

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
Of the first ordinary meeting of the  
**Community & Welfare Board**  
of the Imperial College Union  
In the 2015/2016 session.

The meeting of the Community and Welfare Board was held in the Union Building on  
the 22 October 2015 at 6pm in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Imperial College Union

**Present**

Deputy President (Welfare) - Chair  
RCSU President  
RSMU Welfare Officer  
CGCU Welfare Officer  
BME Officer  
LGBT Officer  
Gender Equality Officer  
International Students Officer  
Disabled Students Officer

Jennie Watson  
James Badman  
Beth Holman  
Millie Tsang  
Lamide Akinwuntan  
Emma Little  
Jonathan Masters  
Sautrik Banjeree  
Nazim Andani

Representation and Campaigns Coordinator (minutes) Sky Yarlett

**Apologies**

Lucinda Sandon-Allum, Benjamin Howitt, Chun-Yin San, Andrew Keenan, Angela Urasala.

**1. CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

a. Jennie Watson (JW) welcomed attendees and did a round of names and roles to make sure everyone was familiar with one another.

**2. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING -**

a. As the last minutes were noted to have taken place in Dec 2014 CWB agreed that they were probably a fair reflection but couldn't account to them being an accurate representation

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

a. There were no matters arising

**4. LIBERATION OFFICER TRAINING**

a. JW stated that we had received good feedback for those who attended.  
b. JW also stated that we as a team really enjoyed meeting the liberation and welfare officers.

**5. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID LITE**

. SY thanked all the current liberation officers who attended the MHFA session.  
a. SY also stated that we will be running another session in Dec 2015, at a cost to students which will be £10 as opposed to £75 which is the cost that it is externally.  
b. Those who attended said they really enjoyed it and found it really helpful, and asked if more similar sessions were being planned for the future.

**6. HEFORSHE**

a. JW this was a roadshow which took place in freshers week, it was part of an UN initiative to promote gender equality. It was generally very successful, with a positive reception within college.

- b. Jonathan Masters said that he very much enjoyed the day but that the marketing from college could have been improved - with an email being sent the night before in an already very busy week. Also that the talk was delivered in the middle of a day during lectures - which isn't an ideal time for engaging students.
- c. SY reminded and informed attendees that women@imperial is happening for the second time at Imperial - it'll be taking place from 7 - 11 March.
- d. JW concluded the discussion with that overall it seemed successful with there being lots of signatures and wide levels of enjoyment from students.

## 7. ADVICE CENTRE REPORT

- a. JW outlines the advice centre review and encourages attendees to read report. Angela Urasala has already begun the review into the advice centre.
- b. SY also stated that while the number of cases that have been recorded already may seem quite high in comparison to last years number of cases, that we are working on improving the recording of data to identify trends.
- c. Emma Little pointed out that the numbers didnt add up. SY admits human error and will update that.

## 8. LIBERATION OFFICER PLANS

- a. JW asked students to outline some ideas they have for the year ahead.
- b. Sautrik Banjeree outlined his plans for the year ahead
- i. SB wants to put on a celebration evening to note how many international students there are and it's a really diverse environment.
- ii. Nazim Andani - asked if the aim was to have every country represented or key areas, and suggested working with already existing societies
- iii. SB is thinking February for this event. EL stated this is when LGBT History Month is, however that could be good to bring together LGBT & International Students
- iv. SB has also spoken to international students support. Wants to work with them to support how they will publish their events. ISS emails are currently really cheesy. SB thinks a potential solution is an International Students Committee. JW clarified that this would be separate from the Overseas Student Committee.
- v. LA suggested that it might be good to have more student input to the trips themselves as some might not appeal to students such as walking tours of Dorset.
- vi. Beth Holman suggests running research on what students want.
- vii. SB also brings up a discussion on the EU referendum which was mentioned at council and that it will be an issue which affects students
- viii. It was mentioned that Chris Kaye was aware of this previously as DPW but "kicked it down the line"
- ix. There is general discussion around the referendum and consensus that CWB would like to see a discussion on campus around this but would want to avoid taking a stance as a union either way.
- x. It was also raised that liberation and welfare officers would like easier contact with their students

**ACTION: SY to bring up with Phil Stewart / Alex McKee about this and the data agreement with college.**

- c. Beth Holman as RSMU officer would be keen to see a return of 'Treat Yourself' which was delivered last year which was a joint delivery by 3 difference constituent officers.
- i. It was discussed and everyone is keen and really enjoyed last year only issue would be to ensure students come along. Last year smoothie bikes and similar stuff was really successful.

