

## Annual Report 2008/09

The following paper reports on all the services and activities of the University of Gloucestershire Students' Union in 2008/09. Despite challenging times, the Students' Union has had many successes this year including the introduction of a new thriving University-wide student representation system, the ongoing trial of a new Jobshop Temps agency allowing students to work for the University when temporary positions arise and also a rise in sports memberships.

The Students' Union has faced many challenges throughout the current academic year, most notably the financial situation we are forecast to end the year on. Like the University, we have had to introduce a number of cost cutting measurements, whilst ensuring that the service we provide to our students is not impacted upon. Whilst we welcomed the increase in block grant from the University last year, it still only funds half of what the Students' Union currently does, and with more grant we would be able to further enhance the student experience at the University of Gloucestershire.

This report contains information on the services directly funded by the University's block grant and other notable areas of the Students' Union (SU).

### Core Services:

- 1.0 Representation
- 2.0 Welfare and Advice
- 3.0 Volunteering
- 4.0 JobShop
- 5.0 Space Newspaper
- 6.0 Tone Radio
- 7.0 Entertainment
- 8.0 Sports
- 9.0 Societies
- 9.1 Raise and Give 2008/09 (RAG)
- 10.0 – 10.4 Commercial - SU Bars

### Other:

- 11.0 Elections
- 12.0 Executive Council
- 13.0 Website
- 14.0 Financial Management
- 15.0 Community Engagement
- 16.0 Sound Environmental Impact
- 17.0 Appointments
- 18.0 Executive Team 2009/10
- 19.0 Concluding Comments

James Durant  
University of Gloucestershire Students' Union President  
May 2009

## 1.0 Representation

This year we have (in association with the University) introduced a new representation system. As representation is at the heart of Students' Union activities, having a working mechanism for hearing the voices of students, at course level, is fundamental. A massive amount of work was done in this area over the last academic year, which included improved training, dedicated support mechanisms and a commitment on behalf of senior faculty staff and students alike. This has led to noticeable results and to changes all across the University.

Each course now has at least one representative per level of each course, leading to a minimum of three course reps. All representatives are offered a comprehensive two hour training session which is run jointly with the University. This covers all angles of being a course representative from communication skills to the University committee structure and to the resources that the Students' Union can offer course reps per course.

As raising the public profile has been such an important part of getting a new system imbedded, there have been several initiatives to make it easier to communicate with course reps, including the ability to text or email reps. The main source of information about course reps, and *for* course reps, is housed on the new course rep minisite, [www.yourstudentsunion.com/course reps](http://www.yourstudentsunion.com/course reps). The course reps minisite has dates, locations and timings of all the relevant meetings, as well as past minutes and forthcoming agendas. Also on the minisite all the relevant documents and training presentations are held, as well as copies of the monthly course rep newsletter.

A monthly e-newsletter is produced by the rep team (based in the FCH SU office) every month, bringing all course reps up to date on news and events from across the University and the SU. University staff have started asking if they can be included in the mailing list for newsletters so they can also find out what course reps have been doing for their fellow students out with the new Staff Student Liaison committee (SSLC) meeting structure.

The SSLC's, which meet three / four times an academic year, are an opportunity for student reps to raise any non academic issue which is affecting their university experience. Course Boards remain the forum to discuss academic issues with members of the course teaching staff. SSLC meetings, which are chaired by students, have brought up many different areas of the University Experience which students feel need addressed as well as given the University, and SU, the opportunity to launch new ideas or obtain feedback on specific ideas such as the Summer Ball or the University bus service.

Some highlights of the year have included:

- The agreement amongst FCH staff to try to keep Wednesday afternoons clear of teaching allowing students to partake in SU sports clubs and societies;
- The changes to induction events for 'top up' students;
- The installation of lockers for students usage;
- The agreement to keep the popular music studio open for longer hours in Pittville
- The wide ranging review of University catering.

SSLC meetings have also allowed the University to deal with issues before they become problems.

Reps who attended three meetings or more across the year will receive an official University certificate this year. At current totals this shows almost 100 individuals. While there are signs that the new course rep system is making good progress there is also scope to do lots more and to embed it into all areas of the student experience. There is little doubt that course reps do make a significant contribution to the way that the University and the SU operate. This is an area of work which will continue to expand over the next academic year, but with over 230 individual students representing their fellow students at meetings across the year in 2008/9 the foundations are firm.

A full report on the Course Representative system will be published during the summer and available on [www.yourstudentsunion.com/course reps](http://www.yourstudentsunion.com/course reps).

## **2.0 Welfare and Campaigns**

This year the Education and Welfare Officer has focused on the creation and running of several new campaign initiatives in conjunction with arising issues within the Students' Union. Whilst continuing on the positive message of the 'No Means No' campaign, sexual health and alcohol awareness were prominent issues within the student body. Several successful Chlamydia screening drives have helped promote the importance of sexual health.

The Students' Union has become part of the new residents' association liaison committee, which has been a fundamental process of the smooth running of evening SU events this year. We introduced a new 'Everybody Needs Good Neighbours' campaign to encourage positive relations between students and local residents. This involved producing a double sided flyer (one side aimed at students about being respectful to their new neighbours and refuse collection, the other at local residents reminding them that students are about to arrive back) being posted through many doors in the St Pauls area of Cheltenham in early September. This has also helped to improve the perception of the SU and University from the surrounding areas and has seen a decrease in the number of complaints received. The Education and Welfare officer has also strived to communicate current academic issues that have arisen this year.

A particularly large project that the Education and Welfare Officer has been involved in this year has been the latest 'Change Academy' idea. The project group that saw the Helpzones into fruition has this year been focusing on ways in which students can get more involved and gain an increased sense of loyalty and ownership to the University, namely through part time employment. 'Jobshop Temps' has been a product this project and it is an initiative that is expected to grow and develop over the next few years as well.

It is at the strong belief of the Education and Welfare Officer that paying students as consumers should be receiving appropriate service for their fees and loyalty, and this is one of the many reasons why the SU is committed to our core values of representation and welfare.

