



ICSMSU

Imperial College School of Medicine
Students' Union

Move of our MDLs from the Sir Alexander Fleming Building: Thoughts and Reflections

On Monday 7th December, the Faculty of Medicine announced their behind-the-scenes decision to build a new Institute of Infection in the centre of the Sir Alexander Fleming Building, and thus move current ICSM students from our MDLs space into a separate Royal College of Science building without any prior student consultation.

As the elected representatives of all students in ICSM, ICSMSU released an initial statement and survey to capture the thoughts, opinions, and concerns of the student body on this decision to ensure we can represent and advocate for them.

This survey took place over a 1-month period from Monday 7th December 2020 - Sunday 4th January 2021.

Herein for transparency are the full, unedited results.

Scales are ranked as follows: -5/-4 = Extremely Negative, -3 = Strongly negative, -1/-2 = Somewhat Negative, 0 = Neutral, +1/+2 = Somewhat positive, +3 = Strongly Positive, +4/+5 = Extremely Positive. Mean results are rounded accordingly to their nearest value.

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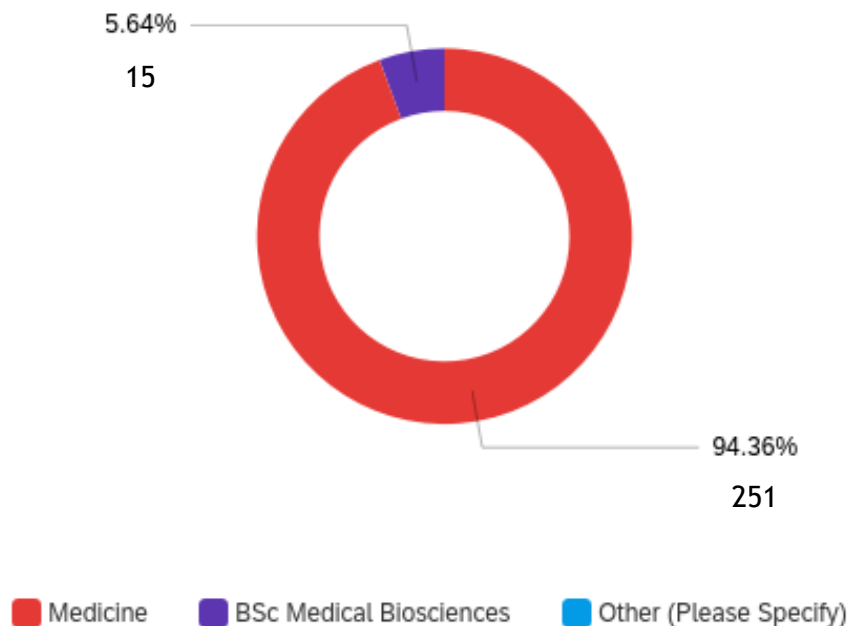
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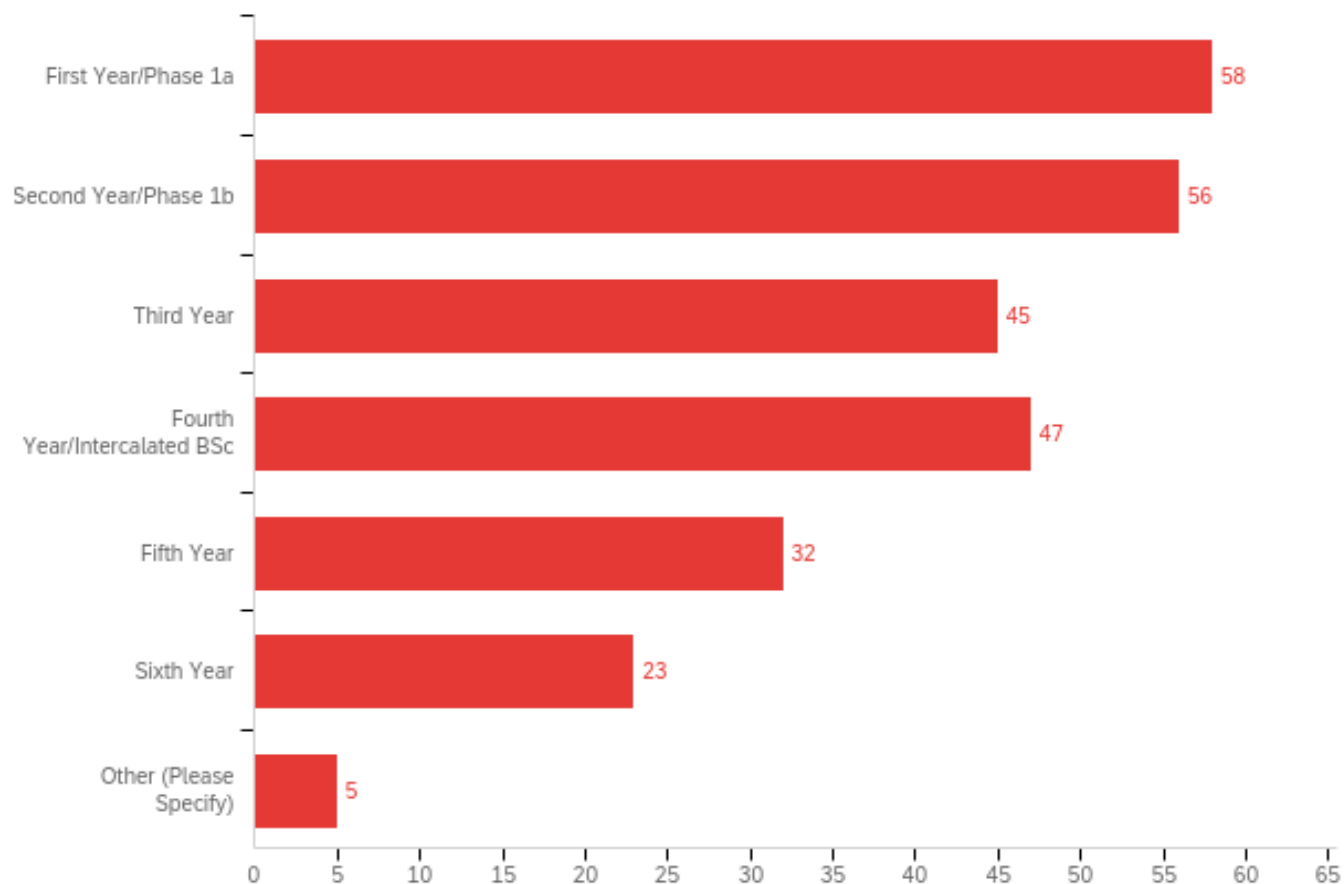
Demographics

Q1 - What course are you studying?

N=266



Q2 - What is your current year of study?



<u>Yeargroup</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Count</u>
First Year/Phase 1a	21.80%	58
Second Year/Phase 1b	21.05%	56
Third Year	16.92%	45
Fourth Year/Intercalated BSc	17.67%	47
Fifth Year	12.03%	32
Sixth Year	8.65%	23
Other (Please Specify)	1.88%	5
Total	100%	266

