

Students' Union Annual Report 06/07

Consistent with the format of the previous academic year, this paper reports on the progress of all the Students' Union (SU) core services funded directly by the University block grant, as well as reporting on other notable areas.

Core Services:

- 1.0 Welfare and advice
- 1.1 Campaigns
- 1.2 Representation
- 2.0 Volunteering Shop
- 2.1 Sharp Training
- 3.0 Jobshop
- 4.0 'Space' newspaper
- 5.0 Tone Radio
- 6.0 Entertainment
- 7.0 Sports
- 8.0 Societies
- 8.1 Raise and Give (RAG)

Other:

- 9.0 Elections
- 10.0 Executive council
- 11.0 Website
- 12.0 Plasma Screens
- 13.0 Financial management
- 14.0 Local relations
- 15.0 Appointments
- 16.0 Executive team 07/08
- 17.0 Best Value Review
- 18.0 Concluding comments

Daisy Noble
University of Gloucestershire Students' Union President
June 2007

1.0 Welfare and advice

Welfare has continued to work closely with all departments of student services to ensure individual cases are dealt with effectively and that recurring issues are picked up and pulled into the campaign schedule. The Education and Welfare Officer has worked hard to support all students that have come to the SU and will move back to the office at FCH next year to be closer to services dealing with students in crisis.

We are also working with Student Services to make University harassment procedures more accessible to students and to potentially develop an anti-bullying campaign in the next academic year.

1.1 Campaigns

There was an anti bullying campaign put together this year. This campaign was carried out with the assistance of a student particularly affected by bullying at the institution. It started out as an information campaign and quickly evolved into a lobbying campaign. Throughout the year the local MP was lobbied on the issue and the Union took part in the NUS 'Bullying Sucks' campaign.

The priority campaign for the Academic year 2006/07 was the 'No Means No' campaign. The SU collaborated with Students Services to create a campaign that aimed to highlight the new laws surrounding sexual consent. The collaborative approach of the campaign allowed a holistic and rounded campaign to be put together.

'No Means No' has been regarded as a success in terms of student engagement and impact on a national level. Students were encouraged to participate in the campaign by purchasing wristbands. The wristbands had a suggested donation of a £1, this was important as it meant that students were 'investing' in the campaign and actually taking an active role. All funds raised went back into funding further stages of the campaign.

The National Union of Students (NUS) regarded the campaign as one of the best and timely student campaigns in the country and the campaign influenced national policy.

The campaign and collaboration with the University has been a massive success and is a collaboration that will continue into the next academic year.

1.2 Representation

As well as representing students on a number of Committees and boards within the University structure, the sabbatical officers have represented a number of students on academic issues throughout the year. The sabbatical officers were part of academic appeals and breach of regulation hearings as well as acting as a representative on grievances with course content.

For the 1st time in its history the SU represented a student from the William Booth College in London. This was quite significant for the college as it has hopefully raised awareness of support which UGSU can provide their students.

The SU has taken an active role in thematic reviews on the topics of Worked Based Learning (WBL) and Attendance. Effective representation on thematic reviews is a core element of the representation remit and one valued by the students involved. One review that the Union is particularly pleased has been identified, is the review on Assessment & Feedback.

Student representation has not been as effective as it might have been. The SU feels there may be a need for a review of this system to identify new ways to communicate with students across all of our faculties (Including The Urban Learning Foundation) and how the University using new technology and innovative systems receives feedback.

Within the SU restructure there will be a dedicated student representation coordinator. It is hoped that this will improve representation across the institution and improve dialogue between students and the University.

2.0 The Volunteering Shop

The Volunteering Shop (VS) has enjoyed another successful year and is continuing to offer a diverse selection of volunteering opportunities that reflect the requirements of the student population and their career development.

In 2007-8, VS coordinated 6 projects, working with children, young people, adults with learning difficulties, and older people. These projects directly provided approximately 98 volunteering opportunities and helped 1749 clients throughout Gloucestershire. The VS has also helped place a further 20 students in local community groups, primary schools and charity organisations.

Within the SU, there has been a further 200 sports committee members, 82 student volunteers working with Tone Radio, 30 contributing to Space, 30 with RAG (Raise and Give) and 7 Executives.

