put in a community pot for sustainability work, open to ideas about what the money could be used for
- e. Mental Health Officer
  - i. Neurodivergence paper was passed at Union Council on Tuesday with slight amendments
  - ii. The College's Mental Health day and Diverse Imperial Week are coming up, having been working with the Felix Editor to write a piece on the history of diversity at Imperial College and the struggle Liberation Officers have had
  - iii. Mentality Survey will be published soon
  - iv. Working on a new Liberation Officer position for Social Mobility

**Matters for Discussion**

7. ICU Affiliation with London Nightline

- a. RCSU Welfare Officer gives the board a brief introduction to the charity, London Nightline, its history with Imperial College and informs the board Imperial College London are affiliated with the charity but Imperial College Union disaffiliated around 2012.

- b. RCSU Welfare Officer asks the board their opinions on whether the Union should affiliate with London Nightline for a cost of about £0.01 per student based on the following factors:
  - i. Free advertising materials for London Nightline
  - ii. Free stall at Fresher's Fair for London Nightline
  - iii. Supplies from London Nightline and speakers for events
  - iv. Help students understand what London Nightline is
  - v. Imperial College Union's strategy outlines working with external organisations to improve the wellbeing of Imperial students
- c. DPW gives the board some context on why the Union disaffiliated:
  - i. Unable to access benefits such as training for volunteers
  - ii. The service is only during term-time between 18:00 – 08:00 which left Postgraduates unsupported
  - iii. Difficult to engage with the charity to find out whether Imperial students were utilising the service
- d. DPW asks the board to consider whether this investment of about £2000 per annum is the most valuable partnership to improve the wellbeing of Imperial students and what we can gain from it for students
- e. The board discuss potential confusion or mis-association for students if the Union begins to actively promote a service supporting mental health
- f. The board discuss other free services that are available all year round, 24/7 such as the British Medical Association helplines and counselling
- g. The board discuss the difference between medical helplines and student-to-student support/active listening which London Nightline offers
- h. The board discuss the College's affiliation with London Nightline, how they utilise this to advertise the service to students and whether the Union affiliating would increase the use of the service by Imperial students
- i. The board discuss existing Union posters which advertise support services and whether these should be more widely publicised
- j. Chemistry Dep. Wellbeing Rep supports the idea of renewing Union affiliation with London Nightline stating how it is worthwhile to be able to direct students to external support resources in the instance they may be uncomfortable or concerned to seek support from university resources
- k. ESE Dep. Wellbeing Rep stated they were unsure of the value of Imperial College Union's affiliation given the current extent of services and partnerships
- l. RCSU Welfare Officer thanks the board for their feedback and informs them their next step will be to look at how effective College's affiliation is, whether there can be improvements made and whether London Nightline offer different levels of affiliation

## 8. Social Mobility Liberation Officer

- a. Mental Health Officer informs the board they are pursuing the possibility of a Social Mobility Liberation Officer as an underrepresented marginalised group for the following reasons:

- i. There is no focus on any support services outside of financial
- ii. Statistics of Free School Meal students at Imperial shows there is an attainment gap
- iii. The College does outreach work but doesn't have targets to support students when they start at Imperial
- iv. Students from a lower socio-economic background are less likely to get involved in extra-curricular activities
- v. Other Student Unions have a similar officer position
- b. Mental Health Officer asks the board for opinions on their proposal
- c. The board discuss how social mobility would be defined and which students would be represented by this officer.
- d. The board discuss how the role looks at more than financial difficulties but also confidence, careers and other skills they may lack
- e. The board agree further consultation with students who currently self-define in this area is needed to ensure this is a form of representation they would appreciate
- f. The board discuss whether the Union would be able to support another Liberation Officer position and creating a new position at the time of the Liberation Review
- g. Mental Health Officer states they would like to see a decision by the academic year 2017/18 in line for the role to be created for 2019/20
- h. ICSMSU Welfare Officer informs the board there is a national issue in Medicine with social mobility and ICSMSU already do a lot of work in local communities to increase aspiration at a young age
- i. DPW reminds the board the Liberation Officer role is to represent the Imperial community and asks the board to consider whether this is an issue that affects the Imperial community or the student community globally
- j. DPW reminds the board the College are working on outreach and widening participation schemes, as well as the bursary scheme which is the most generous of Higher Education Institutions in the country
- k. The board discuss the internal work at the College for students when they arrive at the College versus outreach work
- l. Mental Health Officer welcomes participation in the consultation which will be happening next term

## **AOB**

### 9. Interfaith Officer – Interfaith Week

- a. Currently planning four events for Interfaith week which will occur in early January, if anyone would like to get involved please get in touch

### 10. DPW – Sexual Violence Liaison Officers (SVLOs)

- a. DPW informs the board there has not been a meeting of the Catalyst Fund group since Union Council and therefore cannot give an update on when the SVLOs will be officially in post

11. BME Officer – Liberation Review

- a. BME Officer questions when the Liberation Review will be published
- b. DPW informs the board there will be information about the Liberation Review in the closing issue of Felix this term

**Meeting Concludes: 20:03**