

## **ICSMSU Report**

*A Note by Shiv Chopra – ICSMSU President*

### July

The new SU structure has been appointed with the following newly defined positions;

- VP sites and services
- VP Alumni Affairs and communications
- Three social secretaries

With the newly appointed SU with its re-developed positions, we wanted to ensure that our first official event, the affirmation ceremony, was special. One member in particular who wanted to make this day a success was the Vice President of Alumni affairs and communications, Mr. Sanyal Patel. This year's event took place at the end of July on the Queen's Lawn. The event also allowed us to showcase the new and improved ICSM Alumni service. Graduate sign up was over 150.

### August/ September

Still eager to do more over the summer, the SU felt it was time for another Reynolds refurbishment. It was nearly 5 years ago that the last one happened and it was the right time for a change. The walls are now a different colour, the stolen signs have been re-arranged, the seating on the dance floor removed and LED lights have been installed to wash the walls. Many thanks to all those students and staff that have helped with the refurbishment.

Behind the bar has also been refurbished with a more professional edge.

One of the major pledge I made on my manifesto was to ensure continuity on the SU and our bar management for years to come. With this in mind, we have brought the Bar managers into the executive as non voting members and have asked Michael Orosco to help champion the bar's trade. Many congratulations must also go to the new managers, James Dearden and Laura Fulwell who's experience, enthusiasm and professionalism can only mean great things for the bar.

### October

The bulk of the SUs time in the beginning of October was organising and running the freshers' events. The two weeks events were spread across London from South Kensington, Charing Cross and the infamous PACHA club in Victoria (the site of our ball). The result of the fortnight has let to a very successful profit for the bar and the takings are currently up from last year. I would hope for this to continue into the next term as the second term is usually a poor time for our bar. Factors that have led to an improved bar revenue are;

- Bar steering committee
- New events brought in by SU and by students
- Bar refurbishment
- More promotional material given out
- New bar operational structure

### Events

The first term has already showcased the many talents of our students on and off the pitch. The freshers' plays highlighted the new thespians we now have in the medical school and we look forward to seeing them treading the boards in the near future. Age followed beauty this time with the Clinical play, "The turn of the Screw" directed by Shubnam Bobdiwala. December saw the Light opera society performing the infamous "FAME" AT Wilson house Paddington and of course Music society's orchestra and carol concerts.

I will quickly gloss over the UH rugby 7's loss to the infidels (GKT) due to poor refereeing and focus on our successes. The ladies rugby team made amendments for the boys and our tennis club also were victorious in their UH competitions. All our teams are well into their season and so far are doing well across all competitions. New clubs such as Pilates, Athletics, debate, belly dancing and humanities will all be running by the new year for our students to join. All the medics are excited about two things...

1. NUS discount cards
2. Centenary

### Academic

The new academic year brought with it the joys of MTAS and foundation schools. For those who are unaware, MTAS is the older brother of MDAP, the online application for foundation programmes in 2005/6. It is not only the form that has changed but also how our students apply for jobs. Firstly ranking, each student is now ranked by their medical school into a quartile. This brought much outrage to the finalists as only a few examinations had been chosen and re-sit results were included. It also seemed that not much direct student consultation on the matter of the ranking process occurred and this is why the new system shocked so many. To ensure that this does not happen with next years' cohort, we have formed a working group of clinicians, students and Faculty of Medicine staff to discuss the fairest ranking method. Myself and Zac Silk (Education representative for years 4,5, and 6) have pooled younger students into discussions in inform them as early as possible of the new system.

There was also an incorrect Obstetrics and Gynaecology examination released in October to students in the fifth year. Students received more exam questions than expected which made the assessment a challenge to complete in the time allocated. The incident was quickly resolved with the best possible outcome for the students (which they themselves voted for). However, in a new environment of rankings and the ethos of "more application points means better jobs" it only adds fuel to the fire.

### New Head of Undergraduate Medicine

The appointment of Miss Higham as the Head of Undergraduate medicine in October has been warmly welcomed by all, especially the students' union. She shares my enthusiasm to bring fresh ideas to the medical school and is always willing to listen to students' views on all matters (clearly apparent from the examples given above). I and the rest of the Students' Union look forward to working with Miss Higham over the course of the year.

Future

We need to no longer think on a year on year basis but long term, otherwise we will continue to make the same mistakes. ICSM SU is going to bring all our major events into closer account so that we can monitor budgets and ensure that committees are getting the most out of what resources they have and what the Union can provide. A five year organic financial plan will be created to structure long term projects and spending. From next year, a lot of senior Union officers or previous presidents will no longer be active members of the Union or would have graduated. Therefore, I intend to create a management portfolio detailing precedent and best practice. Any advice would be greatly appreciated in its construction. So for the end of next term;

- Constitution
- Site redecoration
- Handover booklet
- Finance plan (5 year)
- Reynolds bar plan

Wishing you a happy Hanukkah/ Christmas/ seasonal festivities and new year.

Shiv