The following is a brief outline of the projects directly coordinated by the VS:

- Splash – a swimming club for 6-11 year olds. Based at Leisure@ in St Paul's, it is a service predominantly used by St Paul's residence and clients of CCP (Cheltenham Community Projects)¹.
- Next Step – a social club for 11-13 year olds. It is primarily based at St Paul's Community House and is run in partnership with CCP. Each week the clients participate in different social or educational activities.
- Early Worm – a literacy and communication club for 8-11 year olds. The partakers from St Paul's come to the Community House to participate in educational and fun activities that increases their confidence in their reading and writing skills.
- Diamond Club – a social club for adults with learning difficulties. Each week they participate in activities such as visiting in the refectory and playing pool, arts and crafts, tenpin bowling etc. This is run in association with the Young Persons Service².

¹ CCP provide a range of crisis and preventative services through interlocking community based schemes. CCP believes young people and their families benefit from suitable accommodation to meet their needs, practical and emotional support at times of crisis, advocacy work regarding their rights and improved access to employment, training, education and leisure activities.

² Young Persons Service was created in response to an identified need - many young people with disabilities making the transition from child to adult services do not want to access a 'conventional' day service. The YPS offers an individual package of care to suit the needs and abilities of the individual. It enables young people to mix and socialise with their peer group, and access age appropriate activities and sessions.

- Tea Dance – twice annually, we organise a tea dance for local older people. Previously it has been held at Park campus but this year one event has again been held at GL1 in partnership with Living and Learning³ to try to attract more people from Gloucester. The May dance was a particular success, with all 250 guests thoroughly enjoying themselves at GL1.
- Superstars – the scheme, formally known as Big Step, has existed for over a decade and is a valued service, supporting Student Services, Accommodation and campus faculties. Student volunteers welcome 1st year students into University life throughout the induction period, supporting them through this difficult transitional period and acting as a friendly, welcoming representative of the University. They begin by welcoming them into the halls of residence on move in day and then assist the faculties with campus inductions. Since the change to campus approach, superstars now only operate on the Cheltenham based campuses and off-site halls of residence. The average Superstar worked 44 hours throughout the induction period.

In September, an After School Project Worker was recruited following a successful joint funding bid with CCP. The worker is responsible for coordinating activities for under 11's for VS and CCP and in particular Early Worm and Splash.

The Volunteering Shop is looking forward to 2007/8 when they will further develop student volunteering across the University.

2.1 Sharp Training

Sharp has enjoyed a successful year organising the following courses:

- 2 Emergency Response First Aid courses,
- Child Protection training,
- Working with young people with behaviour problems,
- Working with adults with learning difficulties,
- Student Representation training
- Super Star training.

It has also presented training articles in Space newspaper around the topics of time management and budgets – living on a student loan.

³ Living and Learning Centre is designed to increase access to information and opportunities that will help to improve the quality of life of the people of Gloucester and the surrounding areas.

3.0 Jobshop

The JobShop has again had a busy and successful year. The provision of the service becomes ever more vital with student debt continuing to increase and the importance placed on the skills accumulation that part time work provides when looking at graduate prospects.

The JobShop has worked hard to raise its profile within its 3 client groups: the students, the University and the business community.

The service has continued to be pro-active in the local business community, promoting student staff and increasing the efficiency of using the service. The JobShop has worked hard to engage students with the service and increase the diversity of jobs on offer. This year the service has tried to concentrate on communicating to students the importance of the skills learnt through part time work. The JobShop also continues to raise its profile with internal departments, letting them know that they can use the service. Some of the year's highlights are listed below:

- Employer leaflet produced and included in the Chamber of Commerce mail out plus an advert on their website
- Re-negotiated yearly contracts successfully
- The organisation of 2 successful Jobs Fayres.
 1. The Jobs & Volunteering Fayre. This Fayre was very successful. attended by 18 local & national companies looking to employ students in part time roles and 15 volunteer and internal organisations. Feedback from the employers was positive and helpful.
 2. The Gold Cup Jobs Fayre improved again this year with many companies taking advantage of a complete advertising package using all the SU media. Feedback from the employers was very positive and the fayre was exceptionally busy with students.
- The JobShop section of the website is constantly kept fresh and relevant and went through a re-design this year. The brand for the students was re-designed using a less formal look and slogan. A social network was launched this year and the JobShop has taken part, entering upcoming events and blogs.
- The SU newspaper, SPACE, continues to have a JobShop page in every issue. This page advertises current vacancies and lets students know about upcoming employment events. The JobShop has also produced 2 articles for SPACE about the importance of the skills gained through part time work.

