

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

By ICSMSU President – Shiv Vohra

Union

The 16 other officers of ICSMSU Exec have been settling into their jobs over the summer and working hard in preparation for the start of the academic year. There have been 5 meetings of the ICSMSU Executive Committee in this session.

The new ICSMSU ran its 1st ICSM Open Day on Wednesday 4th July, which was a huge success and had an unprecedented turnout – despite clashing with the UCL & King's medical school open days.

Events

We held the Affirmation Ceremony on 21st July to celebrate the graduation of our newly qualified doctors of the Class of 2012. This event sold out well in advance, and was a hugely successful and enjoyable day for both our newly qualified doctors and their families.

Incoming and outgoing ICSMSU Alumni & Careers Officers, Jac Cooper & Laura Wilkinson, hosted an Alumni Bop on Saturday 16th July, which went down incredibly well with the alumni, who expressed a strong interest in repeating this event in future.

ICU Lacrosse hosted the pre-term bop in the Reynolds Bar on September 28th. This was the 1st bop in the newly renovated Reynolds Bar, which was very successful, with students attending from across all year groups.

We are now halfway through Freshers' Fortnight, and have sold out on Freshers' passports. Our new freshers have been absolutely wonderful throughout and we hope that their excitement and enthusiasm continues into the second half of the fortnight and beyond!

We are currently in the planning phase of holding our 15th anniversary ball for our Alumni.

Shop

We have once again extended our range of phoenix-branded merchandise, to include keyrings, laptop covers, polos and new hoodies. All of our products flew off the shelves during the 1st week of freshers.

Education and Representation

We have elected Year 5 & 6 reps, and are currently midway through electing Year 3 reps.

There have been very few, if any, academic concerns thus far. However the GP/Oncology course in Year 5 continues to be an ongoing problem since last academic year, and it's future is currently being looked in to by Mr Lupton (Deputy Director of Education) and myself.

Due to final year restructuring, students must have accommodation for a final 2 week course after returning from their elective (abroad in most cases), which means that it would be financially sensible to relinquish their housing contracts prior to leaving for elective. I am

currently working with Charles Gallagher to arrange accommodation for circa 100 students who have expressed an interest in being offered College accommodation.

Welfare

ICSMSU Academic Officer Year 4, Biomedical Sciences & Pharmacology, Matt Hutchins, successfully organised and ran a 'Mums & Dads' scheme for our external intercalated BSc students. We held a social at 568 at the end of their induction day, which was well attended and very popular.

ICSMSU Welfare Officer, Steve Tran, BioMed Soc President, Nat Kempston, and GradMed Soc President, Paige Barrows, ran a very successful 'Mums & Dads' night on Tuesday 2nd October for our new undergraduate medical, biomedical sciences, and graduate entry medical students respectively.

Sites

The Reynolds building has been largely renovated courtesy of the Estates department – in the Reynolds Bar, this includes a repaint and new flooring.

The Reynolds Bar

Over the summer, ICU Commercial Services Manager, Matt Bowman, has been working very hard with the Reynolds bar managers, Pete Davis & Emily Hutchinson, to carry out essential maintenance works, including replacing all lines. They are also hosting the 1st night targeted at the wider IC student population this coming Thursday 11th October, called 'Club Reynolds', which we hope will become a regular Thursday night event.

I'd like to thank Matt for his incredibly proactive role and continued involvement in improving the Reynolds Bar for our students.

Clubs & Societies

We are unfortunately no closer to reaching a satisfactory resolution regarding the BUCS merger proposal, as the consultation period has been extended, with a vote scheduled to take place this December. As an institution, we must take a unified stance on this, and I sincerely hope that ICU Council will continue to show the same support as last year.

We held our 1st ICSM Clubs & Societies meeting of this academic year, which was attended by the vast majority of clubs & societies. The proposed Varsity date once again came up as an issue of discontent, particularly for final year medical students, as they will be unable to play in this fixture due to the proximity of their finals exams.

A number of ICSM clubs & societies will be adversely affected by the closure of the Wilson House recreation centre, and I am in discussions with the affected clubs & societies, ICU Membership Services Manager, Phil Power, ICU Student Activities Manager, Anthony Crowther, and Samantha Bell (Sport Imperial) as to how to minimise this impact.

Communications

The ICSMSU Comms Officer, Giada Azzopardi, has been working incredibly hard behind the scenes to design our freshers' handbook, improve our website and redesign the ICSMSU Newsletter.