



Brady says “Big no” to big changes at Imperial College

Credit: Imperial College London



Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

In August 2022, Imperial College London gained its 17th President: Professor Hugh R. Brady. His predecessor, Alice Gast, came to the end of her contract as Imperial College London President, and has now been awarded an honorary Emeritus Professor title at Imperial, despite the release of a QC report that established that she had bullied one member of staff, and that she had “personally and professionally undermined” a member of College staff.

President Brady was appointed by the College Council, and the student body was not consulted during the selection process. *Felix* sat down with Imperial College President Hugh R. Brady on 14th September. At the time of publishing, he has been the 17th President for a little over two months, and was seen attending the Welcome Fair on Tuesday, 4th October. At the time, he had been in the role for six weeks.

This can't go on

Open letter about bullying sent to senior members of College

Ameena Hassan Editor-in-Chief

At 11:25pm on 6th October, an open letter went out to President Hugh Brady, Provost Ian Walmsley, and Director of Human Resources Harbhajan Brar, along with at least 138 other people requesting that the President commit that “policies, procedures, and processes [relating to harassment, bullying and victimisation] are ‘absolutely’ followed for all staff and students”.

The staff member in question told *Felix* that they felt compelled

to speak out, describing the bullying and harassment at Imperial College as ‘endemic’ and told *Felix*: “In my opinion, I’ve seen too much of it”. They said they knew of “lots of people” who had faced difficult working environments. They also said that things had not improved since the publication of the QC report on bullying by senior members of staff at Imperial, which led to then-CFO Muir Sanderson’s resignation and Alice Gast’s apology for her conduct.

Responding to the article published in this issue of *Felix*, the member of staff expressed surprise and dismay at Hugh

Brady’s view that “no big changes” were needed, but hoped that this did not relate to mental health issues.

London regional official for the University College Union (UCU), Barry Jones, said: “UCU members report an endemic culture of bullying at Imperial”.

The Imperial College Union President, Hayley Wong, in response to this open letter said, “We stand in solidarity with all those impacted by the events outlined in the McNiel report. We look forward

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Q: During this transition time, are there any big changes that you think you would like to make to start off the academic year?

A: Big no, I think the last thing a new President should do is to come into a really successful institution and change things immediately.

Q: I’ve heard rumours that the President’s board and the Provost’s board might be merged. Any comment?

A: Yes, they will be merged. In fact – they have been merged.

The President’s Board and Provost’s Board were merged to form the University Management Board, and first met on 27th September. The next meeting is on

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