- The JobShop has launched a 'Job of the Week' chosen by the coordinator.
- The SU survey revealed that the JobShop is the third most accessed service provided by the SU and that without part time work 32% of students who responded would have to leave University. This figure realised what had anecdotely been thought in the past and has firmly cemented the importance of the JobShop within the SU services.
- The JobShop has had its busiest year to date with over 150 external & internal companies advertising a wide range of jobs. Of the companies who responded 80% had filled positions with our students. 53% listed the response to their advert as excellent, 47% as good.
- The General Manager has spoken to Personnel on behalf of the JobShop and we are working towards a policy that any University vacancies below 15hrs per week are advertised through the JobShop too.
- The JobShop is a member of the Employability Forum and attended the Bridging the Gap Event. The JobShop is committed to raising student awareness of Employability.
- The JobShop coordinator has attended a training course in the new Age Discrimination Laws. She has also attended a presentation on the growth of student employment from an American University and a conference on Making Skills Work.
- The JobShop has met with Careers and the International Centre to create open lines of communication. The JobShop will be at the House and Job Hunting Event that is part of the International students orientation week and has been working closely with Careers in producing an employability booklet for September 07.

The JobShop remains highly committed to continuing to improve the service it offers to the students, employers and the University. With a restructure taking place in the Union the JobShop looks forward to more support in 07/08 and continued development of the service.

4.0 'Space' Newspaper

Print run: 2,000

Distribution: Oxstalls, Pittville, Park, FCH and off campus halls

Issues: 14

SPACE has a useful vehicle for students and the Union. With more and more students involved each year it is recognised as a viable way to get their opinions heard but also an important tool for information to reach students, enabling everyone to catch up with what's been going on from the latest sporting news and gig reviews to what changes have been made to academic courses.

SPACE has evolved this year by increasing; from a 16 page, to a 20-page paper. By doing this it has been able to increase student content and maintain a balance for external advertising in an attempt to cover its own costs. The sub-editor positions have been become better structured and were expanded further to develop a consistency in the paper throughout the year. The senior editorial team in conjunction with a growing team of writers has worked hard to ensure that SPACE is a relevant document informing the students on what they want, and need, to know. On average there have been 30 students involved with the paper each issue, this has offered students time to develop new skills and volunteer their time in a positive way.

Some highlights from this year have included interviews with massive British bands such as The View and Ocean Colour Scene. This has been accompanied by constantly supporting student musicians, particularly students from the new Popular Music course located at Pittville Campus. The introduction of UGSU's Tone Radio has been a great help in securing high profile interviews and hopefully the synergy between these two key media will develop into the future working to enhance each other.

The news pages have reported exciting developments within the University but have also actively made the student voice heard over important issues such as the contentious cut backs to the University bus service, student safety and the successful 'No Means No' campaign. We have highlighted student successes within the sports pages and maintained consistent sports coverage in order to highlight the continuing success of Blue & Blue.

In the next year we are looking to develop space as an online paper. By doing this we are hoping to reduce the print run making it more sustainable; more accessible to those with disabilities and those who do not come onto campus. Due to financial pressures on the Union there will only be 10 issues in the coming year with a smaller print run on each.

5.0 Tone Radio

Tone Radio was first conceived back in November of 2005. The idea was to introduce a real life radio station into the University, which could be used not only as a useful communication tool for students, but also to offer students on any course the chance of getting valuable media experience vital to getting a job in the industry after graduation.

Tone began running a test broadcast in May 2006, transmitting via the internet, for 3 hours every Tuesday and Thursday evenings for 7 weeks. This was a great success as far as learning the pitfalls of broadcasting was concerned, but there was obviously further to take the project. In July 2006 the Station was taken over by current Station Manager, Rich Wiltshire with the main ambition to secure funding to run the station full time for a further three years. Over the summer of 2006 Tone became incorporated into the Student's Union, after discussions between both the faculty and the Union as to the best options for Tone.

After a year of broadcasting Tone Radio has developed into an important SU service and with over 80 volunteer staff and an eager and solid listenership, the future is looking bright. In the recent student survey conducted by UGSU, 93% of 3rd year students at Pittville Campus had tuned into Tone at some point during this year and Tone aims to get the same sort of figures across all campuses in the future.

