

Imperial College Union  
**GSA Chair's Report**  
*A Note by the Graduate Students' Association Chair*

A brief summary of what the GSA has been up to over the summer...

**Elections**

So far, the GSA has had one election over the summer (albeit twice), and I'm glad to say that this election was successfully concluded and would like to express my thanks to those involved in the smooth (re)running of this election.

Nominations are currently open for the rest of the positions on the GSA committee as they were left unfilled owing to there being no candidates interested in the positions. Quite a lot of my time is currently taken up with sounding people out in the hope that we can get some good candidates. I make no secret of my grave fears for the future of the GSA if no good candidates come to light, the GSA has the potential to do a great deal but only with a functioning and vibrant committee, my own activities this summer have been somewhat hampered by the lack of a committee.

**Post-Graduate Freshers' Week**

I had a very successful meeting with Prof. Mary Ritter (Pro-Rector, Postgraduate and International Affairs) during which we discussed the provision for new postgraduate students. I raised the idea of creating a post-graduate Freshers' Week before the main start of session, there was a lot of interest in this and I believe that we can significantly improve the provision of information to new post-graduates. The initial plans are to hold a series of sessions introducing new post-graduates to Imperial including orientation sessions for international students and social events to help build a post-graduate community. This was only an initial meeting but there was a lot of interests and it was thought to be a good idea, I plan to take this idea to post-graduates once a committee has been formed and hope that it is well received and progress can be made.

**Graduate Medics**

I have also held initial discussions with some graduate medical students about the provision for graduate-entry medical students. There is a relatively small number of students studying medicine who have already completed a degree. As these students are registered on an undergraduate degree, they are seen as undergraduates by the College and also the Union yet their interests and needs are much similar to taught post-graduates. I believe that these students should be catered for by the GSA in addition to ICSMSU (similar Guilds or RCS PGs being members of both the GSA and their relevant FU), whilst I am not proposing that graduate-entry medics are necessarily made members of the GSA (although this may be the best eventual solution, this is something that would only be proposed after due consultation), I do believe that they should be included in a group containing people closer to them in interests. This may become more important in future years with the start of the graduate-entry medical course resulting in graduate students no longer being accepted onto the undergraduate medical course, a view shared with graduate medical students.

**Welcome Sessions**

I have been involved in the welcome sessions for new post-graduate students and have more to do. I hope that new post-graduates did not find these sessions too long or arduous and that there was some useful information provided.

**Freshers' Fayre**

I did not have a GSA stall at Freshers' Fayre as I felt that it would be far better for the post-graduate students to spend the day looking at the clubs the Union has to offer rather than the GSA stall as the GSA has many more ways to communicate with the members. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ally on a successful Freshers' Fayre.

**General Meetings**

I have also been involved in a number of the usual meetings including the Executive Committee and some other ad-hoc meetings as and when required.

JM – 04/10/07