

Proposal to split the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) into Two Sabbatical Officers; Deputy President (Education and Development) and Deputy President (Welfare)

Proposed by the President of Imperial College Union

Seconded by the Deputy President (Education and Welfare), Alexander Grisman (Academic Affairs Officer, CGCU), Kirsty Patterson (Honorary Secretary, CGCU) and Tim Barrett (Welfare Campaigns Officer)

This Union notes:

- That nationally (in the NUS) Education and Welfare is represented separately.
- That only three Student Unions out of the Russell Group still have only one combined Education and Welfare Sabbatical Officer, out of its twenty members. All the others have separate Education and Welfare sabbaticals.
- The position of Deputy President (Education & Welfare) was created in 1999 to meet the representation and welfare needs of Imperial Students. The responsibility for this previously lay with the President of Imperial College Union. Since then, student numbers have increased from 9441 FT + 946 PT in the year 1999-2000 to 12319 FT + 1036 PT in the year 2007-08.
- The number of Overseas Students at the College has increased (1887 FT in 1999-2000 to 3548 FT in 2007-8, an increase of almost 100%)
- The position of Deputy President (Graduate Students) was removed from the Sabbatical team in 2007. The responsibility for representation of Postgraduate Students then fell jointly between the Graduate Students' Association Chair and the Deputy President (Education & Welfare).
- There are over 30 College Committees and Sub-Committees relating to Education and Welfare which require at least one student representative. The Deputy President (Education & Welfare) is primarily the College's first choice for this role.

This Union Believes:

- The increase in the number of registered students at Imperial College combined with increases in the number of courses offered by poses new representation challenges which are not entirely met by the current sabbatical structure. This is particularly apparent in the area of Postgraduate study and International Students.
- Quality Assurance is taken seriously by Imperial College, with student input into delivery of education having an ever-increasing role. This responsibility primarily falls to the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) who co-ordinates the representation network.
- The role of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) does not lend itself well to being the responsibility of a staff member.
- That much of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)'s representation work is reactive due to time constraints, whereas having two separate education and welfare sabbaticals would allow each to research and lobby on the issues students face and want to change, proactively.

- That it is important to have a central Union sabbatical to co-ordinate student initiatives to improve the delivery of education and welfare services at Imperial College.
- That having separate sabbatical officers for Education and Welfare would have more focused candidates running for the position. Traditionally the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) has been more focused on one aspect of the role.
- Student Development and student involvement in the local community, for example outreach work, are the responsibility of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare). These aspects of the role have traditionally been neglected and would be much better facilitated by the introduction of a new sabbatical officer.
- There may be conflicts of interest in combining Education and Welfare within one role.
- That at present, due to the large number of College Committees the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) sits on, the role has become less Union-focused. It is essential we maintain presence on College Committees and the current sabbatical workload means that this is not just a matter of shifting the responsibility to other Deputy Presidents.

This Union Resolves:

1. To amend the constitution (Appendix 1) to reflect the removal of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) and the addition of two new sabbatical officers; Deputy President (Education & Development) and Deputy President (Welfare) whose standing orders would be as follows:

13. Deputy President (Welfare)

The Deputy President (Welfare) shall:

- i. Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union,
- ii. Take on Presidential duties as appropriate,
- iii. Be responsible for welfare issues and services for all Union members,
- iv. Be responsible for union actions relating to the areas of physical, mental health and well-being and resources to cope with hardship and/or disability.
- v. Keep abreast of University and national developments in relevant policy as it affects students' welfare.
- vi. Be responsible for working with College to develop welfare provision and encourage sharing of best practice,
- vii. Be responsible for representing the needs of minority or under-represented groups in the Union,
- viii. Be responsible for coordinating and publicising all campaigns concerning equal opportunities and welfare issues.
- ix. Be responsible for maintaining and running a Welfare Network for the Welfare Officers of the Faculty Unions and other student bodies,
- x. Be responsible for overseeing the activities of the Community Action Group and Imperial College Union RAG,
- xi. Assist the President in enforcing the Union's Equal Opportunities Policy,
- xii. Liaise with Union and College staff as appropriate,
- xiii. Attend the relevant Union Committees,
- xv. Represent the Union on external committees as appropriate,

Imperial College Union
Council 15.12.08

- xv. Report to Union Committees as appropriate, and
- xvi. Negotiate other duties with the President.

14. Deputy President (Education and Development)

The Deputy President (Education and Development) shall:

- i. Uphold the policy and further the aims and objects of the Union,
- ii. Take on Presidential duties as appropriate,
- iv. Be responsible for coordinating the provision of student development and progression within Union activities,
- v. Be responsible for coordinating information relating to academic practices in the College's Faculties and Departments and identify issues of student concern,
- v. Be responsible for keeping College informed of student opinion on academic affairs,
- vi. Be responsible for the academic concerns of all Union members,
- vii. To liaise with the relevant Union staff to ensure that adequate initial training and on-going support is available for all academic representatives,
- vii. Shall maintain and run a Representation Network for the Academic Representatives of the Faculty Unions and other student bodies,
- viii. Advise students called to attend academic discipline and appeal hearings and attend as a representative, if requested,
- ix. Liaise with the Graduate Students Association Chair on all matters concerning students registered on postgraduate courses,
- x. Liaise with Union and College staff as appropriate,
- xi. Attend the relevant Union Committees,
- xii. Represent the Union on external committees as appropriate,
- xiii. Keep abreast of University and national developments in relevant policy as it affects students' academic affairs,
- xiv. Liaise with relevant external bodies including the Russell Group, IDEA League, Aldwych, NUS, Local and National Government on issues of an academic nature,
- xv. Report to Union Committees as appropriate, and
- xvi. Negotiate other duties with the President."