

ICSM SU Report-Term two

This report to council highlights some of the key areas that ICSM SU has dealt with or raised since the period from January until present.

Events at Charing Cross Bar

So let's start off with the events that have occurred thus far to get you in the swing of things. This term has been a sheer dynamo of student activity covering a wide range of diversity from funky bands nights with smoothie cocktails to a classic comedy night. Executive's personal favourite so far has been the glow stick infested "rave night" at the Reynolds. ICSM SU has always appreciated the broad and multi-cultural types of students it has within the medical school and it is important that we respect and accommodate them in what we provide. It is always encouraging to see new faces at events or within clubs and societies enjoying the activity and not necessarily the things associated with it and ICSM SU hope's it can continue this.

Charing Cross Bar

With the diversity shown in our events it has also reflected in our bar takings which appear to be up from last year and only improving. Other factors that have led to the increase in takings has been good promotion through multiple mediums, more steering from bar staff on events and a good fresher intake. The monthly bar meetings with South Kensington are occurring and are successful for trouble shooting and keeping up to date with trading reports etc. The search for a new bar manager is currently underway and is available to any two students to apply for until the end of March. Appointments will be made in May to allow a final term of training and handover.

Clubs, Socs and Varsity

By the time you all read this, the Varsity would have ended...and ended well for ICSM. The day allowed for the medical school clubs to compete against the rest of Imperial in a whole host of sports from waterpolo to lacrosse and of course the big J.P.R. Williams rugby trophy in the evening. Varsity carries with it the underlying message that the medical school is a unique entity and that it's individuality needs to be respected. It is more than just a sports competition. This year varsity came with a few delightful little twists, one being that it is Imperial's big 100 and the faculty of medicine's 10th birthdays this summer and two, that we have a new competition added to the pot...athletics. The athletics varsity is to take place a few days from now (Saturday 17th of March) and was the brainchild of medic Jignesh Patel and PhD student Simon Lewis. It is great to see varsity expanding to so many specialities and becoming a major social event for all.

ICSM SU welcomes the following new clubs;

- Medics debate
- Medics athletics

All current clubs and societies are being reviewed and exec has asked each club to present a report of their year's activities. There is a concern from the student body that clubs in the past have been set up merely for CV gain and this needs to be monitored closely.

Centenary

This term has also witnessed ICSM being as one with the rest of Imperial with the launch of the Centenary on the 30th of January. Lots of ICSM clubs have organised events for the Centenary year and the launch was the perfect opportunity for them to showcase their events to the masses. Over 10 major medic clubs were on the Queen's lawn that day to give out flyers, recruit people or perform a small segment of their show. The launch was promoted at every major site at Imperial to ensure that everyone was felt part of the celebrations and we all got to eat a bit of Centenary cake! As project manager for the student celebrations, Shiv Chopra has a weekly column in Felix which is both informative yet comical.

Balls galore

The spring term hosts one of our largest dinners/balls, the Shrove Tuesday Final Year Dinner on Friday the 16th of March. The dinner is a hybrid of the St. Mary's final year dinner and the Charing Cross and Westminster Shrove Tuesday Dinner. This year's committee (headed by Kate Harvey and her team) is to hold the event at the wonderful SE One club near Waterloo to mark an evening's entertainment for final years before they embark on finals. The next major event for us all is the summer ball, which on final year results day (19th of June) at Chelsea football club. For more information or to purchase your ticket, please contact Oliva.Kenyon@imperial.ac.uk.

Charing Cross

By the start of the summer term, clubs and societies will be able to store their equipment in secure storage facilities neatly in the basement rooms. This will enable better inventory for clubs and hopefully a longer life for equipment. With the arrival of the ETHOS gym in South Kensington last year it has turned the Union's attention to our gyms in other sites. ICSM SU conveyed its disappointment over the state of our gyms and the fact that students still have to pay for their use. Sport Imperial have agreed that all gym facilities across all sites will be free to use next year for students and that the Charing Cross gym will be repaired by the summer. Another niche that does not conform to the standards of South Kensington is our Cafes. It has been a mystery for many years that the range of food provided in our main campus is not offered at the medical sites. The Union has tabled this student/staff concern to College catering and things seem to be heading in the right direction.

Welfare

The Students' Union welcomes Mo Khaki to the team as the new welfare officer this term. He hit the ground running hard by organising a pizza night for year three students to meet the new Oxbridge cohort. With free pizza for all of course there was a high attendance and the event did allow for the students to mix and socialise before they started firms together. A welfare issue that has been raised from students at the beginning of the year was their safety at night in areas around Charing Cross hospital. There has been an increase of reports to the SU of muggings and attacks on medical students in the Hammersmith and Fulham area. ICSM SU has spoken to both the local MP, Greg Hands and the Police task force to see how we can combat this problem. Now, the Medics' Students' Union sits on the local ward committee, which prioritises actions for the police. I am happy to announce that the area reported by our students is second on the list and the Police will update us on the progress in April. The SU is organising safety awareness lectures and stands with the police on campus to enable students to be more empowered when travelling at night.

A final point I want to raise is the new government legislation on international medical students working in this country once they qualify. It shall be briefly mentioned as it was debated in the last council meeting, but from this year non EU medics will find it near impossible to work in the UK past the F1/F2 programme. The legislation change will affect over 100 of our students in the next couple of years and we need to support them.

MTAS

An early account so far is that over 90% of our students were accepted at their first choice foundation school deanery. North West Thames, the deanery associated with Imperial College is to receive over 180 final year students next year. The above is great news for us and at the time of writing our final years are pleased with the results and process so far.