### **3.0 Volunteering**

It has been another positive year for volunteering in the Students' Union. A wide range of opportunities continue to be accessible to students and staff here at the University. Information is provided and contact is made regarding chances for volunteering that range from days helping at a Tea Dance to a year on a scheme abroad.

In 2008-9 the previous six internal projects have successfully continued. The following is a brief outline of the projects directly coordinated by us:

- **Splash** – a swimming club for 6-11 year olds - a service for St Paul's residence and clients of CCP (Cheltenham Community Projects)<sup>1</sup>. Fortunately Cheltenham@Leisure; reopened in September so we were able to return to the pool there. This saved on travel expense and the extra time previously involved after the floods of 2007. Team leaders with considerable experience increased the scope of swimming development this year.
- **The Next Step** – a social club for 11-13 year olds is primarily based at St Paul's Community House. Traditionally, the clients participate in different social or educational activities. Difficulties were experienced with this challenging age range this year due to outside influences. This has resulted in us uniting with other organisations involved with projects at the Community House suffering similar problems. The project did enjoy some positive activities such as a jewellery and smoothie making session and team planning.
- **Early Worms** – a literacy and communication club for 7-11 year olds. The partakers from St Paul's area come to the Community House to join in educational and fun activities. Activities cover a broad sense of communication. Drama and music were focused upon this year. The meetings in general were particularly positive.
- **Diamond Club** – a social club for adults with learning difficulties. Every week they participate in activities such as visiting the refectory and playing pool, arts and crafts, tenpin bowling etc. It offers the opportunity for participants to socialise with students without the need to be treated as different.

The experience that students gain from their involvement with these projects proves valuable in a variety of ways. Whilst working with these community

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

groups they have the opportunity of developing many useful skills; some go on to finding additional employment in relevant areas.

## **Superstars**

We had approximately 85 Superstars return to the University early in September to welcome in the Freshers. This scheme has existed for over a decade and is a valued service, supporting Student Services, Accommodation and campus faculties. Student volunteers welcome first 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.

## **Tea Dances**

Christmas Tea Dances were held on three consecutive days in December – allowing up to 500 residents of Gloucestershire a chance to come and enjoy an afternoon at The Park Campus. Approximately 65 volunteers assisted with setting up, clearing away, serving, dancing and ensuring the older people of our community had a truly enjoyable time.

In addition to the above section of volunteering, there have been 51 students contributing to editions of Space, 15 RAG (Raise and Give) volunteers, 185 sports committee members (and many additional volunteers helping with sports events), approximately 100 Tone Radio assistants and 7 volunteer executives. In addition to these volunteers our Events Assistant also organised a body of over 30 volunteers.

The volunteering section on our website has been expanded enabling students to access a more diverse range of external volunteering opportunities online as well as an updated view of the internal projects.

## **4.0 JobShop**

2008/2009 has been a mixed year for the JobShop. The start of the academic year was very busy and the service was running to full capacity. However from early 2009 onwards things have been a lot tougher. The recession has had a significant impact on the service both in the number of part time jobs available to students and increased competition for part time work. Despite the challenges of the recession JobShop has still had a successful year.

To date 56 businesses have advertised through the JobShop offering students 505 jobs (these figures exclude Gold Cup and Agency recruitment). It is worth noting that this is a decrease of 54% and 66% respectively on 2007/2008.

We received 43% feedback from employers:

- 92% rated the response to their advert as excellent/good
- 89% filled their positions with our students

We have outlined the highlights of the year below and have detailed some of the new projects developing this year.

### **Freshers' Fayre**

This year, for the first time, the Students' Union held the event on one single day and utilised the whole of Park Campus. The JobShop took a decision to invite employers to this event and not host a separate part time jobs and volunteering fayre. The JobShop invited 5 employers to attend who all recruit large numbers of students for work throughout the year. The employer feedback was very positive and the employers were pleased with the quality and quantity of students.

### **Yearly Contracts**

The JobShop has developed long lasting relationships with 5 local agencies and Endsleigh Insurance Recruitment. Yearly contracts have been maintained and developed ensuring through their generic recruiting there are always opportunities for students with an employer that understands their needs. The JobShop is positive that these relationships will continue to develop into 2009/10.

### **National Hunt Festival 2009**

This unique sporting event presents a fantastic opportunity for our students to work. The JobShop has built lasting relationships with the main employers and utilises all Students' Union media to make sure students can find the best opportunity. This year the attendance at the racecourse was down thus resulting in reduced numbers of staff required. Despite this the JobShop still offered over

900 jobs culminating in a Jobs Fayre attended by 7 employers offering jobs in hospitality, catering, stewarding, security and taking bets. The JobShop also hosted a mini fayre at Oxstalls at the request of the students. We also produced a 4 page special in Space including an interview with the main staff supplier Letheby & Christopher. The JobShop also produces a guide for students about working at the event.

### **Refreshers Fayre 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

This welcome back event is in its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. The JobShop facilitated attendance of 3 employers with varied opportunities for students.

### **Students' Union Media**

The JobShop has its own minisite ([www.yourstudentsunion.com/thejobshop](http://www.yourstudentsunion.com/thejobshop)) where all jobs and job related information is displayed. The site contains information on:

- jobs currently available
- seasonal vacancies
- tax advice
- advice for international students
- local agencies who are 'student friendly'
- links to the Careers Centre

New for this year students have been able to subscribe online to the JobShop and receive regular 'e-zines' about part time work opportunities and any current employment issues. 563 students have chosen to subscribe to date.


The JobShop continues to have a page in every issue of Space Newspaper.

### **University Relationships**

The JobShop has strengthened its relationships with relevant departments and communicates regularly with the Careers Centre, International Office, Placement Co-ordinators, Aimhigher Mentoring & Tutoring and is also developing contact within individual schools to make sure that skills specific vacancies are sent to the right students. 3 main projects have involved the University:

- MPLOY - the JobShop and the Careers Centre worked together with a steering group to produce a student friendly booklet focusing on wide variety of extra curricular activities the University and Students' Union provide and how these can enhance employability. Copies of the booklet were distributed at Freshers' Fayre and at various events throughout the year. The booklet has also been available online. Unfortunately we have not been able to secure funding to reproduce the booklet for September

09 but have held back copies to be distributed as the information remains relevant. We are committed to re-producing the booklet for Sept 2010.