Tone Radio has featured heavily in the University's recruitment drive over the last year, with a strong emphasis on the benefits to potential students of having a radio station. Tone has been involved in numerous recruitment events for the University this year, from attending the UCAS recruitment fair in London at the end of 2006 to taking up the whole Radio Production page of the University prospectus. With a degree in radio production starting at Pittville in September Tone will become more and more essential for recruiting students to this course. The building of a brand new studio at the Pittville campus will rival those at BBC Radio Gloucestershire and Severn Sound in terms of professionalism and quality of resources. These new developments will be a major draw not only to potential Radio Production students, but also those looking at studying Broadcast Journalism, Media Communications, Music Management and Popular Music (amongst many others) who will be able to obtain the sort of real life work experience required to get into any media industry.

At present Tone has 82 active volunteers, most of whom are students at the Pittville campus. The push is now to see this number increase and to include not only University volunteers, but also those from the local community and college students from Gloucestershire College.

The marketing team at Pittville this year has been working resolutely to raise the profile of the campus, not just as a centre of learning, but also a centre of arts and innovation. Tone Radio plays a big part in raising the profile of the University within the local community and to local school leavers looking to

attend the University. Tone is also in the running for various Student Radio Awards in only the first year of broadcasting, it has provided a service above and beyond what is expected of most student stations due to the dedication of volunteers and commitment from the SU.

In order for Tone Radio to function the SU set aside £50,000 of reserves. This money was allocated based upon projections of the capital costs associated with setting up the station and running it for a 3-year period. The projected costs include initial purchase of the broadcasting equipment, building of the new studio and licensing costs. The salary for the Radio coordinator has had to be absorbed within the main SU budget.

This has added further pressure to the SU's budgets and the further development of the station has had to be put on hold, as the money does not exist to implement them.

Our goal over the remaining 2 years of funding is to ensure that the Radio Station becomes financially sustainable. It would be disappointing to see the hard work come to nothing in two years because there is no further funding. We hope that the University would be willing to assist us in exploring all of the options open to us for helping safeguard the stations future.

6.0 Entertainment

The success of events this year has continued to help bring students together and has been crucial in the sustainability of the SU bars. Every ticketed event has sold out before the event and the feedback after events have been extremely positive. The SU bars run local entertainment and build a community spirit at each campus. A run down of some of the larger events this year include:

- The Gatecrasher Party
1000 person event focused on dance music from top name DJ's.
- The Comedy Hypnotist
400 person event featuring hypnotism without hypnosis.
- Stevie Starr
600 person event, cabaret style show
- Freshers' Ball 2005 (The Godfather Ball)
1,200 person event, live bands, top name DJ, acoustic session and theming.
- Halloween Ball
1,000 person event, celebrating Halloween
- Events Management support
The SU have worked closely with the Events Management field this year and acted as the client for many events, which students had to arrange for their course. The SU offered venues, commercial advice, health & safety support, marketing and branding guidance and other general support. There were many events throughout the year with the successful Valentines Ball hosting nearly 800 students. It is hoped that this relationship can continue and bring the academic and more vocational courses closer to the Union realising its truly student led potential.
- The Jingle Ball.
1,200 person event including a DJ set from top band 'Athlete' accompanied by seasonal theming and acoustic music in the 'chill out' room.

- **One World Festival**
 The SU played a massive role in the OneWorld festival providing concepts for events, marketing, print and support. The festival was condensed from a week into one day and opened up to the general public in order to continue to raise awareness about different cultures around the world and profile the University as the community centre it should be. There was music in all shapes and styles, a range of cuisine and in particular, a very impressive Chinese style dance which impressed the audience. The SU alongside, Cathy Green and the Chaplaincy hope to further develop this event next year. In the lead up to the event there was an African night held at Park bar and was so successful there is another scheduled before the end of term.
- **International Jazz Festival - Gilles Peterson Live at Park Bar**
 After the positive reaction to last years event UGSU worked with the International Jazz Festival to continue to open our doors to the public but also to raise the profile to the festival within the student body. We were given the privilege of hosting World famous jazz DJ, Gilles Peterson and his protégé Ben Westbeeck. The event was a huge success with the student body and general public coming together to celebrate a truly talented DJ and giving the SU an opportunity to diversify further the range of entertainment hosted within the bars.
- **Battle of the Bands**
 500 person event lasting over three weeks. This event was one of the true successes of the year. Park Bar hosted a total of seven bands in the biggest competition UGSU has hosted in over four years. The winners of the event having the chance to play the main stage at this years Summer Ball. We hope Battle of the Bands will grow even further in forthcoming years in conjunction with the Popular Music course.
- **Summer Ball**
 The climax of the year is again the Summer Ball held at Cheltenham Racecourse on June 16th. It has become a yearly tradition and is regarded across the sector as one that shows good value for money however, with students' financial pressures showing it is reflecting in this ever more risky event. There is liaison with local authorities to ensure smooth running of the event and the reduction of its impact on the local community however this event like other areas of the Union is coming under more pressure to bring in a financial return. This event will be reviewed not only in context of the new academic year but also the risk it places on the SU's accounts.