Other (Please Specify) - Text

Alumni

Alumni

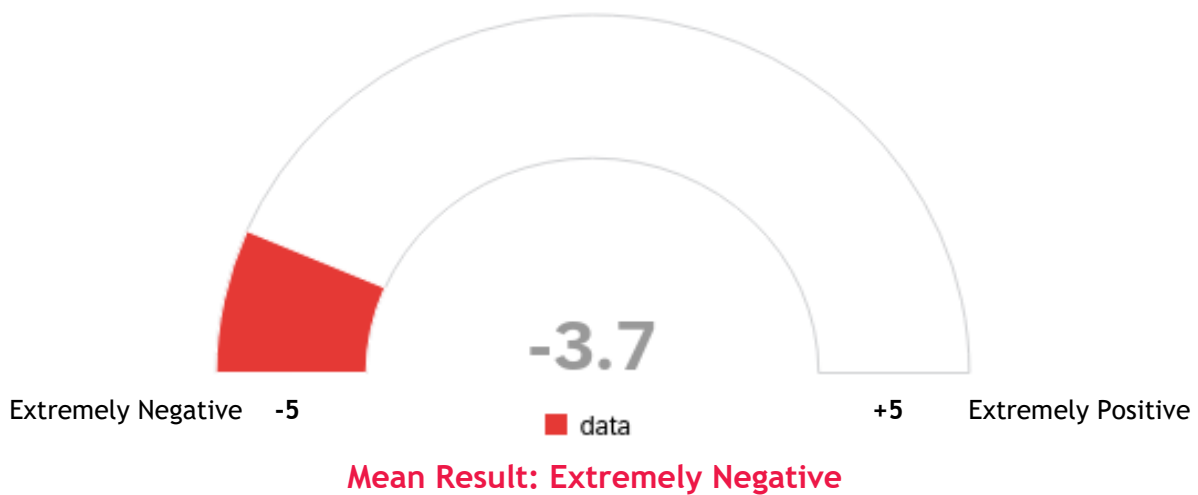
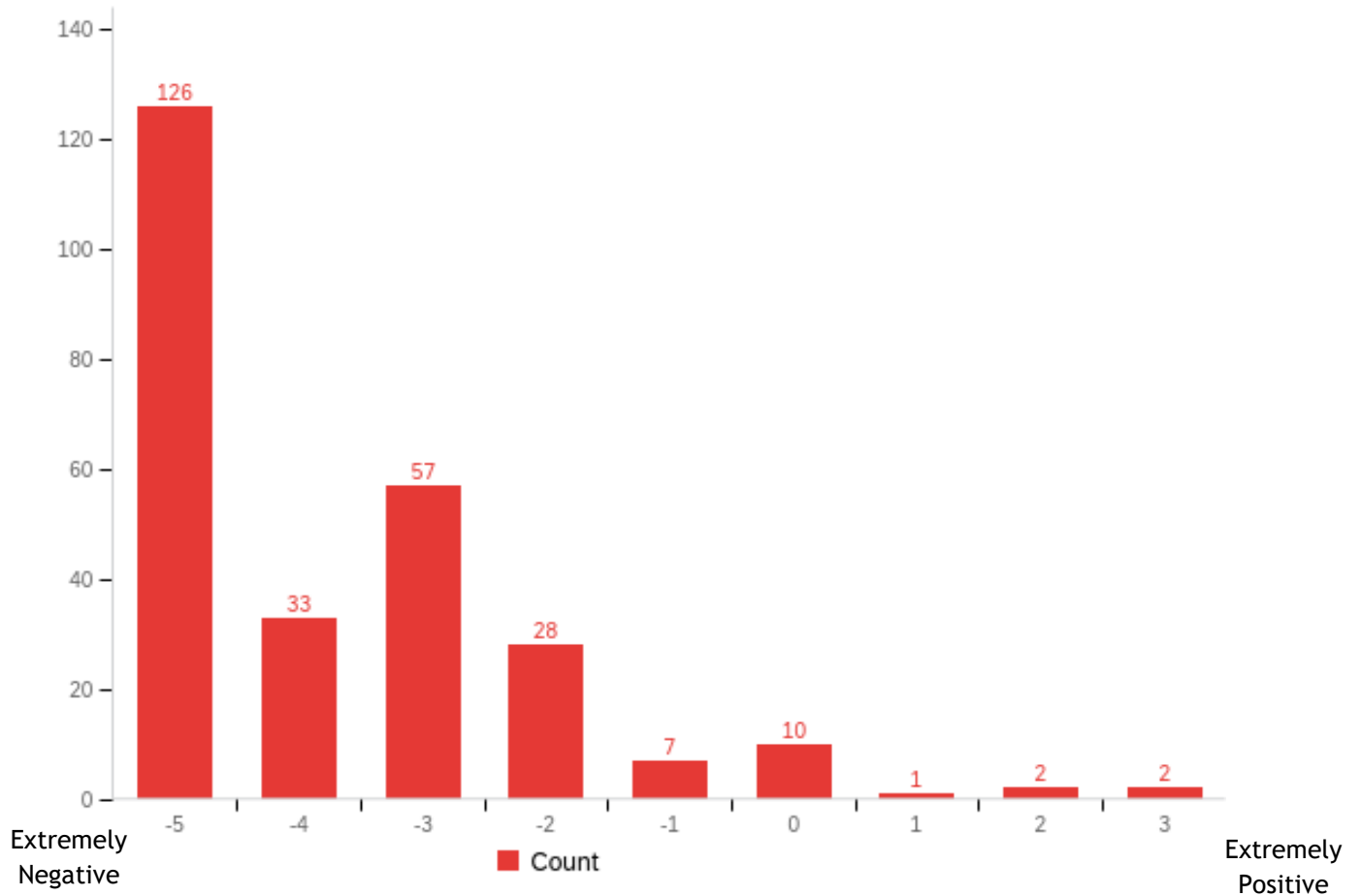
Graduated in 2020

Graduated

Alumni

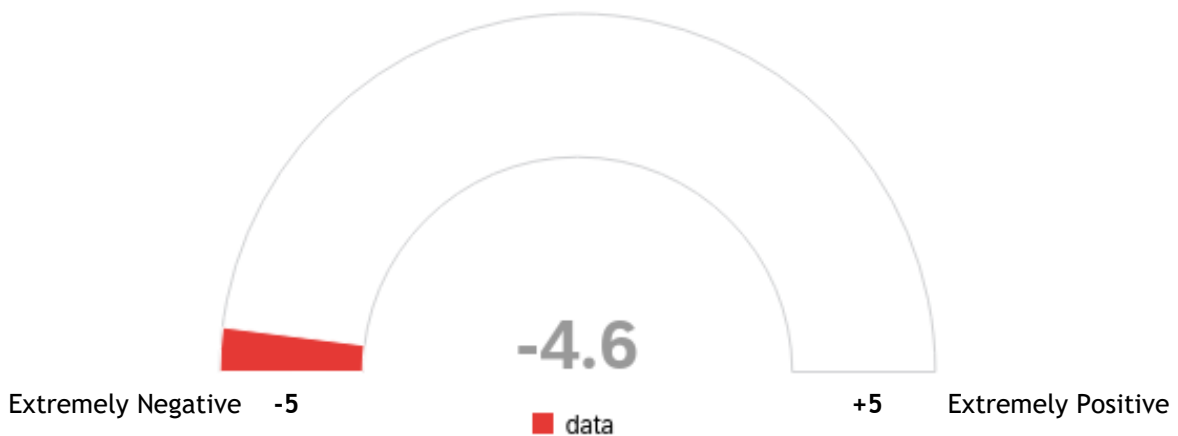
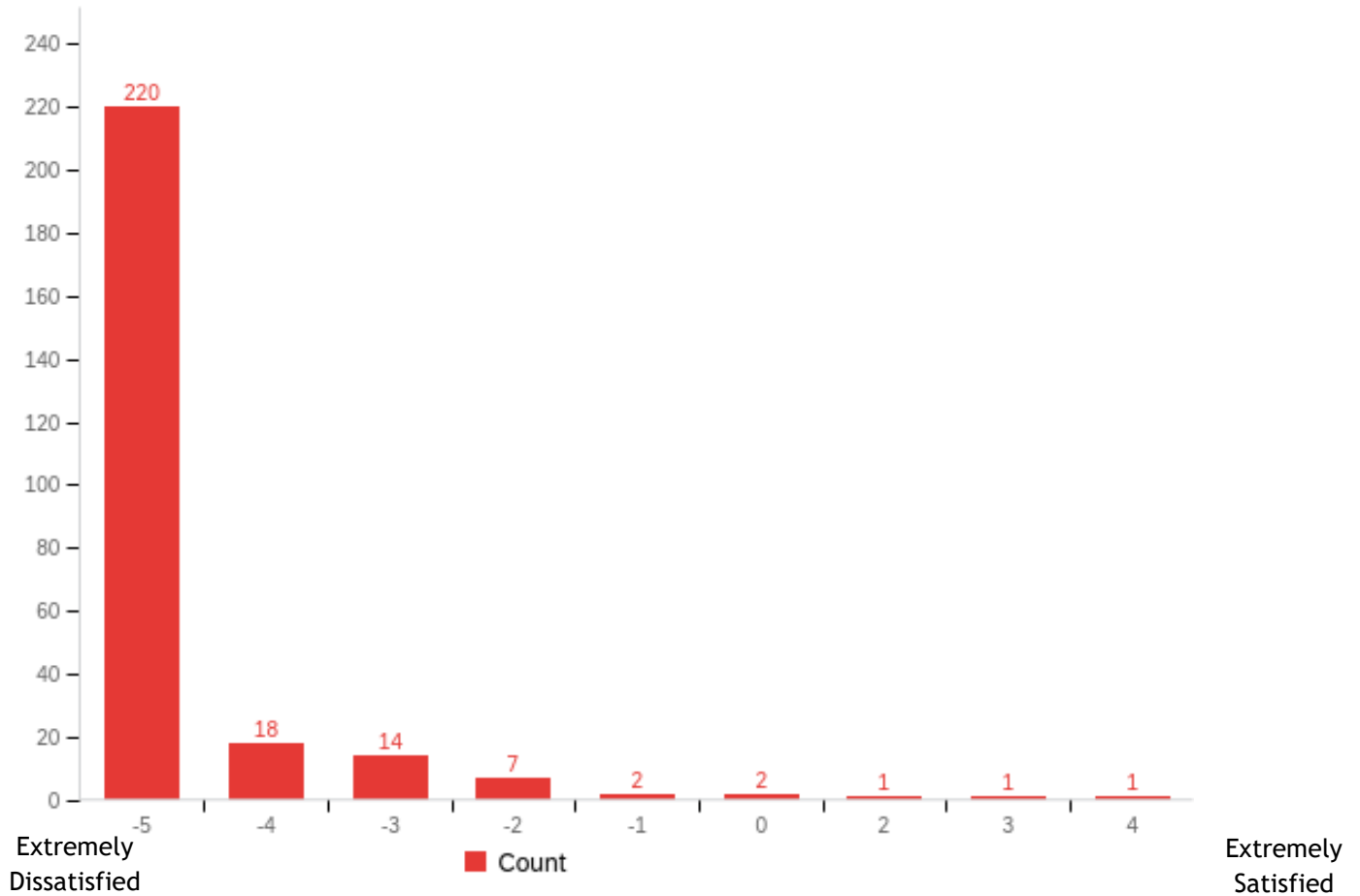
Overall Thoughts

Q3 - On the scale below, please indicate your overall thoughts on the impact of this decision made by the Faculty of Medicine.