- Change Academy - The JobShop Coordinator was delighted to be a member of the Change Academy 5 team during 08/09 and has been a full and active member throughout the year. The project was focused on 'Promoting Student Engagement through Employment'. As a direct result of this the JobShop has launched a new service: JobShop Temps.
- JobShop Temps – The launch of this internal student agency took place in January after a lot of work developing procedures and best practice. While the timing of the launch was unfortunate due to the recession there have still been positive results. The pilot scheme has been extended until September 2010.The logo for JobShop Temps features the text 'jobshop' in a light blue, lowercase, sans-serif font above the word 'temps' in a darker blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a circular icon composed of several segments in shades of blue and green, with the words 'students' and 'union' written in a small font around the top and right edges of the circle respectively.

  - Within 7 days, 36 students expressed an interest in registering
  - 6 bookings have been taken since January
  - Student temps have worked a total of 226.5 hrs to date
  - Areas of work: reception, admin, web design, flyering, promotional work.

The positive effect on student engagement was summed by one of the temps who said:

*“I found this particular job very useful in helping to build confidence in my employment and it also gave me a good understanding of the University and a real appreciation for all the work done by members of staff.”*

Claire Millward, Level 2, Early Childhood Studies.

- Market Research – the JobShop has been liaising with Ed Little, course leader CIM, and it has been agreed that 2 or 3 level two and/or postgraduate student groups will engage with the JobShop as their client for their market research module during 09/10. Relevant areas for research have been discussed and the JobShop Coordinator has agreed to take part in the assessment. The JobShop recognises the huge potential of these projects and is delighted to be able to use our own students for the purpose.
- Experiential Learning – the JobShop Coordinator, along with Volunteering Coordinator and SU President, took part in the pilot of this module to gain a better understanding of the learning involved thus enabling sincere promotion to students.

## **Income**

The JobShop is a non commercial service but has been able to generate a healthy income since 2003. The reduced number of job adverts has decreased this income during 08/09 and employers are definitely reducing costs through staffing cuts, the first of which is usually part time and temporary staff. Therefore the JobShop forecasts up to a 50% reduction in the income the service will be able to generate.

## **The Future**

The JobShop continues to be committed to providing an excellent service that extends beyond providing jobs for students and encompasses a holistic approach to student employment. One of the key areas we are constantly strive to improve is students' awareness of the importance of activities outside their academic career, including part time work, that add to their transferable skills and employability. Through the development of JobShop Temps we hope students will develop a different relationship with their institution and engage in a new way as employees thus creating new lines of communication between students and the University and therefore enhancing understanding. Working within their institution also provides students to learn about the work place alongside their academic studies.

Thanks to support from the University, the JobShop has been supported by a part time level 3 student working 15 hours per week this year. This has been an excellent resource for the JobShop without which it is extremely unlikely new services such as JobShop Temps would not have been viable. The JobShop would like to take this opportunity to thank the University, notably Keith Sharp, for this support.

## **5.0 Space Newspaper**

Space is the Students' Union newspaper, produced by students for students. The paper forms an essential part of student life enabling students to catch up with life on campus including SU News, what's on and sports news.

The paper provides a forum for discussion and past features have included an investigation in to global warming and a look in to whether student bank accounts are as good as they seem to be.

The senior editorial team coupled with a great team of student writers has created an exciting paper that we believe is both informative and entertaining.

This year Space has gone through a number of transformations. The number of pages has increased to 20+ per issue and the content has been split into regular colour-coded sections: News and Opinion, Your Union, International, Your Space and Sport.

Along with a contents page, the headed sections have given Space a more defined house style, given students a distinct idea of what they are reading and what they can contribute or feel is missing.

To comply with the Students' Union green values, Space included news from our Environmental Exec and one edition included a Green Pull-Out with an article written by Government Minister David Lammy.

The distribution of Space has been assessed this year. We have employed three Promotions Assistants to distribute Space around the four campuses; this has cut down on delivery costs, allowed us time to put Space in areas other than the Students' Union, and deliver Space straight into the hands of the readers.

The biggest change to Space came later in the year, due to financial forecasts it was decided that the final two issues of Space would be printed in-house, on A3 plain paper and would only include news about the SU. This drastically cut printing costs, allowed for looser deadlines, gave print-run flexibility and gave us the opportunity to correct any printing errors once the paper had been printed.

This year an online blogging site for Space has been developed. Browsers can access <http://blog.yourstudentsunion.net/> through our main website to look through the latest articles from Space and put comments after them. This has given writers a more diverse way of presenting their work, made Space available to students who are on placement or are away from university and coincided with the SU's green values.

## **6.0 Tone Radio**

Tone Radio has faced many challenges but overall the station has had a fantastic year and we are looking forward to the next academic year with great anticipation. At the beginning of the year there was a period in which the Station Manager had to struggle to get Tone running as well as it had the previous year. This was due in large part to the unavoidable lack of handover between the previous and current Station Managers. In spite of this we had a great response from students wanting to volunteer with Tone this year and the schedule quickly filled up.

We have also been excited to see an increase in first year students getting involved with Tone, currently around 40% of our volunteers are from level one and we hope to see this trend continue in the next academic year.

Due to the financial constraints placed upon Tone this year, as a result of the larger situation faced by the Students' Union, we have been operating with minimal budget. We paid for our PPL and PRS licenses at the beginning of the academic year and have only made on other outlay spend on Jazler broadcast software, which we will continue to see benefits for our volunteers next year such as:

- The software being extremely user friendly and stable, and very similar to that used by many commercial radio stations.
- The software will allow for the easy management of advertisements, which we hope to introduce next year as a way of generating revenue.

Advertising revenue will be helped by the fact that Tone will finally be available for play out in University reception areas and refectories. Working with Andrew Lansley (Audio Technician for the Radio Production and Popular Music courses), the Station Manager has secured the permission for play out in these areas and has installed a system whereby the screens used for play out can be remotely controlled by Andrew or the Station Manager from their offices. We have also secured 4 pairs of speakers free of charge, which will be donated after their use in an exhibition in Gloucester Cathedral. These will be installed over the summer break to ensure that we are broadcasting to these locations by the time students return to University in September.