**ACTION: SY / BH / MT to email CU welfare officers to arrange a discussion.**

- d. LA - October is Black History Month, however LA was at home and found it hard to organise pre-term.
  - i. Is keen on having a Black Herstory Week in early November - however with the lack of BME Women professors in the UK recognises it might be even more difficult to find Imperial specific people. Looking to do more generic BME people.
  - ii. Has been speaking to Imperial Cinema about doing some BME focused films and to diversify their screenings.
  - iii. Is working closely with ACS on BME history month
  - iv. Has also been in discussion with DPCS Ben Howitt about the reduced BME participation in Clubs & Socs and wants to investigate this.
  - v. LA predecessor has been in touch and looking at doing BME welcome lunch in Jan.
  - vi. Also Nigerian Society do a large jobs symposium with companies in Nigeria - would be worth investigating if this can be made wider with an international jobs symposium
    - e. Nazim Andani - Disabled students officer
      - . The cuts to disabled student allowance means that college are now trying to offer more targeted support packages however they might not be able to effectively identify the needs and requirements of students. Especially relating to visible and non-visible disabilities.
      - i. NA and Mary Bown are looking at developing a survey. With the results of a survey there will be a concerted campaign based on the results.
      - ii. There is widespread lack of knowledge on disabilities - and December 3rd is International Disabilities Day
      - iii. MT knows disabled students officer at UCL - will link NA with them.
        - ACTION: SY TO SHARE LIST OF LIBERATION OFFICERS AT OTHER LONDON UNIONS.**
        - f. Emma Little LGBT Officer
          - i. Received a message from a student who wanted to ask a question at the HeForShe event. Question was "Imperial has a research centre in Qatar - with Qatar's record on LGBT rights and gender equality" student is curious about the university's reputation in this area and the risks.
          - ii. EL also was thinking about setting up a support group for LGBT+ students - but is aware that IQ have set one up - and wants SY to speak to them and make sure they have training in this area
            - ACTION: SY /JW to email IQ and see if they have training / support**
            - iii. EL recognises many liberation officers seem to be raising common issue of struggling with communications and that there might be a opportunity to use Felix as a platform?
              - 1. LA - thinks Grace the Felix editor would be really on board with this.
- ACTION JW TO CONTACT GRACE ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY**
- g. Beth Holman
  - i. There is a discussion happening within RSMU about the welfare drop ins. There's been a bit of an issue with attendance at the drop ins. This might be down to students having other avenues in which to seek advice.
  - ii. BH has also identified that they have a lack of data on their students - that BH and RSMU can't identify what students want. BH is thinking about running a small survey. SY recommends investigating existing sources of that data.
  - iii. JW empathises with BH as there was a similiar issue when she was ICSMSU Welfare officer.
  - iv. There was a discussion on SOLE and the effectiveness of feedbackin implementing changes.

- v. JM suggests an idea of creating an online messaging system - BH says they are interested in this however there is an issue with the website.

Millie Tsang, apologies for arriving slightly late. However wanted to ask some questions on a few issues:

- a. Does the college know about the issue of the government scrapping maintenance grants?
  - i. JW says college is aware of this issue and that as it's a governmental policy they aren't really able to make a difference
  - ii. Students groups have called a national demonstration on this issue on the 4th November - and we'll be discussing it in more detail further in the agenda.
- b. Is it true that the health centre has stopped giving out contraception?

JW explains that the Health Centre is an NHS operated centre within a college space. And that it might be that their budget has been cut giving out free condoms as something similar happened to the unions budget.
- i. On a side note to this the Union will be offering their STI Clinics again with screening for Gonorrhoea / HIV & Chlamydia. Details will be published soon.

#### **9. NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION FOR FREE EDUCATION**

- a. As mentioned earlier there is a national demonstration for free education taking place on the 4 November - organised by National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts. A student emailed Jennie to ask for the Union to support this and help organise for it.
- b. A question was asked about if this is against union policy
  - i. Jennie looked into it and believes that this doesn't contravene the union policy and is keen to see an imperial group going.
  - c. Jennie will be flyering on Mondays with Imperial students if you're keen to get involved.
  - d. MT asked when this will be implemented - SY clarifies this will only affect students who are starting next year.
  - e. Also members of CWB took part in the bursary support package survey but weren't informed of the results or follow up.
  - f. SB - wanted to know why international student fees increase by £500 every year?
  - g. Also JW said she very much enjoyed the Junior Doctor protests and would encourage more people to go along.

#### **ACTION - LOOK INTO THE FEE INCREASES FOR INT STUDENT AND THE LOGIC BEHIND IT.**

#### **10. HOUSING CAMPAIGN**

- a. JW outlines the aim of the campaign to defend and extend the rights of tenants and to change the housing market to be about fairness and affordability
- b. We want to get people involved - it can't just be Jennie and Lucinda doing everything we need to make sure it's student led.
- c. JW attended a citizens UK meeting on Monday and affordability is the biggest issue. The meeting was attended by lots of different groups including parents and children at a local school in North Kensington who were talking about the impact of the regeneration.
- d. General Consensus that for the amount students often pay the quality is pretty low. There is a wider citizens meeting in early November which seeks to nail down ideal solutions

- e. 23rd November there is a London-wide forum meeting - Imperial College Union have been asked to bring 10 students to the meeting.
- f. We are asking students to get involved
- i. LO - is interested in the proposal to get the college to act as a guarantor for international students.
- ii. JW is working on this proposal but is being hindered as is waiting for data from registry to back up claims.

**11. CHANGING LGBT OFFICER TO LGBT+ OFFICER**

- a. JW outlines the proposed changes to the rep policy. Cyin is also making changes but he might be of more consequence. The main changes JW is proposing aim to neaten up the exist policy but also to change the LGBT officer role to make the name LGBT+ officer to reflect the desire of Emma.
- b. Everyone seemed happy with the proposed changes so Jennie will take it forward to the next stages,

**AOB**

- **None**

Reminders:

Next meeting is on the 3rd December