

Termly Council Report
A note by the ICSMSU President Tim Wills

UKFPO

On the 9th January, our final year medical students received their job allocation for August this year. In the wake of MTAS and MDAP, the new United Kingdom Foundation Programme Office (UKFPO) process was a comparative success with over 92% of UK applicants getting their first choice of Foundation School. There are 26 Foundation Schools in the UK and each candidate is required to rank them all in order of preference when applying for a job. The application form for each candidate is then scored based on their answer to a number of set questions and their academic ranking in relation to the rest of their year at Medical School. Whilst across the country only 8% of students did not get their first choice, at Imperial that figure was 40% and at the next worst affected institution, the figure was much closer to the national 8%. Over a quarter of all UK graduates that did not get their first choice were from Imperial. This situation is a disaster for Imperial. I will be meeting the Principal of the Faculty of Medicine, I have raised the issue with our Foundation School Director and we are working together to help the worst affected students. We are also working with the Foundation School to provide advice and support for all students. Looking to the future, we are working through possible solutions to prevent a repeat of the situation for next year's students.

Alumni

The Students' Union is working together with the Faculty of Medicine to increase awareness of the ICSM Alumni. The Alumni is in its early stages but we are laying the foundations and building a trust fund to eventually benefit our students. We hope the fund will provide financial support awards for those that would be unable to study Medicine otherwise due to financial reasons and Scholarships to attract the best applicants to ICSM

Clubs and Socs

We have sold 1400 club and society memberships so far this academic year and last term saw some considerable achievements for them. As a union, we continue to support them financially and otherwise, we also now have more space available for them at South Kensington for storage. There are a number of grants that have been awarded to our Clubs and this is in part due to our strong advertisement of what is available for them to apply for.

Education

Our Union continues to represent the Faculty educationally and I have been attending, along with the education reps, all the Faculty education meetings from the Staff – Student Liaison Groups to the Medical Studies Committee. We continue to push for more transparency in our exam processes and more feedback for students both in lectures and on the wards. We are currently being inspected by the General Medical Council (GMC) and I am liaising with the Faculty to ensure this runs smoothly from the students' point of view.

Graduate Entry Course

The new Graduate Entry course will be starting in October 2008. Unfortunately the main building for the students will not be ready in time so I have been making sure the new students will have access to the facilities they need including lockers, common room facilities and computers at the Hammersmith Hospital

Reynolds Bar

The bar continues to trade well with figures showing a significant increase on last year at this time. I have worked closely with the Bar Managers throughout the first term to ensure that the operational details have been improved and that the Bar has continued to perform well.