We had success in planning and running the Tone fundraiser entitled Glos-Tone-Beret at the Frog and Fiddle pub. This event was not only a success in terms of bringing in some revenue to Tone but also in raising the station profile and in adding to the student experience for several degree courses. The event was broadcast live on Tone and we included Digital Film, Broadcast Journalism, Photography and Popular Music students to run, promote and record the event. The links this has built between the University and Students' Union, through

Andrew Lansley and the Station Manager, have been noted and appreciated by Ben Calvert and the course leaders for various media courses.

We are also currently in the middle of preparations for the Wychwood FM broadcast, which will take place at the end of May. Wychwood is an annual music festival held at the racecourse and is host to around 10,000 attendees each year. We approached the organisers and proposed that we provide them with a festival branded radio station to run over the weekend and be broadcast on FM frequency, available throughout Cheltenham. The organisers are very excited about the possibilities of this and have been extremely helpful in allowing us to do this. Again this will be a great profile raising exercise for Tone and provide fantastic real-world experience to the students involved.

Overall and despite the organisational and financial challenges we have faced this year we feel we have had an overwhelmingly positive year and hopefully one that has set us up for even more success in the year to come. Key in this success has been the Station Manager's working relationship with Andrew Lansley who has been overwhelmingly generous with his time. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of student Kris Surtees who has stepped into the studio assistant role (originally to have been a paid role) on a voluntary basis, and all the volunteers who have been so enthusiastic this year.

## **7.0 Entertainments**

As last year, the SU appointed an Events Assistant to manage our events. The position, alongside our Media Assistant, is a student role with the University's placement office providing a student from Leisure, Tourism and Hospitality. The appointment has ensured that our events are student led and has encouraged participation within this area of the SU through a student events team.

### **Freshers' Festival**

We branded the start of the year 'Freshers Festival'. The period featured a range of different themed nights in the Park Bar for the initial fortnight of the first term. In response to student demand we booked in more famous acts this year. These included BBC Radio 1 presenter Scott Mills, Channel 4 personality Alexa Chung and also pop stars Natasha Hamilton (formerly of 'Atomic Kitten') and Sonique. Because of increased costs, the ticket prices were significantly higher for students wishing to attend the various events than last year. We feel this distracted some students from attending who went into the clubs and pubs in town for their nights out, and subsequently not all our events were financially successful. We also had nights with a cheaper entry fee. These proved to be very popular with returning acts Stevie Starr (a cabaret regurgitation performer) and hypnotists Tony Lee performing. Our other bars also put on their own nights during Freshers Festival, some linked to the main events at Park.

### **Caesars Ball**

For the first time this year, the Freshers Ball was moved to the Centaur arena at Cheltenham Racecourse, and branded as 'Caesars Ball'. Due to all previous Freshers' Ball selling out at Park Campus (where there is a limited capacity of 1200), not all new students being able to attend their ball, and the demand for more popular artists performing, the decision was made to experiment this year with a larger event, with an increased ticket price. Tickets sold well for the event, but did not make as much money as was budgeted for.

### **Events Management Students**

The SU's relationship with the EW205 module, where students have to plan, prepare and run an event themselves, continued this year. Each group of students was assigned an event to run (including the Valentines Ball, a Poker Tournament and an alternative triathlon) and was mentored by a member of SU staff. In response to problems encountered last year, where the focus was heavy on the Park Bar, each of our other venues had at least one event run in them. The Ska music night at Pittville was so successful that the group of students ran it again several months later. This relationship means that our events continue to

be student lead and bring work based learning aspects of academic courses into the Students' Union.

### **Summer Ball and the replacement 'Party at The Park'**

The decision to cancel the Summer Ball was a very tough one and one that was not made lightly, but in the end it came down to the fact that only 1301 tickets were sold during the one week ticket sale window. 2000 tickets was the bare minimum for the event as we know it to go ahead. If we went ahead with the Summer Ball with less than 2000 tickets sold, we would not be able to put on an event that would justify students paying £35.

It is a fact that ticket sales for the Summer Ball have been in decline for the last few years no matter what the Students' Union have tried to do. We have tried 'buy now, pay later' schemes that have not worked. We have tried making tickets cheaper for early buyers it hasn't worked. We have listened to many ideas direct from students, but they haven't worked. The student demographic is changing, and the Summer Ball is the casualty of this. We know that there is a small vocal minority but there is also a very large silent majority who we also represent and provide services for in many other ways than just putting on the Summer Ball. Due to its scale, the Summer Ball can have an adverse affect on every other area of the SU.

We said from the outset of the event's promotion that we needed 2000 tickets to be sold because we don't have the money to commit to the Summer Ball. The Students' Union does not have any spare money to put the Ball on and can not make money from any other venture in this academic year. We needed the support of students for the Ball, and we didn't get enough. The week ticket sale in itself was a referendum on the future of the Summer Ball.

The Summer Ball (and all events) has fixed costs every year, which students don't often factor into where they see their money going. Thousands of pounds has to be spent on site hire, management fees due to the scale of the event, security, licensing, safety barriers, lighting, staging, power, production before we even think about name acts. The question that was asked most during the sale period was 'Who is playing this year?' and so we wanted to make sure we got the best act we could, but the quality of the act is dependant on how much money there is to spend on them. Scouting for Girls were booked last year in response to students' mainly lukewarm reaction to the announcement of Athlete as the main band. During the event itself though, less than a thousand students (only a third of everyone at the Summer Ball) were actually watching the band.

Students were consulted throughout this entire process. The Students' Union Executive Council, which is over 90% elected students, agreed that the one week ticket sale idea was a good one when they were presented with the budgets of

the previous years. They were also told of the extremely hard time that staff have every year of selling tickets, often resulting in a financial loss, not to mention the amount of work hours lost in trying to sell tickets. The Exec also agreed in January that we would stick to the 2000 target after the additional Friday online sale day. During the ticket sale week, we went around the campuses speaking to students, selling tickets, often visiting 3 or all 4 campus each day, and the response from students we talked to spoke volumes. Of all the students we spoke to, over half didn't express an interest in the Ball even after we explained everything to them.

