



## **Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union President's Report**

### **A note by ICSMSU President – Dariush Hassanzadeh-Baboli**

#### **Union**

The 16 other officers of ICSMSU Exec have been settling into their jobs over the summer and working hard getting ready for the start of term. There have been 3 meetings of the Executive Committee in this session.

#### **Events**

We are about to embark on Freshers' Fortnight, and have had huge sales of Passports allowing event attendance for the week, we have sold over 248 so far, a record number! We have encouraged many Graduate-Entry, external intercalating and Direct-Entry students to attend key events. We offered them boat party tickets, of which 40 have been sold to these students.

#### **The Entertainments**

Team of ICSMSU Exec has been working tirelessly to bring together what should be an amazing two weeks to welcome the new intake. We are using the classical Passport to confirm entrance into our event and all the first year keep telling us they're enjoying the novelty of them.

This year we are introducing a new event to make the Biomedical students feel more included at ICSMSU. This will be the BioMed club night at Tiger Tiger. We are also placing the Freshers' Ball on the same night as our Welcome Dinner. We have to thank our Faculty for working with us to organise an extravagant three-course meal to welcome our students to key academic staff and their personal tutor groups.

We have our Halfway Dinner meal coming up at the Royal Garden Hotel for which we are expecting to reach our ticket sales target by the end of the week. Vaki Antoniu and his committee have been working tirelessly to organise the event.

#### **Shop**

We used the online system for purchasing our Freshers' Passports as well as our merchandise. Both were very successful as we could track orders in real time!

### **Education and Representation**

There were many issues with exams over the summer, most of which caused by human and technological error. These included students not having their results published on time, e-services showing incorrect results and students being told wrong results for one Year 1 exam. The last issue caused particular upset as about 30 students grades went down from what they were originally told. I have met with the Faculty of Medicine on a number of occasion to discuss these issues and have stressed that they are unacceptable. Provisions are bring put in place to prevent these errors from happening again as a result of the discussions.

### **The Reynolds Bar**

The Reynolds bar now has it's first full-time manager, Carl Salton-Cox. He started work a few weeks back and is settling in. I have been meeting with him regularly in order to aid him in his new role.

### **Welfare**

ICSMSU Welfare Officer, Jennifer Watson, has been working hard to assist those students who failed their re-sit exams and many have been granted their appeals. She is starting a new campaign with the help of Sky from ICU. They are tackling a funding issue with regards to students receiving a huge cut in grants and loans in their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year of study, typically a time when the students are unable to fund themselves with casual part-time work. She has also been working tirelessly to get our mums & dads system running smoothly.

### **Clubs and Societies**

Med Harris, Clubs and Societies officer, and I have been working very hard over the summer to ensure that ICSMSU clubs get the best out of the new grounds at Heston, and are not severely disadvantaged at the loss of Teddington as a ground.

The loss of Teddington caused a huge uproar from staff, students and alumni. Teddington has been the home grounds for St Mary's Medical School for over 80 years and was gifted to the students by Lord Beaverbrook, a prominent media figure who once owned the Evening Standard. We strongly believe that student representatives and club captains should have been informed about the cessation of student sport at Teddington, even if the College was not certain that the purchase of Heston would go ahead. Various departments, including the Faculty of Medicine, were not informed about the decision prior to the official announcement. The grounds have been part of the medical schools for generations. Many students throughout the years have treasured the grounds. Numerous victories and memories have been made there by the almost unstoppable St. Mary's and ICSM sports clubs. Big decisions, that disrupt the history and traditions of our medical school, should not be made without the students being thoroughly consulted.

This is not the first time such decisions have been made by College without

Council  
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any, or very little, consultation from the student body. It was less than two years ago that ICU raised awareness about the relocation of halls further down the A40 with the #AgainstActon campaign. For a number of years ICU, ICSMSU and ACC were actively against the administrative merger of IC and ICSM clubs; Sport Imperial did not support the student voice. These are all examples of when we believe of Imperial College, as an institution, has not been student-centered in the way it runs.

The actions taken by College are of great concern to ICSMSU and we fear that students at Imperial are not being treated as a major priority; profits and prestige appear to come first. Coming to University is not just about gaining a highly-recognised degree. It is about growing as a person into a well-rounded, open-minded individual through social and sporting endeavors. Many students have a growing frustration that their opinions do not matter at this University. Both ICSMSU and ICU will ensure that the opinions of students with regard to future College actions will be heard.

We also believe that further consultation and transparency after the decision was made was very slow. It took over two months to gain a meeting with key members of College to get the answers to the questions that were not being adequately answered over the summer. When there is a decision that affects so many peoples' lives, there should be a completely open discussion as to how to proceed, so that all parties can be satisfied.

Though we do not agree with the way the situation has been handled, nor some of the answers we have received, we are grateful to the attempts made to give transparency and feel things are clearer now. We greatly appreciate that two final days at Teddington have been negotiated, despite initial hesitation from the College.

### **Website**

Daniel Price, ICSMSU Communication Officer, has redesigned and re-wrote the new ICSMSU website over the summer. He has been a real asset to the team.

We are also looking into the prospect of making an ICSMSU app to promote events and keep students updated with information.