This year we have endeavoured to ensure student participation at every event by employing student DJs, bands, and crew in setting up and organising each event. It is partly down to this that we attribute the incredible success of our event programme this year.

7.0 Sports

This year has seen a large rise in the number of paid members into sports teams, with the introduction of a new membership card scheme, which has proved highly successful throughout.

Students' have welcomed the opportunity to take part in sport with nearly 1500 as paid members of at least one club. More teams have been set up this year to enable all to take part. The popular intra mural league has continued with eight teams competing on a weekly basis against one another from all the different campuses.

The new American Football team have worked incredibly hard to gain members, sponsorship, coaches and kit, to enable them to compete and enter a league next year.

With the loss of Hardwick campus and the delay in the opening of the new Oxstalls building, the demand has increased for facilities, with some teams suffering more than others.

Three teams won their respective leagues this year; Rugby League, Men's Football 4th team and Women's Badminton. With many other teams finishing in the top three of their league.

Some outstanding individual achievements should be recognised for their effort and dedication to reach the elite level of performance at which they compete:

- Stephanie Crang an Archer won the Compound competition; beating the BUSA record and was one point off the British record.
- Zoe Derham a Hammer thrower won the outdoor BUSA competition beating the BUSA record.
- Natalie Holbrook was selected to represent Women's Football in the English Universities team. The first female footballer to do so from our University.
- Emily Yates represented England U21's Netball.
- The Paintball team represented the University at the Paintball World games.

All teams united together for a large fundraiser raising over £1000 towards Sports Awards, which was a great success and really showed the unity and passion that members have.

This year saw another Varsity competition with Worcester University, bigger than ever before 10 teams competed across a range of sports all in Worcester, this saw hundreds of students going to support the day and enjoy the atmosphere. The day climaxed in the Men's Rugby Union match, with all supporters watching and cheering on their team. The day was a great success and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day even though Worcester came out as winners overall.

The Annual Sports Awards Dinner and award ceremony was an excellent way to finish off a successful sporting year, attended by over 350 people with guests including Professor Patricia Broadfoot, Martin Roddy MBE and several others. The night went exceedingly well, amongst the award winners were;

- Team of the year to Women's Badminton.
- Endsleigh Club of the year to Netball.
- Vice Chancellors Award for Athlete of the Year to Emily Yates.
- Martin Roddy MBE for Sporting Excellence to Stephanie Crang.
- Julia Hester Memorial Award for dedication to Badminton to Sam Edmondson.
- Suzi Grassick Award for Most Sociable Lacrosse Player to Sam Fairbrother
- Tony O'Donnell Award for Sports Personality of the Year to Daniel Knowles.
- Peter Durham Award for Club Captain of the Year to Francesca Centamore.

This year has been full of outstanding achievements across all fields of sport, and the culmination of this has seen a rise 18 places within the BUSA standings to 34th with points yet to be added from summer competitions.

8.0 Societies

As a continuing part of the presidents role support for new and existing societies has seen the Pool society continuing to be successful and consistently performing well at local and national competitions. They have developed their own society with the introduction of a ladies team who also played well at the national competition.

This year new successes have been the poker society, wildlife society and several new groups coming forward now in preparation for next year.

As societies become more active and continue to expand they will need to find more resource and support from the SU, noting the importance of extra curricular work in boosting a CV.

8.1 Raise and Give (RAG)

RAG fell under the remit of the President for the past year and the committee adopted a new approach to fundraising trying new ideas to source more income for charitable causes. A very successful start to the year worked to embed RAG as part of the student culture and generated great participation within the committee. A decision to support more than one charity this year has given the opportunity to specifically help small local organisations and get involved with large national events. Starting in the summer with the first Sport Relief Local Mile staged at Park campus. Working closely with Family Haven in Gloucester and many others using the man power of students to derive income sending them out to collect on behalf of local charities rather than donating the money from their own pockets.