The students that did buy tickets were very supportive of what we were trying to do and we thank them for that, but there were simply not enough of them. A lot of students bought tickets on the proviso that the Summer Ball would go ahead and be on a similar scale to previous years. We don't want to go back on our word, and as we can't put a Ball on that could compare to previous years we are happy to refund students that bought their tickets for £35.

In response to students saying they wanted bigger events throughout the year, we made Freshers' this year the biggest it has ever been with star names on pretty much every other night, but obviously bigger names means slightly bigger prices. Students previously didn't want to pay £3 or £4 for just a club night in the bar so we increased the prices by a few pounds so that we could afford to bring the likes of Scott Mills, Alexa Chung, Lostprophets and the Headphone Disco to our events. We listened to students and made changes to the way we went about events, but they weren't supported well enough to continue in that way.

If everyone that said they would buy tickets during the sale week actually did buy tickets then the 2000 mark would have been well surpassed. The reasons for having the week and choosing that week in particular were laid out well in advance by us. We put our cards on the table and showed our hand. The week was picked so that it gave us 2 and a half weeks to get the word out, it was at the end/start of a month so that people would usually be paid from any job they have, it was early enough in the term that student loans likely haven't all been spent yet, it was early enough to start planning the Ball from February onwards and a week is a long enough window to buy tickets for everyone, especially as they can be bought online. The cost of a ticket is around the price of 2 normal nights out in town, which most students would be willing to sacrifice for the Summer Ball.

The Summer Ball was replaced with 'Party at the Park', an end of year event held in the Park Bar. This had Radio 1 presenters headlining, with student bands and DJs supporting. As the costs (being in our own bar) were much cheaper compared to the Racecourse event, this was reflected in the £15 ticket price.

## **8.0 Sports**

This year we have had a record number of students sign up to our sports clubs. Over 1130 students signed up to our 33 clubs, including the two new clubs we started this year, Tenpin Bowling and Futsal (indoor football).

During competition this year, we did extremely well with 7 of our teams winning their leagues, 6 reaching the quarter finals of their cup competitions, 7 reaching the semi finals and 2 making the finals, including our Men's Football 1<sup>st</sup> team winning their final 6-1 against UWIC. We also had some great individual athlete successes, including 3 archers being entered in the BUCS Archery Competition this year and our first entry into the BUCS Modern Pentathlon was successful with Jessica Earp finishing a respectable 16<sup>th</sup> out of 40. We are now waiting to for the BUCS overall points table to be published to see where we came this year.

This year our Rugby League Club have developed a 3 year strategy to make it into the Super 6 League and are currently working with the Rugby League governing body to become a centre of excellence and development centre in the South West. The club have already started a new team, gained promotion and finished in respectful positions in the cup. They are awaiting confirmation of acceptance into the Super 6 League this summer, a year ahead of schedule. Congratulations to the Rugby League club and good luck for the future.

Throughout the year the sports community celebrated many events and fundraisers. Back in November, Sports Reunion was held where past sports students come along to celebrate another successful year of sports at the University of Gloucestershire. Throughout the day matches are played in many of the sports where a reunion side takes on the current team. This year we also held a memorial match for a former member of the Men's Rugby Union side, Chris Ball, who sadly passed away this year.

Some fantastic fundraisers were held by various teams throughout the year, including Blind Date and UOG has Talent with the Netball and Men's Rugby Union Club, Starts in Their Eyes with the Men's Football Club and A Question of Sports with the Women's Volleyball Club. All were well supported by other teams and raised a good amount of money for their club. The sports fundraiser was again this year "I'm A Club Captain, Get Me Out Of Here" which was certainly a lot messier than last year and congratulation to Rebecca Cox from Women's Football who won the competition and Ella Harvey from Netball for winning the special challenge!

This year Varsity against Worcester was supposed to be held away at Worcester but due to unforeseen circumstances, the fixtures were reversed and we played our matches at home. Basketball, Hockey, Netball and Badminton was played at Oxstalls, Football was played at Cheltenham Saracens pitch and the Rugby was

played again at the Prince of Wales Stadium. Overall we beat Worcester 8½ to 2½ keeping the Varsity trophy at home for another year.

Sports Awards was a big hit this year with 400 guests in suits and dresses attending Cheltenham Town Hall for a sit down meal and the awards ceremony. The night was a great success and continued long into the night at the after party in Blush. Congratulations to all who received their Colours and Ben Ferbrache, Carly Taylor, Kyle Marriott, Andrew Webster for qualifying for a University Cap. The following teams, clubs and people also need to be congratulated for receiving awards for their tremendous efforts this year.

Website of the Year	Women's Basketball
Sports Reporter of the Year	Men's Basketball
Julia Hester Memorial Trophy Dedication to Badminton	Rickie Cambridge
John Haldane and Chris Ball Memorial Trophy Clubman of the Year (Men's Rugby Union)	Ed Morane
Athlete of the Year	Andrew Webster
Team of the Year	Men's Football 3 <sup>rd</sup> Team
Sports Personality of the Year	Christopher Chedzoy (Chip)
Club Captain of the Year	Gary McLean
Club of the Year	Men's Football

## **9.0 Societies**

Societies have grown this year with the introduction of several new clubs for students to join. Students use their initiative to suggest new societies that they would like to start up, and the only requirement to start a new one is to have an initial ten people that are interested.

Societies that have been running this year are:

- Allotment Society\*
- Christian Union
- Criminology Society\*
- Dance Society\*
- English Society\*
- Esoteric Photography\*
- Geographical Society
- History Society\*
- Islamic Society
- LGBT Society\*
- Live Music Society
- Mountain Bike Society
- Parked Elephant
- Poker Society
- Pool Society
- The Law Society
- The Philosophical Reading Society\*
- The Psychology Society
- Zine Society\*

\* indicates a new or re-launched society in 2008/09

We been extremely pleased with the way that new societies have been introduced this year, however with each new club that starts, the overall society budget gets stretched further, meaning less for each individual society. To try to control costs, the President has kept the society budget central, and invited the clubs to effectively bid for money from him, to which he almost always agreed to after reminding the society presidents at the start of the year that any money spent needs to be done in the best interests of the society.