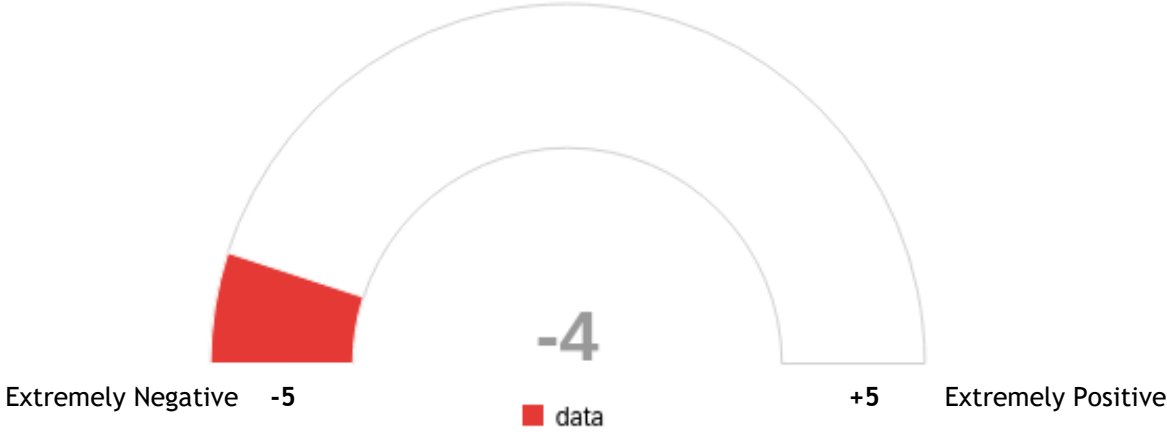
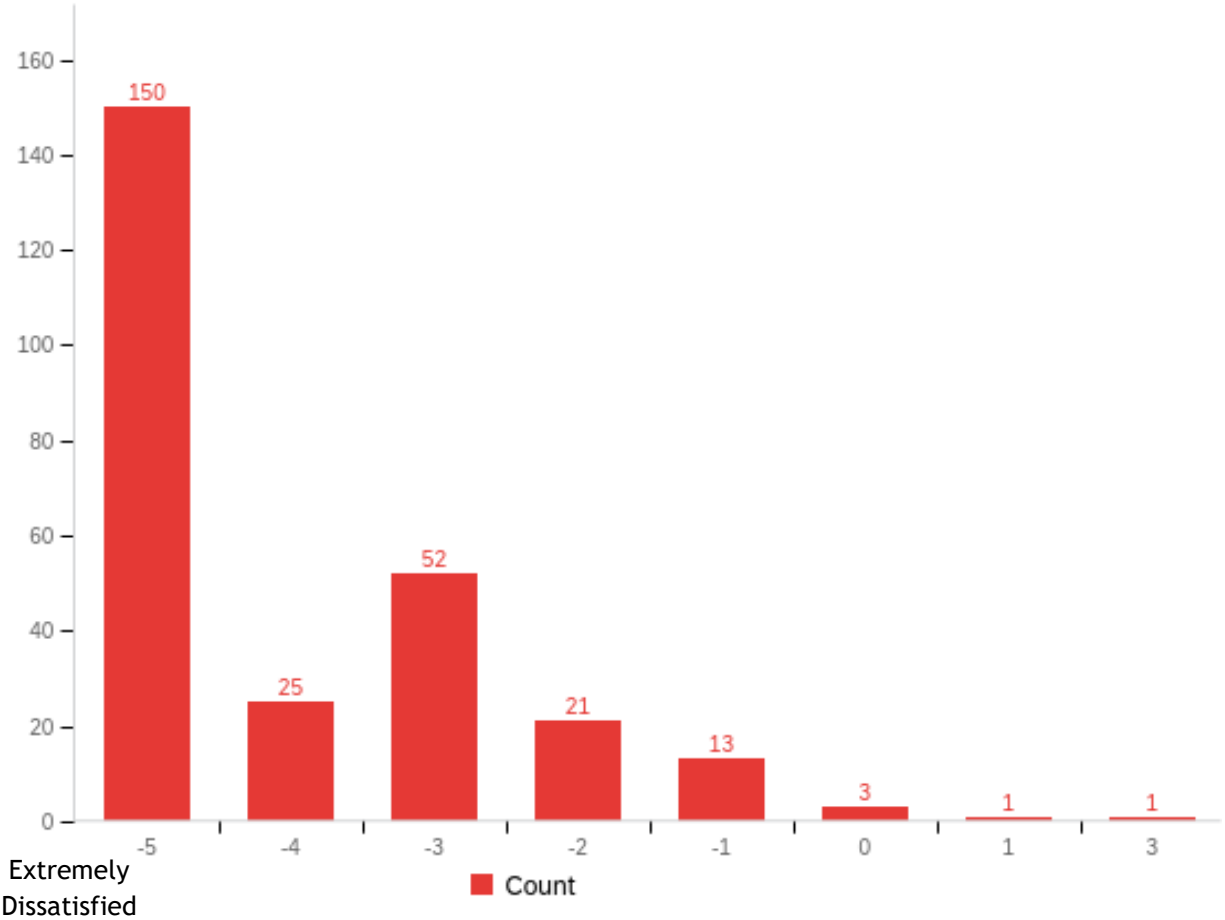
Decision-Making Process: Trust, Transparency, and Student Consultation

Q4 - How satisfied are you with the level of student involvement in this decision?



Mean Result: Extremely Negative

Q5 - How do you feel this decision has affected your view on the level of trust and transparency between the Faculty of Medicine and the student body?



Mean Result: Extremely Negative

Q6 - Please use this box to expand on your previous answers:

Sadly no lessons learnt from Sale of St Mary's

They could have provided a survey before the decision was made

How unfair is it to spring a decision like this on the people it will affect the most?? Already because of COVID we haven't had a full in person experience and this doesn't help anything

I think it is ridiculous that we have not been involved in this process at all, especially following the St Mary's debacle last year. I thought the university realised their mistakes and promised to consult us in future instances, but I guess not. Following the many mistakes made during the pandemic, I just think the disregard for the student body is horrendous.

Since the MDLs are an integral part of our student experience in phase 1a and 1b, the students should have been consulted about this decision beforehand.

How can Imperial lecture us on making ethical pillars like autonomy when they take such a paternalistic approach with us? I have an Asian father who consults me in decisions regarding my future more than this university and it's pretty accepted that Asian dad is one step below dictator on the scale of authoritarianism. All jokes aside, I'm quite serious when I say my parents are much more open about decisions affecting my life than Imperial has ever been, a concerning fact when you consider it can be safely assumed my parents have my best interests at heart. The same assumption can't be made of the medical school and it's actions suggest the contrary.

Unfortunately during the last 7 years at Imperial we have seems a plethora of issues. Staff had to strike, the historical st Mary's site was practically sold without consultation, facilities have been crumbling to the point anatomy teaching staff have to climb 14 flights of stairs to get to work and the Reynolds building has pieces of ceiling falling out . This doesn't even take into account the recent revelations of bullying at Imperials top level and the lacklustre response. What this all shows is that nothing has been learnt since the death of Professor Grimm in 2014. The university is continuing it's prostitution of science. The racketeer will ruin student's lives and experiences of medical school. (The quote prostitution of science is not mine but a quote from Professor Colquhoun at UCL.) I had 3 offers and I picked Imperial specifically due to SAF and St Marys and their respective amenities. Had I known the medical school was going to change I wouldn't have picked this university. Senior management need to ask themselves how they view us: are we viewed as customer's paying fees for the right to access the institutions resources. If so then I'd expect them to at least notify new students of potential changes so they can make an informed decision when choosing Imperial as they're medical school. If as professor Lupton claims, we are viewed as one big family, I'd like to ask the staff how many times they have moved their children's school or made their child move house without sufficient prior warning or consultation? Like I said above its concerning that such a paternalistic approach has been taken. One might claim that I'm being hyperbolic, that it's just the MDL rooms but during my preclinical years I would spend roughly 8 hours a day in those rooms. I became more familiar with these locations than I did my own accomodation. At times I have even slept in these rooms. They were my home and to me selling them off would be tantamount to selling my home at Imperial. I would be left a wandering soul.

To-reiterate the point, this not only a question of the medical school converting the MDL rooms but a question of what values the institution holds dear. There is currently a paradox between the medical schools words and actions. Openness may be proclaimed but an autocracy seems to be the reality. It seems now even lip service is no longer paid to students in regards to engagement. Professor Lupton has made a superb effort to give us the impression that our views are taken seriously. However actions speak louder than words. Senior managements actions recently have been speaking very loudly indeed.

Didn't know this was happening. No consultation

Firstly the selling of St Mary's, then the closure of MDL, I feel that while faculty might have sound reasons to do this, it would be respectful for them to propose them to the student body so that we

may give them our thoughts and ideas before making the decision before and then informing us afterwards

It is huge decision that does affect us and it is a breach of trust to make this big a decision without first consulting us.

I feel like our medical school's heritage is something to be sold and made a profit from by the faculty (sports fields, St. Mary's and now the MDLs). There is a lack of transparency as to why these decisions are made and where the money from them goes.

I find it ridiculous how the medical school expands the number of students year after year whilst reducing the number of facilities we have. Are we medical school students just something to be made as big a profit from?

As medicine in later years disperses you across many different hospitals and campuses. One of the most crucial aspects of feeling like one cohesive year was SAF. The lectures and MDL were 2 key aspects and I believe that just not having one guaranteed space that is ours will really weaken our presence on campus over all.

I understand decisions have to be made that are above the student cohort but maybe some warning would be appreciated

Absolutely no regard for what the students want. It's shocking considering all the work faculty has done to include us in their decision-making processes thus-far. It's actually scary.

SAF is the best building the ICSM has got right now. I do not want to see more and more of the Medical School being moved further and further out of central London (ie White city campus and Hammersmith Hospital). Why do all the other departments get to be in South Kensington campus and medics have to run around SAF/CX/Hammersmith hospital?! SAF is great and you should be bringing more teaching there in my opinion.

Before enrolling to Imperial, I've always been under the impression that it is empathetic to the needs of its students which has a direct impact on how empathetic they would be to their patients and/or their subordinates. Many unilateral decisions taken by Imperial has shattered that impression.

The fact that ZERO lessons have been learnt after the sale of St Mary's is unbelievable.

From a university that consistently gets low student satisfaction scores, this makes me feel like the faculty doesn't care about the students at all. I love ICSM and it's sad that students feel consistency let down by lack of consultation and consideration from the faculty.

We should have been involved in the decision-making process - that is the role of the student union, to work hand in hand with the faculty. Without that cooperation how do you expect to improve imperial already poor student satisfaction.

