

# ICSMSU Union Council Report – October 2018



# Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union General Committee

<i>Dan Faehndrich</i>	President
<i>Kathryn Chang</i>	Deputy President
<i>Aditi Reddy</i>	Executive Treasurer
<i>Sid Basetti</i>	Secretary and Communications Officer
<i>Emily Mayne</i>	BMB President
<i>Ben Russell</i>	Entertainments Chair
<i>Hanya Irfan</i>	Social Secretary
<i>Emily Quirk</i>	RAG Chair
<i>Alistair Ludley</i>	Academic Chair
<i>Gargi Samarth</i>	Academic Officer – Clinical Years
<i>Shohaib Ali</i>	Academic Officer – BSc Year
<i>Carmen Traseira</i>	Academic Officer – Early Years
<i>Gaby Harrow</i>	Academic Officer – BMB Years
<i>Aisha Chaudry</i>	Welfare Chair
<i>Jack Hall</i>	Vice Chair of Wellbeing Representatives
<i>Gabby Mathews</i>	Vice Chair of Campaigns
<i>Tom Willis</i>	Clubs & Societies Chair
<i>Muntaha Naem</i>	Management Group Treasurer
<i>Rish Hariharan</i>	Vice Chair of Sports & Arts
<i>Chris Buckingham</i>	Vice Chair of Volunteering and Academics

# Summary

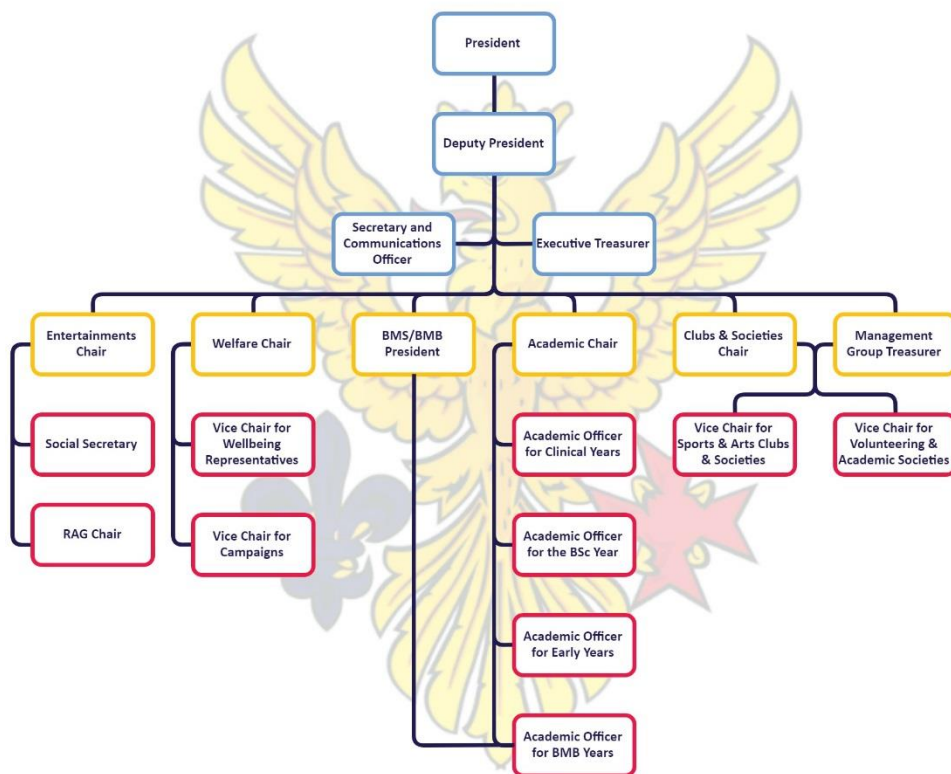
ICSMSU have had a very busy few months.

Changes from 2017-18 have included:

- Introduction of Academic Chair role (the ICSMSU equivalent of an AAO)
- The Vice Chair of Wellbeing Representatives and Vice Chair of Campaigns joining the ICSMSU Exec Team
- New roles of Vice Chair of Sports and Arts and Vice Chair of Volunteering and Academics joining the ICSMSU Exec Team

With our New Structure, we have implemented a new structure to our meetings too. We will now be having 'Exec Meetings' and 'SU Meetings'. We found that the more stream specific nuances were better handled in group meetings by the Exec (President, Deputy President, Executive Treasurer, Secretary and Communications officer, 4 stream chairs, and Management Group Treasurer), while SU wide matters and voting matters were better to be handled with the full membership of the ICSMSU officer team.