Special mention this year needs to go to our Allotment Society, who won 'Society of the Year'. After acquiring a patch at Midwinter Allotments at the start of the summer, we identified Sarah Taylor as someone to lead the society. Sarah has done a fantastic job of running the society, and has been a huge job of contributing to our environmental successes this year. The allotment also enjoyed national press recognition in the spring.

## **9.1 Raise and Give 2008/09**

This year we had about 15 members who helped out consistently this year in a variety of roles. The overall total for the year came in at £3673.57 which was donated to the following good causes:

- Acorns Children's Hospice (£459.49)
- Breast Cancer Care (£287.39)
- Kilimanjaro Children Joy foundation (£610.12)
- Children in Need (£905.17)
- Terrence Higgins Trust (£600.16)
- Comic Relief (£85.85)
- Winston's Wish (£725.39)

We raised money in the following ways and events:

- RAG Rubix Cube Party
- Raffles
- Pink and Pink Week
- Cloakrooms
- Chav It
- Bingo
- World Aids Day
- London Mega Raid
- Collections in Beechwood shopping center, Cheltenham Town Centre on Gold Cup day, Tescos in Gloucester, Carols at Park, Question Time.
- Battle of the DJs (DnB style)
- One World Ceidhi
- Tins on the bars

This year we re-introduced Street Collections raising between £100-£400 a time. We had good fun and even had people watching us. In the future we could include some entertainment along side the collections with music, dance or just silly costumes. We also hope to carry on the new RAG Bingo as it raised over £150 each time we played it this year.

Due to numbers of people available and funds, the traditional RAG week or RAG organised ABC Ball didn't go ahead in the same way as in previous years. A suggestion for next year is that the ABC Ball could be given to the EW205 (events management students who have to run an event as part of their coursework) events group as one of the events they can organise. We have left a £500 budget for next years RAG which has come from the RAG magazines which will help with initial costs of putting on events.

I have faith that next years team will continue with the fun element of RAG and raise awareness as well as money within the university to build on this years achievements.

Elizabeth Thatcher  
RAG Chair 2008/09

## **10.0 SU Bars**

### **10.1 Park Bar Annual Report:**

Park bar has had a challenging year. The Freshers' events were not as popular as we thought they would be and have since changed our approach to similar events. Ever since the smoking ban people are more inclined to buy one drink and sit outside rather than stay in at the bar and spend more, which over recent years has proved a problem. Also, competition from local clubs and bars has increased and seems to be a growing threat to our business. As with the other SU bars, increased cost in labour and supplier prices has had an adverse effect on our overall performance this year too.

With the help of our Events Assistant we have started a regular Friday night event and this seems very popular due to its friendly and safe environment and we feel this is something we can build on for next year. We are also currently looking to offer students the facility of Sunday lunches next year with a view to bringing more trade into the bar on a day of the week which is currently very poor.

We feel there is a strong need to go back to basics next year. We are planning to put more theme nights on, on a more regular basis and these would be low cost to organise thus enabling a lower entry fee which will hopefully entice people to attend in greater numbers. These will be in terms of beach parties and fancy dress which seem to be the most popular choice of students.

Also we feel that students need to be more aware that our bars are more student friendly and safer than the other bars in town and actively promote this with a view to encouraging more students to use our facilities. Students' input is vital to our success because they are the people putting money in our tills to generate money to provide the many other SU services.

Chris Jones & Duncan Newell  
Park Bar Managers

## 10.2 Pittville Bar Annual Report

Pittville bar is just as busy as it was last year, however with increasing labour and supplier costs it is proving difficult to make a substantial profit as per many other businesses.

My aims this year were to get more live music into the bar which we have done with Open Mic, Band nights and DJ nights (with help from students on the music course). I feel passionate that we can build on the trade and the live music if we work with the students on the course.

Still to come this year are another Ska night, Wychwood Warm up, Open Mic, Pitt fest all with live music, plus our pool competition final. The Pitt Awards and the degree show also mean that there is a very busy month ahead.

We have struggled with our quiz this year so we have taken measures to improve it this term. The pool competition is less popular than it used to be so we are looking at possibly revising it for September.

My overall aims are to build on the nights put on by the students themselves and create more awareness of the bars facilities rather than people using venues in town and make Pittville the place to be.

Gail McMurray  
Pittville Bar Manager

### 10.3 FCH Bar Annual Report

FCH Bar had had quite a good year building on the success of the last few years. This is mostly down to the repeat business of loyal customers. My aim for the next year was to entice a wider variety of regular customers by extending our range of hot and cold products, through increasing the productivity of staff and retaining an efficient and consistent service.

Outside space has been an issue in the past, however this year we have been lucky enough to gain permission from the campus manager to use the outside area to take drinks outside of the bar; this has played a large part of increase of spring sales.

The pricing structure of weekend and week-day prices has been very successful here. We believe this is a result of the consistency and value for money we show the students compared to the competition of bars and pubs in town.

Looking to the future we are planning to re-launch our games nights after consultation with the relevant societies, and perhaps increasing the number of inter-campus competitions. We are also looking to increase the attendance of our Sunday night quiz by providing a food incentive which we hope to start soon.

Most importantly the dedication of staff at FCH, their friendliness and their willingness to put the customer first has ensured that happy customers have continued to return to the bar, enjoying the friendly atmosphere and appreciating regular friendly faces. This is something that will prove vital in the year to come.

Jenny Poll

FCH Bar Manager

## 10.4 Oxstalls Bar Annual Report

Oxstalls SU Bar continues to grow in terms of popularity and revenue, the latter meaning the employment of additional staff before Christmas to provide extra cover over the busier periods including day shifts and Monday & Wednesday evenings.

Strategic marketing of events and sports fixtures has allowed the bar to maintain its success in this area last year. Good commercial market awareness in the current financial climate gave rise to competitive pricing structures which has maintained footfall and sales albeit having a slight impact on profit margins.