Following both the decision to sell St Mary's medical school building and this current decision I have zero faith that the medical school is acting in the best interest of students.

They make these decisions which effect us greatly behind closed doors with zero student consultation and only tell us once it is too late to make a change.

SAF is the heart of ICSM undergrad medicine. To displace us would be a real shame

It seems like once again they do not care about what students think and how their decisions have an impact on us.

A year on from the sale of St Mary's and the outrage from the student body it incited, and Imperial does it again, this time informing students in a long email published during our graduation. The absolute irony in all this is just depressing. ICSM students are an integral part of Imperial, yet time and time again we have been neglected in Jonathan Weber's 5 year vision.

Decisions affecting students routinely remain undiscussed with students, and our voices remain unheard. Imperial always says they are proud of ICSM, yet it feels as though they are not willing to invest in us, and prioritise the resources we need. Necessary improvements in our buildings are neglected for years (clubs and societies spaces, even a working water fountain in Reynolds etc.), the

historical St Mary's get sold, we now have to go elsewhere for labs, whereas other departments get spanking new buildings. This is extremely disappointing and ultimately makes me feel like Imperial doesn't care about their own ICSM students.

Faculty is a joke that just does things symbolically, they're like corporate managers more than faculty members.

Didn't have much trust and transparency before and therefore that's not changed, am not surprised they made the decision and without informing students until the very end, once again.

N/a

Disappointed that we are only being told about it once the decision has been made

The removal of Students in MDL rooms is very significant as this is the main site of most tutorials and teaching, and pursuing this decision without enquiring with the student body is misusing the power of the senior authority and loses trust SIGNIFICANTLY between the students and the senior authorities.

Overall good for imperial medicine and students, like that we are using white city campus more

The lack of consultation with the students is extremely disheartening, it makes us feel like we cannot trust those higher up to make decisions in our best interest. This will harm Imperial's reputation within the medical school field

Were students consulted? What is the reason for the decision?

ICSM isn't just about becoming a doctor, but the student experiences and bonding along the way.

I feel that impersonal changes like this remove the personal aspects of university and make us students feel less heard by the university. A Student Union is there to communicate actively between faculty and ourselves so we know what is happening with regards to our university life - even if we ignore that we pay a fee each year, this is our education and I feel we have the right to be informed in decisions made above us, about us.

I'm shocked and disappointed at this decision, how they behaved with St Mary's was bad enough in terms of ignoring student opinion but this time they didn't even bother asking the views of students. Seems nonsensical to move students out of SAF and into another random building they don't use for anything else in MBBS teaching.

The SAF was incredibly important for both study and community during years 1 & 2!

It happened with teddington, it happened with the sale of st marys and now the MDLs. Honestly each of those decisions in my time at med school has reduced student morale and experience at ICSM. It's all very well Mr Lupton sending us kind emails at christmas and before exams but tbh the rest of the university obviously sees the medical students as an inconvenience.

It doesn't make sense to move the lab facilities from the SAF building when the location is supposed to be a designated space for medical students.

To be honest, I never believed there was any transparency between faculty and the student body. They are more concerned about **reputation** than teaching and student satisfaction

A decision impacting the student experience should be made after taking into account the views of the students, not before.

This is a disgrace. If the faculty believed this decision to truly be in our best interests, they would have been more transparent throughout the process. The secrecy behind this decision illustrates an unwillingness to confront the potential consequences of losing these rooms.

Obviously I don't expect them to necessarily involve us in every decision (although this probably would have benefitted from some student input) but to release the news when 1/3 of the medical school are graduating seems almost planned to reduce its effect

They never consult us on anything.

Really disappointed that the Faculty have once again failed to take students into account with these decisions. These changes will impact our education and student experience, and to not have any element of student consultation is wrong.

Following on from the sale of the ICSM building within the St. Mary's campus, this is another example of the senior faculty making significant irreversible decisions that have a huge effect on the fabric of the medical school without adequate consultation.

There are certain parts of life at ICSM that form Part of our shared experience and identity, and our shared presence within the Sir Alexander Fleming building is very much included in this.

Faculty make decision on our student spaces without consultation and are more focused on making money

It demonstrates that in not all decisions, medical students are taken into account

I think this is great but in my experience, Lupton won't care about this and unfortunately your efforts won't make any difference

This is just another example of decisions being made about the medical school without consulting the students that they effect.

It's frustrating to be pushed out of the South Kensington campus because it will make the School of Medicine feel very separate from the rest of Imperial a College

I am shocked and heartbroken for a decision like this to have already been made without our knowledge, and then announced on THE DAY of our virtual graduation. It shows complete lack of understanding and empathy, even consideration, for us as students. That does not bode well for the future of our great medical school.

Make decisions that directly impact student learning without consulting the student body is unacceptable. It is hard to believe that even the appearance of valuing our import is so unimportant to faculty.

They always make decisions without telling us and clearly don't trust us enough to come to judgements and conclusions otherwise they wouldn't wait until the decision is made to announce it and then involve us afterwards

If decisions that involve us and our education are going to be made, then we should at least have the right to voice our opinions on the matter and be made aware beforehand. We should be involved in decisions that are potentially going to affect our future. Not being involved reduces trust between the faculty and the students.

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This is a recurring theme within ICSM, faculty chose a decision without involvement, discuss it with us after the decision is made, this happened with Mary's and questions why we should have a union if ICSM refuse to recognise their importance

This feels like a repeat of the St Marys incident. It seems no students were consulted before this change was made and brings where the medical school is based into question.

Cannot make a decision without asking us and it's highly upsetting to see that this has been done with no consideration as to how it will impact the student cohort

I understand that the medical school needs to change and develop, but completely ignoring the students until after the decision has already been taken shows a complete lack of respect and understanding of the people who you are charging.

It shows that the faculty really don't care about students and our opinion - and this shows throughout all decisions they make, big and small. It clearly explains the poor student satisfaction scores imperial constantly gets for medicine (something in hindsight I should have looked at in more detail when applying for medical schools).

These decisions really demonstrate how dictatorship based the faculty really is.

Neutral impact. But more student involvement in decision making would be appreciated

Opinion not sought or considered

Repeatedly there seems to be a lack of communication between IC and ICSM, especially regarding decisions related to facilities mainly used by ICSM students

Ultimately the SAF building is where medics have been taught for several years and so a big decision to take that away should really involve the students opinions

Stop fucking over med students without even the decency to let us know you're considering it. You have no idea what the med school is like now, how about you let the people who do and who are affected weigh in.

Disappointed that the higher ups in the medical school make these decisions without students

This is becoming the standard for the faculty. Do they not care about their students? By their recent actions, clearly not.

This is reminiscent of the sale of Mary's. Faculty clearly have no interest in student involvement, and it is increasingly clear that their interest lie solely in creating a research institute and international reputation.

Students have not been consulted at all and it looks as though college is muscling in on ICSM space yet again and profiting off us

Aside from the fact that MDL labs have played a crucial role in undergraduate medical education, be it for lab sessions or tutorials, the MDL spaces are also essential for running several extra-curricular activities which are unique to ICSM and attract attendees from all over London and beyond: for example, sessions and workshops run by the Surgical Society, amongst others. Moving us out of these spaces will not only work to disjoint our community further - we are losing more and more of the spaces which we have come to know and love as ICSM students, and which have been crucial to our Imperial experience - but it will also mean that we will lose the ability to make the most of these state-of-the-art facilities, as it cannot be guaranteed that the new spaces will be bookable and available for us in student-run initiatives.

Frankly, I don't believe that Faculty truly care about the student experience or even wish to see it through our eyes, as it is blatant to see how much these spaces mean to us if they could ever be bothered to ask.

I didn't know it was under discussion until the IG post I don't know when the alternatives in the Flowers Building will be completed I don't understand the reasoning behind it (we already made it through COVID and pioneered research with the facilities we have - why are we expanding and eating into ICSM buildings?)

As long as they replace/improve facilities and do so with appropriate student input, I have no problem.

As a first year I don't feel I know enough about the SAF building or the proposed new building to have an opinion due to current restrictions.

Very shocked that the student body was not consulted on a decision that affects us all.

No consultation. **Decision made about students without students.** Faculty have yet to make improvements on our facilities following the st Mary's sale that they promised. And now have gone on to take away more facilities beforehand

This is a fucking travesty

Why??? The MDLs are the home of our course so far, why change it? Are we not important enough to warrant use of the labs? I feel like the people who have made this decision have prioritised their research over the entire medical school. While I appreciate space is needed, USE OTHER SPACE!! Use the spaces you're going to rehouse us to!

Why disrupt our education in an already difficult and tiresome year? Yet another change, which feels like it shouldn't be happening.

This building was made for a purpose it has history and its part of our uni experience!

2013: Sale of Teddington with no student involvement in decision making.

2015: Closure of the Teddington Memorial Bar at Heston with no student involvement.

2018: Move of medical student sports from Heston to Harlington with no student involvement.

2019: Attempted closure of St Mary's Pool with no student involvement.

2019: Sale of St Mary's Hospital Medical School without student involvement.

2020: Loss of MDL labs with no student involvement and refusal to confirm SAF will remain the home of ICSM undergraduate education.

Imperial College does not care about its students.

Lack of student involvement and transparency from the College - very disappointed

Being honest, though FoM has done amazing things for its students, transparency and trust wise its always fallen short. If you want to build a new Institute, then actually build it. Don't let students education be compromised just because faculty wants to take the easy route out.

They let the SU know about it but didn't plan on letting them notify everyone until after the plan was solidified.

It is the hub of medicine on campus and provides a great community for us. Dispersing medical students throughout campus will lose this.

All been blindsided, decision negatively effects us students

The faculty should not have made this decision without consulting students first, as it has a significant impact on us students and we have the right to be involved. The faculty should explain to us in full details about how and why they made this decision, and how moving undergraduate education to another building would benefit us (if it does).

