

Motion of Censure: GSU president

Proposed by: Alex Auyang (Council Chair)

Union notes:

1. A censure is a formal warning that can be administered by Council.
2. The GSU president (Zixiao Wang) is the head of the Graduate Students' Union (GSU), tasked with serving and representing postgraduate students at Imperial College London.
3. The GSU president is a part-time sabbatical officer and is paid £10,000 annually.
4. The GSU president is responsible for submitting three reports to Council each year, the same responsibility as the non-sabbatical Constituent Union presidents (CGCU, RCSU, RSMU).
 - a. Council papers, including reports, should be submitted a week before Council.
 - b. All three GSU reports have been submitted late.
 - c. The final two pages of the most recent GSU report the contained confidential medical information of one of his committee members. At the last Council meeting, he was actioned to bring an updated report to this meeting with greater detail and without the confidential information. The new report, submitted on 13/07/21 still contained confidential information.
 - d. Despite having nearly a month to improve his report, the body text has only increased by 139 words.
5. The GSU president did not complete the awards committee forms as part of the Union Awards Committee despite multiple reminders.
6. The GSU president "resigned" from Council and stated that he did not wish to vote on future agenda items. He has since returned to meetings of Council.
7. The GSU budget was not submitted in time for annual budgeting.
8. The current GSU president has been re-elected and will continue their role next year.

Union believes:

1. Reports are an integral part of holding officers to account, especially if they are a sabbatical officer that is paid to fill their role.
2. The Council reports submitted by the GSU president have been of poor quality, usually shorter and less detailed than the other CU reports. The new report submitted is not a significant improvement over the previous report, contains very few changes, and when originally submitted it still featured confidential medical information.
3. By not completing the Awards committee spreadsheet, Zixiao was less able to contribute to the discussion of Union Awards. As the representative of postgraduates on the panel, he failed to adequately represent them.
4. The GSU president is obligated to represent his constituents through Union Council, and by "resigning" (not wanting to vote/attend meetings) he would be unable to represent them.
5. The ultimate responsibility for the GSU budget being late is on the GSU president.
6. By repeatedly failing to represent postgraduate students, the GSU president has not been fulfilling the responsibilities of his role, violating clause 8.3 of section G of the Union Bye-Laws regarding poor performance.

7. A censure is a suitable response to these actions.
8. Because the GSU president has been re-elected, is it especially important to hold him to account for this year's failures.

Union resolves:

1. To censure the GSU President Zixiao Wang.