RAG is now coming to a point where to generate more it must look to speculate. The decision to be made is whether RAG is central enough to the SU to warrant expenditure.

It is my pleasure to thank all those who have been involved in RAG and have helped in raising over £6,000 for a series of charities.

9.0 Best Value Review (BVR)

The SU has undergone a Best Value Review during the last academic year set against the backdrop of the impending need for the Union to become a separately registered Charity within the next 1-2 years. The process has been a challenging time but has ultimately held a mirror up to the Union and critically reviewed whether it is currently delivering good value against the block grant it receives from the University.

The review group had a core membership made up of Paul Drake, Director External Relations and Student Services; Mike Jesnick, Director of Resources; Stewart Dove, Head of Student Services; Dai Jones, Senior Lecturer at FCH; Daisy Noble, SU President; Matt Bowman, Education and Welfare Officer and Ian Pain, SU General Manager.

The review recognised many positive impacts that the SU has on the students, the organisation as a whole and the local community. Given the resources at the SU's disposal there are many areas where the Union provides exceptional value. In recognising the positives there were also a number of weaknesses, which were highlighted. In seeking to ensure the Union's future development there has been a need for the Union to make some difficult but considered decisions.

The Union is currently going through a restructuring process, which will see the creation of a senior management team and a greater focus on supporting the core functions of the Union including dedicated resource focussed on ensuring Student Representation is effective.

The Union is entering an exciting period and the changes currently being implemented will deliver positive results over the forthcoming years.

10.0 Elections

The SU elections took place without any major controversies this year. Election regulations were tightened but we were able to introduce a chance for greater creativity from the candidates campaigning. We have been working alongside the University to move towards online voting.

There has been a change in structure reducing the number of sabbatical officers from four to three and renaming them full time officers to hopefully clarify their role to students. The amount of student involvement has been increased in compensation with two new placement roles introduced to the SU.

All three full time Officer roles were contested and highly fought over. The Executive Council was restructured to incorporate 11 positions, four of which have been filled with again three contested positions. The intention is now to co-opt the vacant positions at the AGM.

11.0 Executive Council

The SU Executive Council has met weekly throughout term time this year and continues to be a key part of interaction with students and an opportunity for them to make changes within the SU.

With the implementation of the new roles to the Executive Council, the SU are currently establishing clear job descriptions for each post and putting an emphasis on interaction with students at a grass roots level.

Having worked alongside NUS on the structure and function of the executive council and opportunity for all students to feed into the running of the SU it is predicted that within the new organisational changes and introduction of charitable status the role of the council will evolve and generate more student interaction.

12.0 Website

UGSU.org is the primary media used to communicate between the Students' Union and the student community. The website is used by the majority of the student community, especially sports teams. This year the website has seen the introduction of a social network similar to Myspace and facebook. This was introduced with the view of students being able to easily interact with each other and the SU being able to communicate important information that is relevant to their needs. However, the social network hasn't fulfilled our expectations and, will therefore be reviewed over the summer. The introduction of the social network combined with a change to the editing of the website has unfortunately had a negative affect on the website and because of this, students haven't necessarily received important information.

It has been recognised that it is very difficult to compete with successfully run applications and that ugsu.org needs to be an access to information rather than an opportunity to socialise. It is because of this that the SU aims to simplify the website and allow students to edit it easily in order to increase usage.

13.0 Plasma Screens

The plasma screens are now back in situ and have proved a useful tool in conveying messages to students from the SU and University. They continue to improve content and refine the usability of the screens across all sites with the aim to generate income from advertisers in the forthcoming year.

14.0 Financial Management

Based on the performance to the end of April an £8k surplus is forecast for 2006/07 (before any transfers to reserves). This compares with a surplus to 31 July 2006 of £92k of which £50k was used to set up a reserve to cover costs for the first 3 years of running Tone Radio. The forecast includes potential redundancy costs arising from the SU restructure.

Overall the bars have performed above budget though not as well as last year. Park Bar is the only bar which is forecast to generate more income than 2005/06. Next year the level of bar trade is expected to be affected by the introduction of the smoking ban.

Publicity income has increased this year due to advertising on the plasma screens (e.g. Academy Clothing, Moda Nightclub) and income from advertising on the bar tables (Table Talk Media).