I have a lot of great memories of spending time in SAF and the MDL rooms in our earlier years, and my medical school experience wouldn't be the same without them. Whenever I think of the MDL rooms, I'm reminded of my early years, getting to know my peers, and doing a broad range of activities from experiments to examinations to informal tutorials. Having things to do in the MDL rooms also meant we spent more time in SAF, where we'd see other medics and feel like this was a welcoming space just for us, to discuss medical-school related things.

PISSED OFF

I don't think it is fair that this decision has been made without any student involvement and we are just expected to allow them to take away a key learning space for students on the South Kensington Campus

Will begin to impact on the sense of community in SAF as it is our "home" as medics and should stay that way for there to be any sense of legacy.

At this point I would not recommend ICL to prospective medical students as we have no idea what it will look like in the future

Represents continuation of poor communication and lack of transparency from the college with the student body

How many more decisions need to be made without any form of dialogue with the students? Why ruin any shreds of transparency and trust left instead of just having an open conversation or even involving the SU or reps, and just taking our money?

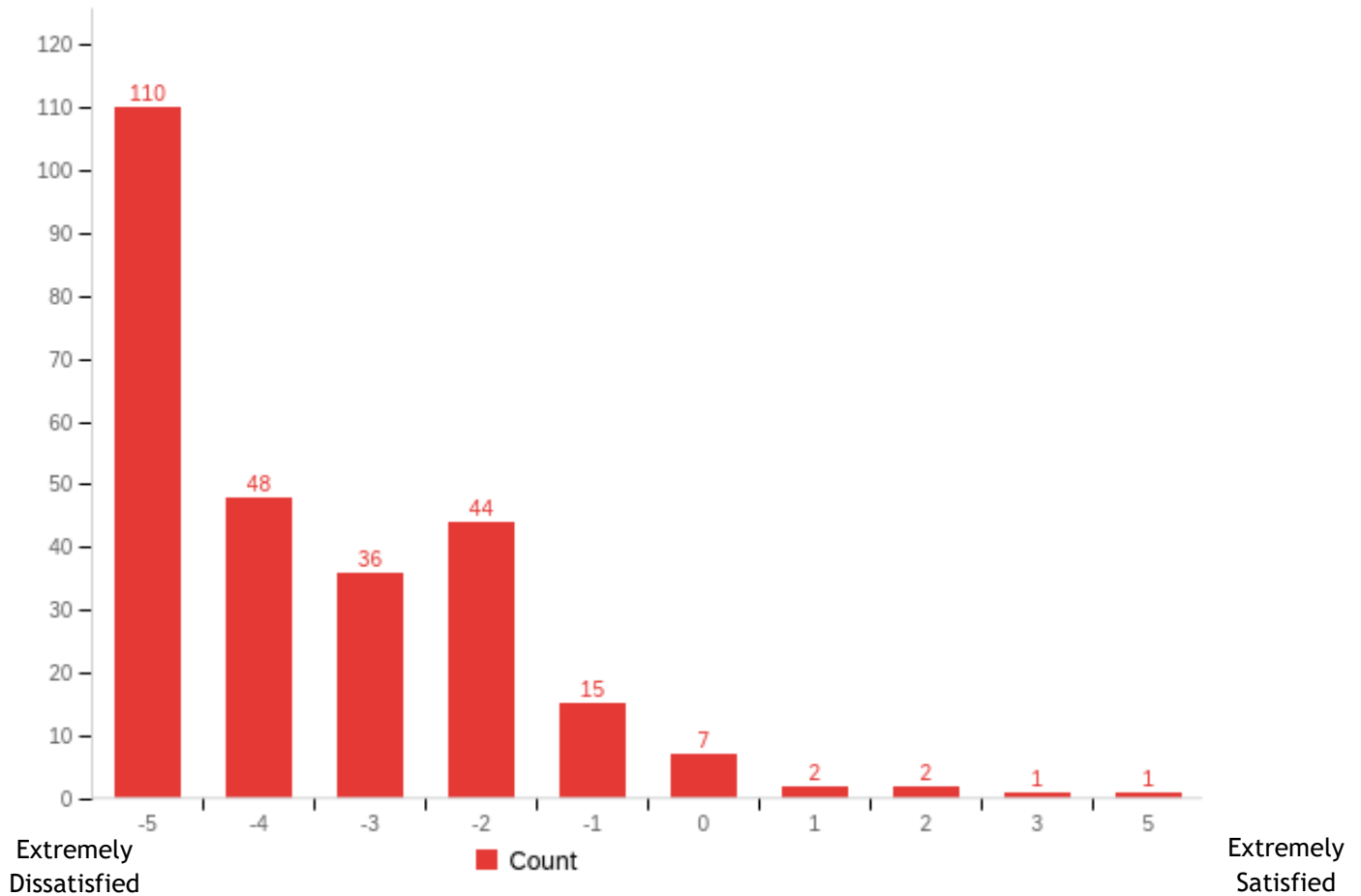
Why is this the first time we are hearing about it?

It is extremely disappointing to see that an area of the campus in which so many fond student memories have been made, truly in the heart of SAF will no longer be used for undergraduate teaching. There is a great deal of nostalgia that lies in SAF and the MDLs (in the same way there was for Mary's unfortunately) so it is incredibly sad for that all to go.

It's just sad to see them take away a space that has become ours without consulting us at all. I feel like we've been kicked to the curb for the sake of convenience and profit. All other departments have their own space, what about us?

Decision implications

Q7 - How do you think this decision will impact the facilities and resources available within SAF and the South Kensington Campus?



Mean Result: Extremely Negative

Q8 - Please use this box to expand on your previous answer:

It ruins the medicine community at SAF

SAF is our hub. It makes a difference to have a place which is where you meet everyone, also from a practical aspect. I am worried that we are slowly losing our space in SAF, which for many of us is the home of our medical school.

I LOVE SAF :(

Students do more than lab work in the MDL rooms. They often do group work or revise upstairs due the isolation it provides from foyer which is often very loud. They're also great teaching spaces for groups and as such many societies will hold different sessions in MDL spaces from mock interviews to group art making .

MDL labs are huge resource we are losing.

It feels like we are being moved out from South Kensington and St Mary's so that our only facility is the Reynolds building.

Already a lack of space

As a first year I barely got time to spend at SAF and now it is being taken away. I doubt that the transfer of students to another building will work as the medical school is large and we would just move to another department's building making us feel like we are an afterthought.

It feels like the university isn't prioritising it's students but rather business opportunities in terms of postgraduate research.

Students will face barriers in socialising and networking with non medics. This will be detrimental to their worldview and welfare. They would need to be intrinsically resilient to see a world beyond their world of medics but I can assure you there is virtually no incentive in doing so.

If we are moved into other areas of campus that are not purpose built for us it'll erode the sense of community we have fostered in SAF. It also makes it very difficult for students with disabilities who will have to travel greater distances between sessions.

Beyond early years' practicals, I have personally used the MDLs at least one weekend per month to host surgical society events. These events have been part of international conferences for over 250 students, coming from all around the globe (US, Europe, some even from Australia), with our practicals in the MDLs being a major highlight. These practical events separate ourselves from all other medical schools - our surgical society remains one of the most active (out of 30+) in the UK, and perhaps the only society that offer workshops on the scale that we do. I've been to London medical schools where workshops are hosted in common rooms, where bones are drilled into next to sofas and microwaves. The Vision society has hosted interview events in the MDLS for years, winning awards and helping thousands of underprivileged students to enter medical school.

I believe that our loss of MDLs will severely impact the quality of teaching and extracurricular activities we are able to host and undertake.

MDL rooms were perfect for practicals and small group teaching, CX facilities just dont match it.

Med students are only really in SAF in first and second years and a big proportion of that time is because you have labs in the MDL rooms, without them there I fear SAF will eventually be overtaken as a research centre or used for other subjects and medics will be shipped to CX more and isolate us from the rest of the Imperial community more

Unsure on next steps

Medics need somewhere to gather during breaks, this is completely pushing us out of the SAF building and the entire South Kensington campus too.

Medics already have few classes there and now it's likely to be nothing

There will be significantly fewer spaces, especially with the expanding number of medical students.

6million pounds investment

The SAF is the one place in South Ken that us med students can call our home, or safe space. Having this change so dramatically is going to make us feel very isolated at the disappointing CX campus

We have lost the St Mary's campus We are going to be moved out from SAF, it's nice to have bases and it helps interaction with other courses in first year

SAF is the only place on imperial campus where I felt home as a medical student. It functioned not only as a study space, but a social hub where I could meet other medical students and interact with many people with similar interest as me; especially in early years becoming part of clubs and societies advertising in the medical students central environment was so important to me and it feels that being taken away leaves us with nothing - the facilities at reynolds are not sufficient for the same purposes

There will be fewer resources to go round, especially computing labs open to undergraduate late at night. This will unfairly disadvantage poorer students,

The South Kensington campus should be a hub for all Imperial students, including those belonging to ICSM. Moving us out of SAF (with regards to labs, tutorials and anything else affected) only isolates the medical school from the rest of the student body further.

Not too fussed about the practicalities of moving next door. the Med School's continuity is of far more concern

I expected to be in SAF for a long time. This is unfair and we deserve a great place like South Kensington

Was nice to be able to have facilities within SAF

Having the medical school dispersed across campus/multiple campuses will be even more isolating given COVID restrictions

Loss of the spaces we would use to do team based sessions, not to mention society tutorials and smaller group sessions

South Ken is starting to feel like a ghost town with no familiar faces

We all know that it is very hard to expand the space available in SK. This is understood by students. What isn't appreciated is that the medical school is slowly being pushed out of SK in place of post grad research. This is what upsets students.

