

**Imperial College Union  
Minutes of Governance and Identity Board  
9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – 6:00pm – 7.30pm**

**Minutes of meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

**Present**

Role	Name
Union President	Abhijay Sood (AS - Chair)
Union Council Chair	Alex Auyang (AA)
RSMU President	Jasmine Crocker (JC)
RSMU Secretary	Teigan Collins (TC)
ICSMSU President	Muntaha Naeem (MN)
ICSMSU Deputy President	Nicole George (NG)
Council Representative (UG Engineering)	Varun Srivastava (VS)
GSU President	Zixiao Wang (ZW)
RCSU President	Aparna Pillai (AP)
CGCU President	Hayley Wong (HW)
CGCU Vice President	Hilliam Tung (HT)
RCSU Treasurer	Matthew Leontsinis (ML)

**Observers:**

Governance Officer	Victoria Agbontaen (VA)
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**Apologies:**

Working Class Officer	Grace Fisher (GF)
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Item	Actions
<b>1. Introductions</b> 1.1. Chair welcomed members to the second GIB meeting of the term.	
<b>2. Apologies</b> Grace Fisher (GF)	
<b>3. Minutes</b> 3.1. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
<b>4. Action Tracker</b> 4.1. AS noted that Leadership agreed that a Volunteer Town Hall would be a good idea and would start in the third term.	
<b>5. Updates from the CU's</b> 5.1. <b>CGCU</b> – HW noted that CGCU have a joint dinner with the RCSU and engagement with this has been really positive.  5.2. <b>ICSMSU</b> – MN noted that the biggest highlights include the move of the MDL. MN added that ICSMSU's focus is on ensuring that the immediate short-term is as best as it can be, working with Faculties on this. MN explained that the College has funds which they use to invest into certain projects each year and Reynolds was identified as a space where this money can be invested.  5.3. <b>RSMU</b> – JC noted that the election stats for the RSMU are not great, however it is likely these roles will be filled in the Summer elections. JC added that the RSMU are having a virtual awards Spring Dinner/Ceremony as well as awards for the RSMU Colours awards for those who have put a lot of effort in this year and should be recognised. JC added that the June Bottle Match is still scheduled to go ahead in June but it is unlikely this will happen so alternatives are being considered including it being hosted in London instead of Cornwall.  5.4. <b>RCSU</b> – AP highlighted that the RCSU have been focusing on election publicity and had a very successful info session with a few people nominating themselves during the event itself. ML added that he has been working with the DepSocs and is concerned about BioSoc as they have been in debt for two years and they desperately need to be bailed out, so their members can participate in all events that are beneficial for students.  5.5. <b>GSU</b> – ZW highlighted that he will continue to attend Council meetings and participate in discussions so the voices of PG Students can be heard. ZW added that the GSU has an objective to produce a number of reports for the individual faculties to advise them to introduce a new no-detriment policy for the student. ZW explained that the GSU had not received many candidate nominations for a number of their positions and asked if the Union could help to promote these roles, especially the newly created VP roles.	Discuss with the Student Development and opportunities team if there is any scope to support CU's with a formal retreat.
<b>6. ICU Strategy Aims Session</b> 6.1. AS expressed that the Union requires student input on the different aims and what we should be targeting and discuss primarily what should go under each heading, specifically points 1,5 and 6. 6.2. AS stated that if the Union is getting back to basics, around improving academic experience – what that looks like. 6.3. HW pointed out that more support for Faculty Reps should be highlighted to be of importance. This would include more frequent contact between the DPE and Faculty Reps, more tailored training, etc. 6.4. ML said that it is difficult to separate an academic experience from a welfare experience as one leads from the other. ML added that it does	

<p>not appear that Imperial's governing Board is on the same page as its wider student body.</p> <p>6.5. ML added that improving the academic experience could be done by building more of a community feel around the university which Imperial struggles with as they have multiple campuses around London.</p> <p>6.6. ML suggested that if the devolution is to be pushed, people still want to feel like they belong to something, and current roles need to be reviewed. All departments in constituent parts of the College should be in communication with each other. ML suggested forming a task force, student surveys and discussion to understand how students resonate with different communities within Imperial.</p> <p>6.7. NG questioned what is currently being done to target point 5. AS said this is through representation and trying to get individuals to act in the interest of the wider group. NG said point 5 should be phrased to show that students can do little things to change things and not everything has to be done on a larger scale, which can be intimidating for some.</p> <p>6.8. ML agreed that Imperial does a good job to empower students to make change to the world around them. Imperial is ahead in many areas of empowering students to make changes, i.e., hackathon. This can be improved by providing more training opportunities and making resources more available.</p> <p>6.9. ML asked whether the wording saying, 'we know' should be included. This could be changed to something the Union is going to do, rather than simply acknowledging what the Union is not doing. A different tone, looking at what we will do would be more helpful. The wording and framing should resonate with students.</p> <p>6.10. HW expressed she felt MN is very involved with the strategic and governance direction of ICSMSU, whereas the other CU's are not involved with any consultation with their respective faculties.</p> <p>6.11. AA added that he did not understand what his faculty was before he joined the RSCU. It should be on the departments and faculties to communicate which faculties they are in.</p> <p>6.12. AS questioned what actions the Union should be taking to address inequality at Imperial. NG said she felt access via Move Imperial is good for student participation in sports.</p> <p>6.13. MN suggested changes to event prices and ticket prices which is often sighted as a barrier for some student participation. The Union could offer funding to students.</p> <p>6.14. MN added that the Union has a role to play for signposting as many students do not know what is available and how to apply for and access this additional funding or bursaries.</p> <p>6.15. JC suggested the Union lobby the College to signpost students to bursaries and scholarships.</p> <p>6.16. HT there should be clarification between needs-based funding and merit-based funding. HT agreed with the sentiment that the Union should push departments to increase the marketing around funds for students in case of any hardships etc. where they may need more funding or help with their studies.</p> <p>6.17. MN noted that the medical school have been doing work on racial discrimination in the workplace while on placements and notes there are issues every step of the way of racial harassment including racial micro-aggressions, active by-stander training, reporting and being empowered to report.</p> <p>6.18. ML said we should be building a community around empowering people but not putting them into a box which may encourage more division than inclusivity.</p>	<p>AS to consider having specific student volunteer newsletter content which focuses on staff and College facing issues.</p>
<p><b>Any Other Business</b> None</p>	