The SU has opened a shop at Park Bar for sales of clothing and this will be developed and diversified over 2007/08.

The NUS introduced new NUS Extra student discount cards this year which have been sold online at £10 each, of which the SU receive £4. Sales have gone well though the £9k budget will not be met.

The £100k reserve which had been set aside for the refurbishment of FCH Bar was spent over the summer of 2006. In addition to work at FCH, expenditure was incurred relocating the SU reception at Park and converting the old reception area into the clothing shop.

The budget for next year takes into account the £6,300 increase in the block grant. The budget is based on anticipated changes to the staff structure of the SU following the Best Value Review, to ensure that expenditure on staff is used in the most effective way. To cover the increased costs from pay rises and inflation increases in other expenses, the budget has been set with increased income to be generated from commercial sources e.g. advertising. The SU continues to monitor income and expenses closely throughout the year and financial processes are continually improved to ensure that the limited resources of the SU are used to give the best possible services to students.

15.0 Local Relations

With the numbers of students at the University it is inevitable that there will be issues of conflict between the student community and our neighbours. It is pleasing that there have been no major issues at FCH and Pittville throughout the last year. In contrast there have been a number of problems around the Oxstalls and Park campus. Inevitably the SU immediately becomes the focus of many complaints, which are largely unfounded. Many of the problems have occurred as students leave and come back to the campuses often never having set foot in the SU Bars.

Despite this the SU has been at the forefront of working with our neighbours, campus management, student services and the police to find positive solutions to some of the issues of concern.

Our police colleagues have acknowledged that the SU's bars are amongst the most professionally run within the region. Despite having clear policies and procedures in place the Union has responded to the issues raised by local residents by making its dispersal policy even more robust going way beyond the expectations of the borough council. Many of the SU's procedures are regarded as good practice in the region and they have contributed to a new code of practice which licensees are going to be asked to sign up to.

The SU is an active member of numerous community groups including the Crime and Disorder partnerships, North Cheltenham Safety Group and Cheltenham Business Partnership in addition to contributing positively to the local community in many other ways outlined in this document. The SU helped facilitate a successful Polish Forum organised by the Police's Community Safety Team and is again supporting a Polish Youth Forum this summer.

The General Manager has been elected to serve on the committee for Cheltenham Nightsafe for the next year. As part of this ongoing commitment to be at the forefront of positive work the Union has been instrumental in organising a conference alongside Nightsafe, Government Office South West and the Police. The event was organised to launch the codes of practice for local licensees and guidance on Reducing Alcohol Related violence.

16.0 Appointments

Steve Mitten
Jennifer Cutler

Bar Manager, Oxstalls
Campus Administrator, FCH

17.0 New Executive Team 07/08

Full Time Officers

Simon Potter
Josh Luckhurst
Matthew Wickers

President Elect
Education and Welfare Officer Elect
Sports Officer Elect

Executive Officers

Ken Dowling
Rebecca Hockley
James Durrant
Anna Pettman

Events Executive Elect
Executive Secretary Elect
Media Executive Elect
Disabled Students Executive Elect

18.0 Concluding Comments

Student apathy is often blamed for lack of participation on the part of students. However, this year has seen increasing involvement and initiatives led by students for themselves and their peers. Although apathy will always exist I am proud to have led the SU over the past two years and to have been part of the ever growing and diversifying activities we have become involved in.

The energy and passion of the sabbatical officers, executives and members of staff has been rewarded with successes on a local scale, the national stage and in personal achievements. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Anna Pettman, a member of our executive, for being elected to the National Disabled Students Committee and to Matt Bowman for taking a well-run SU campaign into the national arena.

I am very happy to say that the SU continues to go from strength to strength, building on its roots of student involvement and ensuring quality of service provision across all campuses. As I move on to pastures new I feel confident that in another year of change the SU will maintain its stability and that the changes will only improve what we have in place.

This is my opportunity to thank my fellow officers for all their hard work and members of staff for their commitment to the SU. In a financially risky year Liz Connole and Linda Giles have worked tirelessly to ensure we stay in the black and the officers are able to make the best decisions for the students throughout the year. As ever Ian Pain's dedication to the SU has been faultless and his advice, guidance and support has not gone unnoticed by all the officers. As long as Ian is working with us I feel confident the SU will continue to prosper. The last year has been one filled with challenges and I hope that in the coming months the implementation of the new SU structure will support Ian in his grand plans for the future.