Medical students will have very little exposure to the South Kensington campus and so will be unlikely to use it. However, the facilities in south Kensington are far superior to the ones in Reynolds Building. Also 1st year accommodation is mainly based near South Kensington and so students will end up travelling considerably for pre-clinical lectures

Scattering medics around even more so cannot be beneficial for a cohesive and well structured course.

I have anxiety over what the faculty will do to mitigate this decision and if they had done this before finalising this decision, I would have anxiety. Also how many extra people are now coming into the building which is already overcrowded?

more space for infection research, which is extremely important given the current situation

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SAF is a place for medics which is well known to have good facilities and communal space, this building which is being refurbished is unknown to us and has not had our input

It will be impractical for students to be travelling between buildings. It also ruins the idea of a medicine campus in South Ken

Especially in a post Covid world it will create little sense to come in except when necessary! It will destroy the feel and make the resources irrelevant.

It's going to massively reduce the facilities and activities we can do at SAF, which is really disappointing - as when we are prospective students, we visit SAF on open days, we have our interviews here and we spend most of our time as freshers here - it's a key part of our identity as ICSM.

Less cohesive teaching

SAF is regarded as the central point for ICSM students in the South Kensington campus. Splitting these facilities across various buildings will lead to medical students feeling more distanced from than the South Kensington campus, which is a feeling that is already present

Being in one place and MDL makes an easy hub for PCs and study areas without having to compete with busy students from IC or RSM who don't want us there

What are you going to take away next. I pay £9k a year so we should be making decisions not the faculty.

The use of these rooms goes well beyond a mere laboratory - they provide an irreplaceable venue for hosting a wide range of talks, conferences and workshops.

Medics need a space on main campus we cannot be a travelling group of students without a real home

Please see above.

Spread out students

Medics hardly have a base at SK, it feels as though IC is trying to push us out of the campus and into CX

See above

Taking away both space used for teaching in a convenient location in our building and spaces used by many of ICSM societies. Surely the new institute can go in the new building rather than the medical school building.

The only classes we've had so far in SAF have been MDLs. Now they want to take away our only connection to SK campus

The MDLs are the perfect site for medical students being in the SAF building. The rooms are lovely and so much better than any chemistry or other science buildings. By doing this, I feel like the staff are disrupting us for no reason!!

Saf is such an important part of us medics feeling part of the student community at South Ken. Imperial's base in South Ken has so many student features that we as medics want to enjoy alongside staying in touch with non-medical students and getting to do activities and other stuff with them.

MDLs are essential for tutorials, large group teaching and practical elements within medicine. Furthermore, it is a key space that is used in external initiatives such as Outreach projects for Medicine applicants.

Loss of this space will disperse the presence of Medicine and Biomedical Science students across campus.

Unnecessary trekking across campus, also bearing in mind that labs and tutor groups and lectures are usually close together it's just unnecessarily disruptive. Esp in this current pandemic unsure why this is being done, squishing in a large number of student access in chem building.

No opinion

Use of MDL labs was very beneficial to learning

The MDL rooms were a space we knew would be just for us, and were well-equipped for specific needs as medical students. Having to move to different buildings and share resources across departments will definitely have a negative effect on learning and how comfortable students feel in that environment.

MDL labs are literally first and second year memories

The library is often overfilled during non-COVID times especially, and the MDL rooms are perfect for group work or even some independent study. They are also useful for holding meetings and for tutorials, and so I think not having these spaces will make it harder for students to work on campus.

Once again, the Faculty of Medicine seems to be the only faculty ignoring their students or caring about their experience or identity as a study body.

Instead just move us into other students' buildings to spend the extra money on research

The MDLs are a great place for teaching and learning. That will be lost if they are relocated elsewhere.

It's harder to organise things if all the resources are scattered, rather than keeping it in a central place

Medics will feel they have no space at SK campus

I think this may be beneficial with a new dedicated space for us in sk. This isn't necessarily a negative change

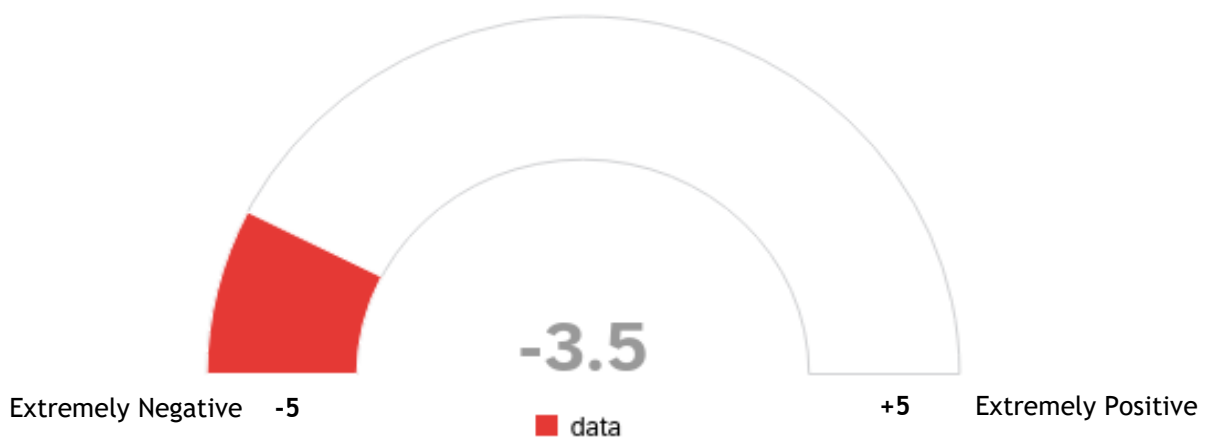
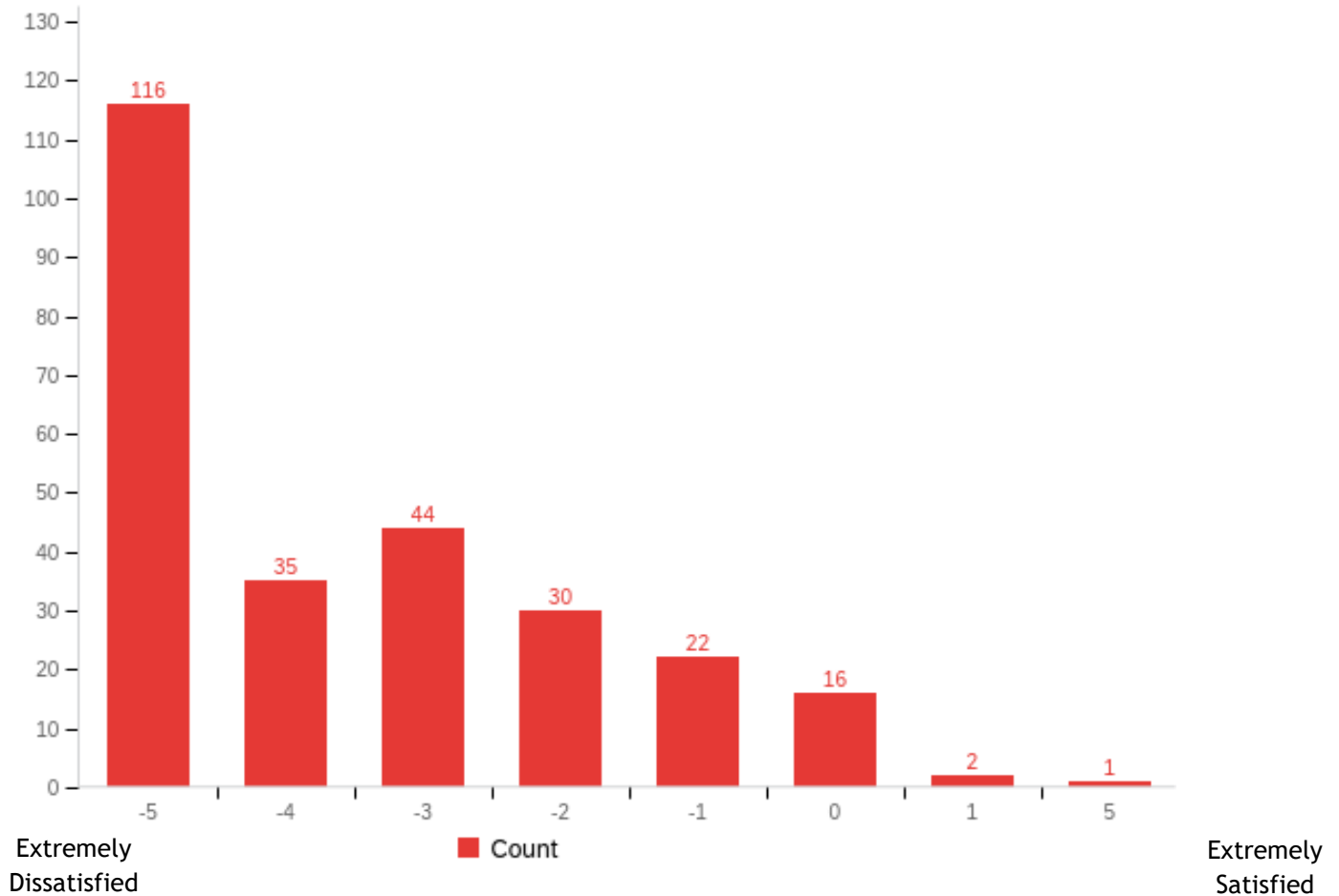
The MDLs are a large part of any medical students' experience in SAF. Facilities that are available for us to use will just decrease going forward. In a few years SAF won't even belong to students anymore - just researchers.

i think that SAF will now become much less accessible to undergraduate students and will also overtime have less and less resources available to us and our use of the building will decline until it is solely used for research purposes.

It reduces SAF to merely a huge lecture theatre and strips us of the many resources, such as the MDLs.

