

Proposal for the role descriptions of Liberation and Community Officers for 2019

Proposer: Becky Neil (Deputy President (Welfare))

Seconder: David Tyoember (Black & Minority Ethnic Officer)

Union Notes:

1) The Bye-Laws describe the Union Liberation & Community Officers as the following:

22. The Union Liberation & Community Officers shall be responsible to the President, through the Deputy President (Welfare) for representing the welfare interests of the members that affiliate with their remit,

23. The Liberation & Community Officers shall also:

23.1. Be the welfare representative to the Union and the College for the students that affiliate with their remit,

23.2. Co-ordinate the campaigns within their remit, taking into account the involvement of students based at non-South Kensington campuses and adjusting plans accordingly.

23.3. Carry out such duties as may, from time to time, be laid down by the Union Council or the Community & Welfare Board.

2) The liberation review (2016-17) identifies recommendations for improving the structures and processes for enabling effective representation across the liberations zones including looking at role descriptions, forming liberation assemblies or associations and creating space for self-representation.

3) Role descriptions can be found in the lapsed Representation Policy (2013, due for renewal in 2016) [1] and in promotional election material (2018) [2]. These descriptions have differences between each other and the bye-laws.

Union Believes:

- 1) Having different role descriptions in different places is inefficient and means there is a lack of consistency.
- 2) The existing systems and structures are not effective in connecting Liberation and Community officers to students, which limits the capability to be representative of a community.
- 3) Liberation and Community Officers are volunteers and the amount of time they are able to commit does not align with the expectations outlined in the role descriptions.
- 4) For the Liberation and Community Zones to be effective, a different structure and more support needs to be in place.

Union Resolves:

- 1) To amend the bye-laws to:
 - 23.2. Co-ordinate the campaigns within their remit, **working with Imperial College Union staff, students identifying in their remit, allies and elected student volunteers** taking into account the involvement of students based at non-South Kensington campuses and adjusting plans accordingly.

- 2) All material distributed by the Union describing the role of a Liberation and Community Officer will be based on the description laid out in the bye-laws.
- 3) The Deputy President (Welfare) to consult relevant students about an effective structure for the Liberation and Community Zones and work to build this.

References

[1] <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/dbfile/pbf/35>

[2] https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/sites/default/files/Leadership-Elections-2018_Candidates-Pack.pdf (Pages 8-9)