



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

A note by ICSMSU President- Rhys Smith

Union

The 17 union officers of ICSMSU Exec have settled into their jobs and worked hard over for the start of term. We have seen some changes to the executive committee this year most notably with the addition of our Medical Biosciences academic officer and the splitting of our treasurer role into the Executive Treasurer and the Management Group Treasurer. We have had four highly productive meetings of the executive committee so far and are looking forward to the year ahead.

Events

The year started off in July with Doctors weekend for our graduating Students. This included both the annual Summer Ball and Affirmation. With Affirmation moving venues this year to Central Hall Westminster we were able to accommodate a record number of guests to celebrate the graduating class of 2017 and watch them recite their Hippocratic Oath before they started their lives as doctors. We had over 1100 graduating doctors and their families in attendance and demand for tickets was incredibly high. With the success that we have had at this venue and the potential for expansion we are hoping to foster a successful working relationship with the venue and have already confirmed Affirmation 2018 to happen there on the 14th of July.

As we moved through the summer we saw a range of successful events being held, primarily headed up by our Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner (STFYD) team, including an event to celebrate the 20th birthday of ICSM. This has sparked conversations with the Faculty around hosting a large 21st Birthday Party for the Faculty of Medicine in the summer of 2018 as a large college event.

Our Freshers' Fortnight was a great success. After discussions amongst the CU exec we decided to continue the price freeze that had been implemented over the last two years and also invest substantial money (approximately £4,000) across the fortnight to encourage a move away from alcohol focused events. This decision was received very well by all those who attended and we have had outstanding feedback of the fortnight. We are aware that this may impact on the funding of the sabbatical salary

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but have contingencies in place should the rest of the events throughout the year not be as financially successful as planned. This is through funding agreements made at the start of the year with our Alumni Associations. We have worked to continue the work of previous years in ensuring the fortnight is inclusive for all and offers a range of events. All officers worked tirelessly stewarding the fortnight in addition to lectures and hospital placements. The new cohort appear to have settled in well and the feedback has been very positive.

Our 4th year students celebrated their Halfway Dinner on Saturday 21st October. This saw the St Mary's Hospital Association award three prizes for Outstanding Contribution to Medical School Life throughout the first three years of medical school. The recipients were Syra Dhillon, James Palmer, and Sophia von Widekind. All of the recipients were extremely grateful to win the prize and will be thanking the association in person come the next executive meeting in January. A summary of why they were chosen and the event can be found in the next issue of the Gazette.

The week commencing the 30th of October sees the start of our annual Halloween week to help students get over those post fresher blues. We have seen record ticket sales to the RAG Masquerade ball with the proceeds going to the new charity that we support this year, the Single Homeless Project and Community Action Nepal.

There are many upcoming events that our entertainments team are very successfully planning and looks to be an exciting year. We are acutely aware of the image that can surround events being alcohol focused so are currently doing active consultation within our Faculty to see how non drinking students would like to see our events changed and ensuring they are catered for at whatever event it is that we hold. This initiative is being headed up by our Head of Events Shonnely Novintan.

Shop

We have seen quite successful shop sales across the past few months and thanks to the investment that was made last year we have been able to successfully carry forward the price freeze. The operational time that this takes up for our officers has sparked the debate however for the necessity of this sit within ICSMSU. We have therefore started conversations with Rob (Retail Manager) as to the support that the Imperial College Union Shop will be able to give us in facilitating our shops activity.

Finances

Whilst being able to fund the sabbatical salary last year we did start the year off in a weaker financial position than normal, however this was budgeted for and expected with approximately £22,000 tied up in events deposits for the upcoming academic year. This has highlighted the importance in the change of our treasurer role. We now have two treasurers, one looking specifically after the finances of the Exec and

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managing its individual budget, and one to manage the finances of the management group. We have also taken this opportunity to revisit our long term sponsorship contracts as a lot were up for renewal. The negotiating process is currently looking very promising and is looking like this will put us in a much stronger financial position.

Education and Representation

One of the biggest pieces of work that is currently being undertaken is a medical school wide curriculum and assessment review which was launched last year which FoM and ICSMSU are consulting on. There have been issues around getting students consulted at all stages of the process. We have now appointed a new curriculum review project manager to oversee this process, and I am now sitting on the overall project board which should ensure that there is student engagement. I am overseeing the 9 different thematic review groups that will decide what the curriculum looks like, and we will be presenting the plans for the new curriculum at senate in the beginning of 2018.

With the new iPads that are fully integrated into the Faculties teaching methods we are looking at implementing these as a method of assessment. This piece of work is about 6 months into its development and there has been extensive student consultation. We are looking to roll it out as part of the year 5 examinations that will happen in the MBBS course for the summer of 2018. In line with this we are also working with the College's operational excellence team on their exam sitting policy to ensure it reflects this change and also accurately reflects clinical examinations or exams not held on the south kensington campus.

We have successfully filled all of our academic representatives for the different year groups in the first round and were very pleased to see the high number of people running for the different positions and such a high turnout in the elections overall.

Reynolds Bar

With the unfortunate loss of the full time bar manager Carl Salton-Cox at the end of the last year we have been working with the new bar manager Dan Green to ensure a smooth transition. It was fantastic to have his support throughout freshers and we are excited to see the plans that he has for the year ahead.

Welfare

This year has seen the successful implementation of the Wellbeing Representation Network within ICSM. Having successfully filled all of the positions in the first round we have already started working with them to ensure that feedback is collected from the various year groups, and to start the planning on different wellbeing campaigns that we would like to see run throughout the year.

We had a very high level of resit support this year thanks to our Academic Officers and Welfare Officer. This gave many students the confidence and support they needed to pass their resits and progress in the course. We also contributed to the Personal Tutor training to ensure all our tutors are addressing the concerns of the students and are appropriately equipped to direct our students correctly on their issues.

We also presented at the national student wellbeing conference in early September with our new head of academic study skills on how to improve student wellbeing and what would Faculty support look like on this.

Clubs and Societies

We have continued with our 121s between our Clubs and Societies Officer, Treasurer and all club chairs/treasurers. This has resulted in good engagement and support to all our clubs. Preparation for annual budgeting is already underway with external grant applications going out regularly and our Management Group Budgeting training happening in December.

Our clubs and societies had a successful intake of new students and are well underway with all their activities. Some of our clubs are expanding their opportunities to their members by participating in mass volunteering opportunities and academic and welfare support schemes.

Alumni

Our alumni association is doing very well, with around 200 sign ups from our graduating year. We are hoping to link alumni up to our career societies to offer medical speciality talks and seminars through the year.

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My thanks must go to the 16 incredibly Students' Union Officers. It has been a pleasure working with them over the last four and a half months and they have all gone above and beyond in their service. Freshers' Fortnight welcomed around 450 new students and the officers helped to settle them all in through our events. This simply would not have been possible without their hard work.