Future Implications

Q9 - How do you think this decision will/might affect the future of ICSM and our identity?



Mean Result: Extremely Negative

Q10 - Please use this box to expand on your previous answer:

We don't have a central area, our learning is spread over half of London and half of the south ken campus.

SAF is the medical school hub. Where will our home be now? The whole point of Imperial, and also one of the reasons SAF was built, was to give medical students a centralised home. And you are decentralising it.

The MDLs are a huge part of learning in ICSM

Imperial's identity is already shattering. One of its founding institutions medical school buildings is being sold off. Our current base the Reynolds building is in disrepair. In this darkness the one prevailing light, our rivendell (a reference for LoTR fans) , is SAF. It provides students with a large enough building to perform any activities and is easily accessible. As such, students with are able to perform a variety of takes for example one can easily interact with others in SAF. Some socialise in the foyer, others work in the MDL rooms. Some do group activities in the G rooms while others organise society activities in the union room. Take away one fundamental location and slowly students will be less inclined to go to SAF as they won't be able to do multiple activities in one location. They will only go to SAF to socialise in the foyer infrequently as the work spaces will be inadequate. As a result less students will use SAF and a vicious cycle will begin of less people using SAF due to lack of amenities leading to amenities for students being removed on SAF.

Basicallly we are being phased out of south kensington into a distant part of London.

I feel that this descision is extremely unjust and unfair. Despite only being a first year with all of the limited on campus teaching, I have always felt that the SAF building was almost our home within the medical school. From coming for interviews, open day all the way to the teaching we are having whenever I am in SAF I feel a sense of belonging.

The sudden decision to make this move, not to mention the lack of transparency and discussion with the student union is extremely poor and I feel this will most definitely affect students mental health negatively. I urge the medical school and Imperial College London to reconsider their decision as I am desperate as I am sure many other students are to continue our presence in the SAF Building.

Faculty are establishing themselves as a dictatorship which is not too concerned with what their student body think.

Please stop selling of our heritage.

Depends if there is another building where the medical school predominantly works out of

Imperial is in South Kensington. Now if you want to take teaching to Hammersmith hospital at least tell students and prospective students so they know WHERE they are actually going to study

Medics will be an ever more exclusive bunch of people with little understanding of how their everyday lives can impact others

SAF is where we are shown on interview days and is the South Kensington hub for medical students. To be removing our labs, for us to work somewhere else, spreads out the students and therefore the community spirit of ICSM.

SAF is really one of our homes and it will be sad to see it go, even partially.

Won't bother engaging with ICSM in the future.

As previous, we will end up in CX more, therefore singling us out from the rest of the Uni even further, also students applying may be deterred knowing they're not going to be in SK as much

Lack of student involvement

As a first year I enjoyed going to SAF and being with everyone in the same building.

I feel like there the senior position does not care about the student voice.

Institute of infection and 6 million investment are positive as are use of white city

We will not have a place in SK...

SAF is located in central London and is a great location for conferences

I would feel less part of any collective ICSM which I feel is very much against helping student satisfaction

It's hard enough being a Med student in London going from west Middlesex to Northwick Park to white city - ICSM needs a home and that is the SAF!

What identity? Other medical schools have a home, cultural homelands and traditions. We have seen ours sold off as assets to mitigate the overspend on the new white city campus.

Theres already a lack of nucleus for students, as we are already split between Reynolds and SAF

ICSM is already quite separate from the rest of ICL, something that not all medics are happy with. This only widens the gap.

I do not believe the faculty are making decisions in our best interest.

As year groups are already drifting apart, dismantling our main early year hub is a surefire way to accelerate this process and illicit further divides

Not being able to have so much in saf

Following on from the sale of the ICSM building within the St. Mary's campus, this is another example of the senior faculty making significant irreversible decisions that have a huge effect on the fabric of the medical school without adequate consultation.

There are certain parts of life at ICSM that form Part of our shared experience and identity, and our shared presence within the Sir Alexander Fleming building is very much included in this.

Already had St Mary's taken, now it looks like South Ken is going too.

Reduce students' sense of community

I don't feel like there is a "centre"

Imperial College School of Medicine students want at least some connection with South Kensington, or else they are being pushed out to facilities that haven't been expanded or refurbished since the medical schools merged. What was the point in the merger if students are just going to be separated at deferent campuses using the old facilities?

We won't feel like a part of Imperial college and less likely to collaborate with the rest of the college

Medics are already somewhat separated from the rest of the imperial college community due to the fact most learning post 1st year takes place in Reynolds. Moving teaching out of SAF means that there will be no place in the South Kensington campus only for ICSM, further increasing the separation from Imperial College

SAF is our building. It is where our union is based and it is one of the centres of the medical school, especially for younger pre-clinical years.

One of the main draw of imperial is the amount of community we have compared to other medical schools. It is what many of us tell prospective students is one of the things that makes imperial unique. By eroding this you begin to take away the best parts of ICSM

SAF IS OUR HOME!!! And our key alumnus. I have made too many memories in there. We have no heritage in "RCS" and its a chemistry building not a medics building so makes no sense for us to move.

SAF was always the building for ICSM and trying to take that away from us and dispersing us across campus is like taking away our identity

.

SAF first of all has the name, a well recognised medic, and also is in the heart of south kensington campus why are medics being forced out in comparison to other subjects

Saf was central to the community feel that Imperial tries to foster. By spreading students across the campus, it be even harder to create a sense of community and belonging. This is especially hard due to the size of the medical course now

Community is at the heart of medicine especially when it's a 6 year course

Our identity is based on our roots in SAF and South Kensington as a whole - to see the spaces we use so frequently being snatched from us is very selfish.

Further isolates medics from the rest of the university. It's already difficult to integrate with the rest of the college with rivalry and us not being there for all of our time at uni, but at least we had that chance in our first two years of uni being at SAF. Now with us not being on SK campus during early years especially it would make it more difficult to attend college society events and restricts us to ICSM societies only and further isolates med students from the rest of college

No impact. Hammersmith and White City are just as much ICSM's identity as SAF is.

It's really important for students to feel as if we have a space on our South Kensington campus especially because we're already quite isolated from other courses. Having SAF as our own building helps us feel as if we are a distinct and valued part of the college.

No strong base, lack of connection to college

It will split the year and divide us and cause a loss of cohesion. Bumping into people and other years in saf is key in early years to integrate into the led school.

These decisions being taken without student input are part of a very slippery slope towards removal of our autonomy as ICSM - the clear endpoint.

I feel like the Faculty is continually chipping away at spaces and facilities which constitute a key part of the ICSM identity and sense of community, and which have been part of our student experience for so long.

I worry that with every year, incoming students will no longer be able to witness and feel the history of our medical school in these spaces and will lose the sense of connection and sentiment we all develop during our time here.

As a first year, it was a source of pride that we had and studied in a building that was dedicated solely to us and was named after someone who completely revolutionised the face of modern medicine. Now they're tryna take that away from us.

How do we know that faculty are not suddenly going to take over the rest of SAF or even charring cross reynolds building for research and then continue to disperse us across random rooms on campus. This compeltely disrupts any community feel within ICSM

We have our own school, our own Union, we should have our own building, not need to share one with flippin' Chemistry. We need representation and an independent presence in SK. SAF is ICSM's flagship building at the heart of Imperial.

It's spreading the med school across campus; no sense or community. Unfamiliar rooms, having to run between different buildings for classes, and saf is perfect. It was made for medical students for a reason.

Remains to be seen.

We have to be scatted for placements, now losing stability by being scattered during teaching as well

SAF is heavily related to medicine in my mind, and it's almost a thing of pride when other students walk past and see a building dedicated to medicine.

A lot of SAF has deeper meaning than just rooms and resources, and spreading medical teaching around campus will impact on the solid identity SAF has, and the presence of the medical school on South Ken campus.

first years should feel like their home is SAF

SAF is predominantly used by medics and so I think it will detract from our identity on campus and further segregate the medics from the rest of the Imperial students

The university is chipping away at our identity bit by bit demonstrating how little they are invested in their undergrad student community

Personally, I don't feel SAF is particularly integral to the identity of ICSM. As long as equal facilities are provided in the renovated venues as claimed, I don't have a huge issue with the move. I do, however, feel that the continued exclusion of the union from fairly significant decisions reflects poorly on the management of the college and its relationship with the student body.

If moving large amounts of teaching out from the main building and splitting it up, why not just shut reynolds too and have every student learn from home from now on, why bother with thinking about a student experience or feeling like Imperial is anything apart from the collection of random lecture rooms that it has become?

They have been slowly but surely stripping us of our facilities, starting with our sports fields, then Marys library and now this.

They do not care about the medics because we don't bring in any money for them as we go on to work for the NHS.

Given many freshers end up living on SK campus, this will surely alienate them from their peers - I would expect more medic accommodation closer to the campuses they are expected to use

It is nice to have all teaching in one medicine building and this the loss of this may damage the sense of community within the course

SAF is ICSM. Everyone in SAF is a medic, they can help you, they know what you're going through. This sense of community can't be diluted

We need to feel like we are a part of the university too, not just ICSM. Having teaching on the South Ken campus allows us to feel like this.

fewer people in the same place means fewer chances to congregate as a group and less chance for different years meeting up

A huge meeting grounds for medicine students is the SAF building and MDLs

Q11 - Do you have any ongoing questions or concerns that you feel have not been adequately addressed by the faculty's communications?

Will they move us out of SAF?

Yes. Why is the faculty so scared to announce anything in their termly emails? Is it because they know what the response will be? It's disgraceful that the first I hear on such an issue is from the union and they're fight to oppose such unilateral actions from being taken.

Why are students consulted?

Why would an university revolves around transparency and integrating the student voice into its decision, be so nonchalant about such a pivotal decision?

