

Faculty of Medicine Students' Union President Report

A report by Tim Wills

Whilst much of the past months have been focused on the arrival of the Freshers this October, I have been involved in supporting the students in many other areas. My term of office began with our affirmation ceremony for new doctors and this was well received by all of the 140 doctors and 400 family that attended. Included below are the other main topics that I have been working on since.

UKFPO

The United Kingdom Foundation Programme Office (UKFPO) which replaces the old MTAS job application process is now in full swing. It is generally agreed that this system is an improvement on the old one but for our students it presents some problems. We are unlucky in that the dates of application for jobs fall at a time when one third of our students are away on elective for the entire duration of the application process. I have ensured that they have all the support we can give them. Our students are also disadvantaged in the way we are ranked and I have been working with the head of our foundation school who is representing us on the Medical Schools Council.

Website

A new ICSM website is to go live in the next few days, this will include pages from all our Clubs and Socs, information and advice for education and welfare and a comprehensive events calendar as well as many other features. Content has been added over the summer as the website features fully tiered access to allow easy editing of content by individuals.

Education

I represent our students on all education committees, recently this has included chairing the Staff-Student Liaison Group for years 1,2&3 and attending the Education Sub-Committee for years 1&2 and years 3,5&6. The main issue I have been working on with our course leaders has been one of exam results. Some students were given incorrect results this summer (amongst other problems mainly relating to the ICT facilities) and I have successfully pushed for steps to be taken to ensure this does not happen again. On the Director of Clinical Studies committee I have represented students' views about training at our clinical sites. Also we are seeing a welcomed growth in E-learning facilities and in my capacity as student representative on the E-learning group, I have ensured that all of these new facilities are available to our students and not just the graduate entry course. My main aims have been to improve our already good relations with the Faculty and to provide a better flow of information from the Faculty to the students.

Welfare

I have been supporting many students particularly around the time of the exam results in September. The incoming first years over the summer used a website I created to automate the Mums and Dads scheme we operate and this was successfully implemented at the beginning of term.

Freshers

Our Freshers' fortnight has been very successful so far and is doing well compared to budget. The Freshers' ball at Café de Paris is the highlight of the events next week. Our merchandise sales of hoodies, scrubs and lab coats have also been successful.

Bar

The Reynolds bar performed well last year and I have been working with the bar managers to implement systems that will ensure we perform as well or better on last year. The purchase of 2 new tills will give us better stock control and more information to the bar managers will help us to further increase profits.

Medgroup

I represent students on the London Medical School presidents' committee Medgroup. Issues we have faced are the new UKFPO and HIV testing for medical students.

Clubs and Societies

We have had our first Clubs and Socs meeting focused on training in financial procedures and sponsorship. A term planner has been printed with all the events they are organising this term and this is reinforced by the calendar on our website.