Johnpaul Onyeama PGT Academic & Welfare Officer Candidate

Let's Build Bridges, Not Boundaries.

Introduction

I am running for PGT Academic & Welfare Officer because I believe Imperial College Business School should feel like one connected community. Too often, departments and programmes operate in isolation, which weakens both our academic and social experiences. My vision is to create an environment where postgraduate students can collaborate freely, access resources easily, and feel a strong sense of belonging.

1. Community & Welfare: Building a Connected Business School

The Issue

While Imperial College Business School calls itself a global hub, most students only engage within their own departments. Cross-programme interaction is limited, and many postgraduate students feel disconnected from the wider Business School community. This lack of integration affects wellbeing, collaboration, and even academic motivation.

My Solution

- Create cross-departmental events and initiatives such as mixers, panel discussions, and collaborative projects between MSc programmes to promote shared learning and friendships.
- Build a unified Business School community identity through a 'One Business School' campaign that encourages students to connect beyond their departments.
- Strengthen wellbeing through peer networks by establishing wellbeing representatives across all MSc cohorts.
- Promote inclusive representation through open feedback forums and international student focus groups.

2. Academic Integration: Simplifying the Student Experience

The Issue

Academically, students face serious challenges due to the fragmented digital environment. We currently juggle multiple platforms such as Blackboard, Mylmperial, Panopto, Teams, and others. It is overwhelming and inefficient, especially when deadlines, communication, and resources are scattered. This complexity adds unnecessary stress to already demanding workloads.

My Solution

- Advocate for better platform integration to simplify access to materials, deadlines, and announcements.
- Propose a centralised communication hub for all key updates and academic links.

- Push for consistency in how departments use learning tools to reduce confusion.
- Improve feedback systems to ensure they are timely, standardised, and easily accessible.

3. Academic Equity & Accessibility

The Issue

International students and those from diverse academic backgrounds often face barriers related to language, assessment structures, and access to generative AI tools. These factors contribute to awarding gaps and increased exceptional circumstance submissions.

My Solution

- Strengthen the International Students Focus Committee to continue addressing awarding gaps, language barriers, and accessibility challenges.
- Expand academic and language support workshops focused on writing, presentation, and Al literacy.
- Advocate for fair and inclusive AI and assessment policies to ensure all students can succeed.

4. My Experience

- UEC Representative: Founded the International Students Focus Committee to tackle awarding gaps, language barriers, and issues surrounding exceptional circumstances.
- Welfare Officer African Society: Supported student welfare initiatives and promoted cultural inclusion.
- Wellbeing Ambassador Business School: Worked with staff and students to promote wellbeing awareness and peer connection.

Closing Statement

Imperial College Business School has the potential to be more than just a world-class academic institution. It can be a truly connected, inclusive, and empowering environment for every student. Through collaboration, clarity, and care, I aim to make our experience smoother, more engaging, and more united.

Together, we can build the Business School we deserve. Let's Build Bridges, Not Boundaries.