Surely with the bullying issue the university is facing, they would be even more inclined to build trust and faith in its community?

Where is the money from all of this actually going to go? Is the plan to make Reynolds the only place we have lectures/ tutorials/ workshops?

Given the importance of student space raised by students after the sale of st Mary, I'm baffled as to why Imperial would choose NOT to consult students before removing the MDLs in future.

Does it not understand that it's actions have an impact on the UK's doctors of tomorrow? Does Imperial really want a bunch of technocrats that just do things based on money?

If the day really comes in which senior executives have decision making processes that are primarily monetary in nature, it'll give the younger generation the impression that their worth is in whatever generates revenue - effectively driving them to pursue what people want instead of what they need. I understand finance is important but so is tradition - what is a country without its people? There are many things that money can't buy. I understand establishing the Infection Institute is important for maintaining Imperial's research output. Surely there must be a way to allow students to do practical work in the main campus without forcing them to relocate for it (as implied with the full removal of the MDLs). When there is a will there is a way. I'm not from the UK but I've always admired the dynamism of the British people - they've frequently appeared on the news in my country every year/every month (at times) without fail for doing important things that few others would. The participation of medics in non-medic circles with tangible achievements afterwards accentuate that; their participation in non medic activities surely aids their drive and creativity in such a critical developmental period. Relocating ppl for practicals is going to hugely disrupt this in addition to their plans outside of Medicine.

They really need to consider student with physical disabilities. Not all of us can easily walk all over campus and older buildings are considerably less accessible.

- what other suitable facilities will be made available for students, both for learning and also clubs and soc activities - why have they not consulted students before the decision was made

No

Why are there so little communication? All we hear from them is negative news, especially during the pandemic.

There is no sense of community or value instilled in us by the faculty

How long the decision took? Were we considered as students and people or financial assets?

if this whole consultation process is now futile as I have filled in several over my past years as a medical student here.

In the past, huge decisions have been made in secret, without student consultation or awareness (e.g. the St Marys sale, the Harlington grounds). Whenever this happens, faculty claim to care about our

concerns and throw a retrospective, half-hearted focus group or public forum to counteract the backlash to their decision.

This is an ongoing pattern which makes me embarrassed to be an Imperial student.

We have a limited sense of identity as a university because we keep losing key, everyday resources and facilities without warning.

Many of us are exhausted with this university. We are treated like customers who are using a business, not students who are a part of a community.

Where will we be instead?

-

Why has the university not taken on the feedback from the selling of St Marys, that students want to be at least consulted prior to decisions that effect them?

What's next? Are they planning on getting rid of Hammersmith hospital campus?

Or the rest of SAF either now or in any number of years down the line? What is their true plan with this "vision".

Perhaps they can be honest with us for once.

.

How does this affect both pre-clinical years and clinical years teaching structure and timetabling because it will mean there will be much variation in where students are being taught

How will we benefit from this new institute? Why is this good for us?

If it's happened twice then surely it will happen again. Is there no way of stopping this in the future?

In the light of the pandemic students in first year are already less able to socialise with students on their course, having SAF as a distinct space for medical students is important because it's one of the only places they have to meet each other and if lectures remain online in future years this will remain especially true.

SAF has been the central campus for many students for many years so its unfair that this decision was made without taking into account students opinions - especially since this decision will greatly affect us

Why do they want to do this? Why have we never heard of it?

I want to know exactly how the Faculty plans to replace these facilities in a student-friendly manner, and how they will ensure that they consult us and consider ICSM as a community in further development decisions.

We are not pieces of equipment to be split apart and rearranged in new facilities wherever they seem fit or economical; we need a space which will be ours to keep, not to be sold or traded at every opportunity.

It would be nice to be told about discussions behind made about our facilities before decisions are finalised

What's going to be taken away from us next. What is the money put into charring cross going to provide for us. When are you going to replace the facilities taken from us by the sale of Mary's

The fact that they send us an email out of the blue saying they're completely overhauling things and pretend it's a brilliant thing for us and they're geniuses for thinking of it

Is there anything we can do to stop this?

Thought process of College in choosing MDLs in SAF in particular

I actually had no idea that the MDL rooms were being taken and medical student studies would be dispersed to other buildings - the first I heard was from the student union email.

It is sad news, mostly due to the memories made there, and also because it further makes me feel like the faculty don't really care about our thoughts on important matters and think they know what's best for us without asking.

why they didn't involve students at all - first with Marys and now saf

Why was it so late

What other spaces can we use I just want to be able to speak to my friends and teaching group

I think it would be nice to at least tell us about this before it's been decided

They could be more transparent, and consult their students before decisions are made.

Again there was no warning of intention from the faculty which once again shows they have no interest in student satisfaction. There is no point on the faculty putting emphasis on welfare and educational support when they pull something like this.

Q12 - Please feel free to add any other concerns, comments and thoughts on this decision.

Still angry about St Marys

I don't recommend this university to any of my family and friends any more.

It's treatment of students similar to cattle is actually scarily impressive. My degree, junior staff and students are the only reason I continue here.

I joined Imperial because I believed they wanted the students to be part of every decision - truly bridging the gap between staff and students.

This decision just highlights that this university still falls under the same idea that the faculty seem to think they know what's best for the students - without even asking the students (the people that the decision affects the most.)

Really disappointed with the faculty. Feels like they are letting the students down consistently with their recent decisions.

Although many people are concerned by the lack of communication from faculty, I do understand their decision making. There are few decisions that we will agree on as we have all enjoyed our time at uni and part of that is MDL and Mary's. However, I do feel that one of the weaknesses of Imperial medicine Vs other courses is the sense of identity and a hub. If we are scattered across campus and lose our libraries there is little that makes doing medicine any different and there will be no need for a varsity or anything that gives studying medicine any identity.

It pains me more every time something like this happens, with such little consultation of students' opinions, who will be most affected by these decisions by far. This stands true for the sale of St Mary's too.

As students, we are completely blind sided by this and frankly it feels like we have been cheated. My concern is that the lack of transparency and disregard for students' opinions are issues that are becoming more prevalent throughout Imperial.

This includes the recent allegations about Alice Gast which have been more or less swept under the carpet by Imperial.

The bottom line is that students' voices are simply NOT BEING HEARD!

Medics need to see a world beyond their world in order to heal patients in body and soul - this healing comes not just in technical skills but also in genuine human interaction. Therefore, medics need to have a common space with other non-medical students in order to grow in as robust a way as possible. Removing the MDLs necessitates the increased relocation of students away from the main campus during contact time. The resultant decrease of personal development that Imperial non-medics usually have will have profound and permanent implications on patients - many of whom already view Imperial graduates as technically minded people who have little empathy. I personally have had the great privilege of meeting many non-medics through meetings at the main campus. I have certainly grown in many profound ways that medical knowledge can never nurture in me, such as developing people skills to better give a voice to various stakeholders. I believe the monetary benefits to having such people skills is becoming better at reaching out to funders from all walks of life. They want to see that we medics are smart, empathetic, morally upright and relatable people. The real benefit - I believe - is in having the privilege of growing to be the very best person I can ever be, knowing I'll meet people who are hoping for something beyond their suffering.

As long as we have an ICSM building purpose build for medical students/BMB then I could probably accept the decision. Every other course has buildings/rooms on campus which adds to the campus feel of South Kensington. SAF was that home for medics and I don't like the idea of isolating us

Medics are already split between 2 campuses one of which is a very unattractive one.

As a first year I enjoyed going to SAF and feeling like medics had a pleasant space to stay and learn without feeling like we don't belong on that campus

I think ICSMSU are being too dramatic, this is good for students as we are getting investment in SAF and use of white city

Why do Imperial ignore how students feel about these issues?

I was first disappointed about their attitude towards St Mary's and now there's this.

Message to Imperial - If you're getting lots of criticism maybe think why that is instead of ignoring it and doing stuff anyway. And for this, seems like they've decided to bypass us altogether to avoid another St Mary's situation. Cheeky and unprofessional behaviour.

Very speedy and efficient response from the SU. Ben Russell could never.

-

Following on from the sale of the ICSM building within the St. Mary's campus, this is another example of the senior faculty making significant irreversible decisions that have a huge effect on the fabric of the medical school without adequate consultation.

There are certain parts of life at ICSM that form Part of our shared experience and identity, and our shared presence within the Sir Alexander Fleming building is very much included in this.

ICSM is already quite dispersed over 2 campuses (Cx and SAF), so this disperses it even more and means less medical students in the same area and the loss of a medical 'hub'.

I think as well as affecting the facilities we have access to negatively, it will also negatively affect the social side of ICSM.

SAF is already not a big building for undergraduate medics, and the loss of MDLs will literally mean we only have access to one lecture room - bizarre considering it is meant to be the home and building for ICSM.

I think they should find a way of connecting both communities in saf and in rcs somehow

.

It is a modern space part of the central imperial campus making us feel part of it, to remove this would be completely isolating many students and also ICSM from imperial.

I don't feel like the difficulty in obtaining internships in Imperial labs will still be very high, so this decision seems to be completely to our disadvantage.

email from faculty was very unclear about what is actually going to happen

Fuck this shit

2013: Sale of Teddington with no student involvement in decision making.

2015: Closure of the Teddington Memorial Bar at Heston with no student involvement.

2018: Move of medical student sports from Heston to Harlington with no student involvement.

2019: Attempted closure of St Mary's Pool with no student involvement.

2019: Sale of St Mary's Hospital Medical School without student involvement.

2020: Loss of MDL labs with no student involvement and refusal to confirm SAF will remain the home of ICSM undergraduate education.

Imperial College does not care about its students.

My friends and I were upset by the selling of St Mary's facilities, and this just feels like the same situation.

angery

SAF is part of the ICSM medical student identity, students need a space they can feel is their own. Spreading students further creates a more fragmented community