The success of the poker league has been measured by participants taking part with a weekly average of 15 players. Feedback suggests that students would like the league to continue next year. The pool competition has not been as popular as anticipated and I believe a similar structure to the poker league would encourage repeat entrants and boost sales.

The weekly Sunday quiz was an extremely popular fixture at Oxstalls again this year with Open the Box proving an additional draw for students. Karaoke, party nights and Reunion were all well attended and sales reflect this. With SU staff and students providing their DJ services free of charge, costs for equipment hire have been the only extra cost on Karaoke nights and with the continued support of USS, this cost has been kept to a minimum.

Staff turnover this year is nil and the team continues to be extremely supportive, flexible and motivated which contributes significantly to the student experience and ambience within the bar.

It is unfortunate that in the current financial climate it looks likely that some replacement furniture will be required for next year simply down to wear and tear and not malicious damage. The glass washer repair is another cost the bar didn't foresee. However, the high standards of cleanliness adopted by the SU bar team and the swift ongoing maintenance response by University staff, Maintenance & the cleaning staff (with special thanks to Jan Lodge, Rachel Porter & Trevor) has, in my view played a significant part in 'nipping in the bud' potentially higher repair costs.

Feedback across the years has denoted an extremely rewarding and enjoyable student experience and it has been a pleasure being in a position where 'making a difference' and impacting positively in this area is possible.

Extra income sources are available over the summer break with a number of functions & events from both private and commercial parties. The Christmas,

Easter and Summer breaks are areas that, it is expected, will be tapped into with more vigour over the coming months.

My team at Oxstalls is to be credited and have proved an invaluable resource again this year. These individuals have contributed greatly to the smooth running of the venue and I am extremely confident that all will continue in their employment next year.

Steve Mitten  
Oxstalls Bar Manager

## **11.0 Elections**

The Students' Union elections for next year's officers were held a month later than last year, in March, due to the Easter break moving back to April. There were several changes to this year's election, the main one being that the overall budget for the elections went from £2000 to £500; however this did not impact on the number of candidates standing or voter turnout.

It was decided to stick with 3 full time positions due to the status of the overall SU budget. There were discussions about a Media or Environmental full time officer in 2009, but there would not be money available for them. The President agrees strongly with his predecessor that reinstating a fourth full time officer would be beneficial for everyone, not least the students at Pittville.

At the end of the nominations period, there had been 12 candidates for the full time positions however for differing reasons, 3 candidates withdrew before voting day. All positions were fiercely contested with only minor issues for the Elections Committee to resolve. Last year there were only 5 candidates for the full time positions, so this year has seen an increase of 150% in terms of full time candidates. This is a clear indication of the importance the SU has had in students' lives this year, and could also be linked to the job market (that graduates are about to enter) being even tougher than usual this year.

There were candidates for 6 of the 11 part time 'Exec' positions, with 2 being contested. This again is an increase in candidates from last year.

Online voting was discussed as it has been for the last few years, but due to not being able to guarantee the security of electronic voting, paper voting was utilized again. Plans for online voting in 2010 are already being made, and it looks like it could be the first year where it could be implemented.

Overall 1293 students voted, which is 15% of the student population. This is a 65% increase from last year's 782 students (9% of the population) and against a national average of around 12% of the population. Credit for this has to be shared between the Elections Committee, the candidates, their teams and the Students' Union as a whole for providing such an excellent service this year that many more students want to be a part of.

## **12.0 Executive Council**

Like last year, the SU Executive Council has worked hard on varying tasks throughout the year. Meetings were originally arranged on a fortnightly basis in the view of regularly discussing student, SU and University issues. The President would like to comment that the regular meetings started strongly, but in the latter stages of the year it became increasingly difficult for the Exec team to meet. This was largely a result of employment; work load, the elections and the continuing need for Officers (both full time and part time) to help out in the day-to-day running of the Union.

Several members of the Executive Council ran in the elections again, either to remain in their post or for one of the full time positions next year. 2 members of the Executive Council ran for the position of President next year. Though neither was successful, they ran incredibly strong campaigns based on their experience of being an Executive Officer and also in various other roles they have volunteered their time to whilst studying.

The President would like to thank the Executive Council for all of their hard work this year. There have been numerous issues where, at a moment's notice, the SU has needed their time and support; both of which they have willingly provided without once complaining.

## **13.0 Website**

In September 2008 the web team had a major change when our previous web developer left and we employed two second year computing students on part time contracts. Both have strong design and technical skills. Over the first few months their main aim was to get to grips with the BAM system, which had been in function for the previous year.

Some main changes and improvements have happened to the website throughout the year. One main aspect of the site that has been changed is the 'nav bar' menu (links menu) on the left of the website. It was noted that the 'nav bar' had accumulated a number of problems including repeated links, dead links etc. So, this was refined and a brand new menu was created. This was also integrated with a BAM update of the system which made it a lot easier to edit the order and number of items in the 'nav bar'.

Another improvement to the main site was keeping content flowing. In the past, some items had been stuck in the main news for a long time, images were not changed in the rotating images etc which meant that when people visited the website it made it look like it wasn't being updated. So, this year items have been constantly updated, new events put up straight away, the main rotating images used to further push events/important information and so on, showing that the Students' Union website is a busy place to visit.

Finally, other key improvements to the website have been the addition of a more aesthetically pleasing main sports page, the constant updates of many minisites, adding an easy to listen function for the Tone Radio minisite, keeping the JobShop pages up to date, making sure the Space Newspaper is always added to the web and also the improvement to the Shop layout to give it a more professional look. Overall, this has led to a more interactive and better presented Students' Union website.

There have also been problems that have occurred throughout the year. One of these was that Tone Radio wanted a more interactive and somewhat independent site compared to their minisite that they have on the SU website. However, this was not possible due to the limitations of the BAM system, so with discussions it was decided for an external website (similar to that of the Space Blog site) to be made, which is currently under construction to be fully accessible for the start of the new term in September 09.

