

**Imperial College Union  
Board of Trustees / 14th July 2021**

**Student Trustee Reflections**

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Purpose: To provide Board with a reflection on the year as a Trustee of Imperial College Union.

**What did you particularly value being part of the Board as a Trustee and why?**

Last year I was a member of Council, so it was insightful to experience another level of Union governance through board.

I also enjoyed hearing and speaking with members of Union staff. As a senior volunteer I hadn't experienced this before, and it improved my understanding of the organization.

**Did you experience any challenges as part of your role? If so, what were they?**

Online-only meetings are tough. There is a sense of isolation between the participants, making it harder to know the other board members. Because of this, it felt more difficult to ask questions or contribute to discussions. However, the Council reports to board made this easier and I enjoyed relaying information to board about Council.

On board, there are usually several papers that contain business jargon and/or accounts data. Most of the accounts are self-explanatory upon inspection, but I've always been unsure of what exactly I'm looking for. Business jargon still feels alien to me. Its meaning often convoluted, and I still struggle to interpret it.

More regular check-ups or feedback sessions for Student Trustees may help solve these issues or other student concerns. However, I don't feel like these issues were crippling to my experience and I still enjoyed it overall.

**What recommendations would you make for areas of improvement for Student Trustees in the future?**

There are you going to be times during meetings where you have little idea of what's happening. That's fine and part of the learning process. You'll be able to gain a lot of insight into the Union and corporate governance in general through board, but you need to apply yourself by reading the papers and paying attention during meetings. Also, asking questions and contributing to the discussion should always be considered. During my time on board, there hasn't been a single time where a question has been belittled or made someone embarrassed, so just go for it.

If you do these things (which I have struggled with as well), you'll be able to give the most to the role and get the most out of it.