These 'Exec Meetings' will still be open for all to attend, but will only be compulsory for those listed above.



A summary of our new structure can be found here:

All of our meetings have so far involved the entire SU. We have had 4 meetings, 2 pre-holiday meetings, 1 before Freshers' Fortnight started, and a Freshers' Fortnight debrief.

# Ents Stream

## *Freshers' Fortnight*

This is our biggest Ents undertaking of the year. Striving to take our next step in inclusivity, we made improvements to some of our events.

- Alcohol free deck on the Boat Party
- Continued development of FRESHTival shifting focus away from alcohol
- Film night alongside our 'First Sports Night' to provide an alcohol-free alternative

While attendance wasn't high to FRESHTival or the Film Night we feel it was a great addition that can be developed further.

Furthermore, the running of our events in general were very smooth with minimal incidents (a small number are always expected and unavoidable) and a very cohesive team headed up by our Entertainments Chair Ben Russell.

Trialling new events and new structures to pre-existing events is always a brave feat and I think it was done with extreme professionalism, and with great success.

## *The Year ahead*

The Entertainments team now get a chance to look forward at improving our events for the rest of the year and implementing their manifesto

pledges after an extremely busy few months. With Halloween week and Christmas week coming up this term, including one of our staple events, Snow Ball, there will undoubtedly be even more work coming up for the Ents team to stick their teeth into!

## *RAG*

RAG put on another successful RAG day despite poor weather. There are some unique ideas for the year and for our RAG week in Jan/Feb which we look forward to raising thousands of pounds as in previous years, for our 2018/19 charities: Community Action Nepal, and Child Action.

*Due to us having many events (a total of 13 across 2 weeks), further breakdown of our Freshers' Fortnight, including running of, structure, or future plans, are available on request.*

# Academic Stream

With a new addition of an Academic Chair to our team this year we have been focusing on establishing the remit of our new structure over the past few months.

## *Clinical Years*

A unique side of ICSMSU is that we have students in class or placement for all days of the year (apart from a small window at Christmas). The Clinical Team hit the ground running with our out of season rep elections beginning to take place when our 5th year students started at the end of June. Our Academic Officer for Clinical Years has also worked with our Academic Societies to create the first ever Centralised Mock PACES (a practical exam in 5th year) to ensure that every single student gets a chance at having a trial exam before sitting the final exam. This has been a development in the works for multiple years now and it is fantastic to see our Clinical Team work extremely hard to put the final implementation in place for 2018/19.

## *BSc Year*

Our BSc year started 1 week before official College start of term and our Academic Officer for our BSc Year has been working hard at producing extra support mechanisms for Students during their Final Project in their BSc

year to mitigate for issues raised in student feedback previously. A successful lobby by students also led to the Faculty cooperating with us to get breakdowns of our marks for individual assessment, rather than just modular marks, released to all 2017/18 BSc students and this will be a precedent carried forward to future years.

## *Early Years*

Our Early Years are our 1st and 2nd years who start with the rest of Imperial at the beginning of October. Our Academic Officer for the Early Years has been working to update our Notebank of student produced notes to ensure up to date content, and a more user friendly student experience, is available for all students, and screening notes to ensure they are up to the standard we would expect ICSMSU endorsed materials to be.

## *BMB Years*

Our BSc in Medical Biosciences course has entered its 2nd year, meaning that we have our 2nd cohort of 1st year students and our very first cohort of 2nd year students. This poses some very exciting challenges and the Academic Officer for BMB Years has been working with Faculty and putting in place early steps before BMB's Academic Representatives are elected to ensure that constructive and adequate

feedback is consistently produced for both our Faculty and Students throughout the course of the year.

### *Academic Chair*

Our Academic Chair has been implementing his vision of the new Academic Stream structure to ensure adequate and more tailored support is offered to the Academic Stream's Officers. He has also been working on consultation with students on how space with an expanding cohort can be repurposed in our regularly used teaching spaces. Finally he has helped with heading up the team in ICSM's MBBS curriculum review ensuring that student voice is heard effectively throughout the process.

## **Welfare Stream**

The Welfare team have been putting in place fantastic new structures to help support students' welfare both pre-arrival and during their time at ICSM.

