

**Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 13 July 2022**

Student Trustee Reflections

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Purpose: To provide Board with a reflection on the year as a Trustee of Imperial College Union.

What have you learnt during your time as a Trustee and what went well?

Though I've seen the Union from the bottom-up as a student and a student volunteer, it has been such a valuable experience seeing the Union from the top-down as a Trustee and the different challenges being solved: for the student volunteer hierarchy, there is a greater focus on the lower levels (direct student representatives) to ensure that support is provided on either an individual, cohort or department level, whereas for the staff hierarchy, there is a focus towards the higher levels of management (including Board) that is rightly so due to the need to be in line with regulations. This is all done to ensure that the Union as a whole meets its charitable mission of enhancing the student experience here at Imperial, to which I can attest to knowing a lot more now of how it works.

What did you particularly value being part of the Board as a Trustee and why?

Exposure to the matters that have been brought up to Board and the many discussions had have been instrumental in developing my ability to better understand how a mission-driven organisation meets its mission and purpose. Sitting on various panels (interviewing applicants, disciplinary panels etc.) and being a part of the Governance committee has also constantly challenged my decision-making process and to think about the underlying facts and implications but also where leniency can be exercised.

Did you experience any challenges as part of your role? If so, what were they?

Challenges from inexperience of not having done such a role before did appear at the start, requiring a separation of the decisions for the day-to-day operations of the Union to that of the decisions for the long-term strategy of the organisation - a different perspective is required and adjusting to this took some time.

What recommendations would you make for areas of improvement for Student Trustees in the future?

A more well-rounded look into the domain that the Union operates in (see the strategic risk register) within the initial training in order to understand what risks exist, especially when considering matters for decisions.