### *Wellbeing Representatives*

The Vice Chair for Wellbeing Representatives produced a comprehensive guide for conduct of Student Representatives to complement the training delivered by ICU to have a look at the more specific issues of Medical Students (for example welfare issues with patients, on placement, length of course (for example 5th year being an entire year) etc. He has also been having regularly meetings with his Reps (elected as early as July alongside the 5th year academic representatives) and facilitating meetings between them and the ICU Academic and Welfare team.

### *Campaigns*

The Vice Chair of Campaigns has been working on some of ICSM's fantastic (previously award winning) campaigns for the year. Having a dedicated Officer elected in the Leadership Elections has proved very beneficial in the fact that she has been able to plan for the year ahead much easier. While I don't want to spoil any upcoming campaigns by

revealing them here, some really unique and engaging campaigns are something to look forward to on ICSM's horizon.

### *Welfare Chair*

Our Welfare Chair has taken the opportunity of having our Vice Chairs elected much earlier to help shape Welfare's vision for the year and engage with our outreach to students very effectively. She has helped produce flyers for our incoming students welcome letters and a leaflet outlining principle Welfare tips including directions home from nights out during Freshers' fortnight which were well received.

## **Management Group**

Another team with a new structure this year, our Management Group Team has jumped head first into improving the experience of those running ICSM's more than 60 Clubs & Societies.

### *Restructure*

This decision was made last year due to an overburdening of the Clubs & Societies and Management Group Treasurer meaning that day to day administration was taking up the majority of their role and therefore Big Picture projects were difficult to undertake.

Establishing the new remit structures of each of our officers has been a challenge they have been tackling fantastically and I have no doubt they will continue to do so equally as effectively throughout the year.

### *Club & Society Storage*

They have already both begun and continued with space repurposing in the Reynolds' building to ensure that Clubs & Societies storage space is used more effectively and to increase the amount of space available.

### *FRESHtival*

Another of their big projects was to improve the Freshers' Fortnight event 'FRESHtival' which ended up being a

vast improvement on last year. The introduction of a live band and more structure to the event meant the atmosphere was a lot more relaxed and less alcohol focused helping with



## **Executive Stream (different to those involved in Exec Meetings)**

This team consists of:

- President
- Deputy President
- Secretary and Communications Officer
- Executive Treasurer

### *Deputy*

Our Deputy President has been working during both her summer holidays and start of 4<sup>th</sup> year term to ensure correct support structure are in place for our entire Students' Union Officer team. Regular 121s plus being an open and friendly face to help resolve issues faced by our Student Union Officers is not a task that should be underestimated, and she has handled it with great care and professionalism.

### *Sec & Comms*

Our Secretary and Communications Officer firstly worked on the most crisp and slick Freshers' Passport we have seen to date, and has also began working on a reform of our website, newsletter, and minutes for our meetings. While a work in progress we have already seen some really promising changes.

### *Finances*

Finally, our Executive Treasurer has spent a long time working on ensuring our finances for the year break even and worked extensively with our Ents Chair to make sure we were providing a value for money experience for our Students' both during Freshers' and throughout the rest of the year.

## Reynolds Bar

The Student Bar managers were fantastic help as per usual in the running of our events throughout Freshers' fortnight, and we have so far held 2 very successful bop events (Boptoberfest run by ICSM Boat, and Beach Bop run by ICSMSU).

Turnout for our core events remained high and is promising for our Bops throughout the year.

## Comms

Within ICSMSU we have set up a Comms working group to have a look at our outward facing communications. This is to ensure that a consistent theme and message is sent across all of our streams and SU as a whole.

I believe effective communication is the best way to engage students. I appreciate that this will probably be a longevity task that we don't entirely get in place for the coming year, but is hopefully something we can finalise to hand over to our successors, to have an easy to follow day to day communications plan to ensure maximum engagement.

# Final Notes

Altogether these past few months have seen an SU of unique individuals of a variety of backgrounds come together to form a cohesive and highly functioning Students' Union team.

I'd like to give my thanks to all 19 volunteer officers who I believe regularly go above and beyond the expected duties of a volunteer, working outside of the specific remit of their roles, to work tirelessly to improve the Student Experience of all those in ICSMSU.

I'm extremely excited for the year ahead, and look forward to all of the fantastic work I'm positive we'll all be able to achieve together, both within ICSM, and across the wider Imperial community.