Overall, [www.yourstudentsunion.com](http://www.yourstudentsunion.com) has had a great year and seen many improvements which have enabled it to be that much more helpful, interactive and better to visit for everyone. Over the summer of 2009, more improvements and additions will be made to the site including an improvement of the site's skin, layout and overall look to make it that much better for students and everyone to visit.

## **14.0 Financial Management**

This has been a difficult financial year for the Students' Union and based on the results to the end of March the forecast is for a deficit of £40k at 31 July 2009. As our funding from the University is insufficient to cover all our services, we are heavily dependent on our commercial services for generating the income necessary to maintain our huge contribution to the retention and the student experience. Our commercial income has been below budget this year consistent with the wider economy and therefore we have had to cut costs wherever possible whilst ensuring that our services to students do not suffer.

Unfortunately our move to increasing the number and quality of entertainment events during Freshers was not a success with students. In addition to starting the year with a deficit on entertainments, our other key events (e.g. Christmas Ball, Halloween Ball etc) have also been less popular and generated little income. Because of these problems the traditional Summer Ball at Cheltenham Racecourse was cancelled as insufficient tickets were sold to make the event financially viable.

The shorter academic year is having a significant impact on the income we can generate from the bars and profitability has reduced as we have not passed on all price increases to students.

We have made considerable efforts to reduce expenses, whilst trying to still offer a quality service to students. For example, we have not recruited replacement staff when positions become vacant, have reduced casual staff hours, printed Space newspaper internally, printed election ballot papers internally and not making any purchases which are not essential.

We continue to look for alternative ways to generate income as we cannot cut costs further without removing some of the services we provide. Our latest draft of the budget for 2009/10 shows a deficit of £40k and we hope that consideration will be given by the University to increasing the funding for the Students' Union.

The draft budget assumes that next year will be another difficult year for generating income and has already taken account of some significant cutbacks in expenses such as not replacing our two placement students, operating with three bar managers to cover the four bars, and reducing sports expenditure by £23k compared with the 2008/09 budget.

Cashflow has become more of an issue for us this year as it has become more difficult to obtain payment from our customers. In particular we are experiencing long delays in receiving payment from the University and are owed over £50k with some invoices over 6 months old.

## **15.0 Community Engagement**

The Students' Union is very aware of the positive and negative impacts that our students can have on the local community. We are aware that we are well placed to try and accentuate the positives and minimise the negatives and lots of time is spent working with many local partner agencies to ensure this occurs.

Elsewhere in the report you will have seen many examples of the wonderful projects which contribute greatly to the wider community. These include the projects we run directly through our volunteering shop as well as allowing our expertise and premises to be used including Tone Radio providing expertise to the Wychwood festival and our Park bar venue playing host to numerous charity events including:

Sue Ryder Cares Midnight Walk  
Hayes Recruitment – Charity Quiz  
GCHQ's Charity Gala Evening.

In addition to these very visible contributions the Students' Union staff contribute to lots of local meetings within the area including:

Cheltenham Business Partnership  
Economic Partnership  
Cheltenham Community Safety Partnership  
Gloucester Crime Reduction Partnership  
Gloucester Licensed Victuallers Association  
FCH Neighbourhood Liaison Meeting  
Park Neighbourhood Liaison Meeting  
Cheltenham Safe  
Nightsafe Management Committee  
Reducing Alcohol Related Violence Steering Group  
Police Community Support Officers Co-ordination meeting.  
Police Neighbourhood Panels.

Our role within the various committees plays a vital role within the region given the large student community which we represent.

## **16.0 Sound Environmental Impact**



Within the Students' Union it is not just what we do but how we do it which we think is important. Last year we entered the Sound Environmental Impact Awards for the first time and achieved 'working towards accreditation' status. Following a year of hard work we are pleased to be able to report that following this years audit we have been awarded a Silver Award.

The audit covers 192 criteria and is a thorough sweep across all of our activities.

Having achieved the Silver Award our challenge in future years will be how we continue to improve upon this. Many of the requirements to help us do so are larger and require much more commitment in terms of time and finances.

We welcome the recent news that the University will be part of the next cohort of institutions within the Carbon Management programme and believe that this will align well with our Sound Impact work next year.

## **17.0 Appointments**

In keeping with our stance on student employment, the Students' Union has employed more students than ever before.

As well as our entire bar staff who are current students, we have actively recruited to fill vacancies with students where appropriate.

We have also had two full time placement positions in the offices this year, however due to our budgetary position; we will not be looking to fill these roles next year.

After our previous web developer left, we replaced him with two current students who have done a fantastic job of keeping [www.yourstudentsunion.com](http://www.yourstudentsunion.com) innovative and up to date.

The new role of Jobshop Assistant is being funded by Keith Sharp and has provided cover for the Jobshop Coordinator whilst she project manages Jobshop Temps. It has also given another current student experience of working within a dynamic organisation and boosts their CV and future career prospects.

The SU has also casually employed three students to be our promotions assistants. One of their main tasks is to deliver Space Newspaper to the campuses and improve distribution to students.

The following appointments were made during 2008/09

- Robbie Pert - Tone Radio Station Manager
- Jenny Poll - FCH Bar Manager
- Niki Rose – Design Assistant (1 Year Placement)
- Leanne Davies – Events Assistant (1 Year Placement) \*
- Jack Hobbs - Web Developer\*
- Ben Richardson - Web Developer\*
- Sian Graves – Receptionist\*
- Lisa Flint-Elkins - Jobshop Assistant\*
- Louise Page - Promotions Assistant\*
- Waileng Loo - Promotions Assistant\*
- Sally Richards - Promotions Assistant\*
- Abigail Ponton - Voluntary basis to assist Duncan Lean & the rep admin\*

\* Indicates a student member of staff

## **18.0 Executive Team 2009/10**

The following data gives a detailed vote breakdown of the elections for the 2009/10 Full Time and Part Time Executive Officers:

<b>President</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Martin Homer	113	18	88	29	248
Leigh Moore	97	57	199	279	632
Isobel Hooley	19	44	60	7	130
Alex Gollcher	112	56	58	20	246
RON	5	1	3	1	10
Spoilt	8	8	3	8	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

<b>Education and Welfare</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Rich Partington	85	73	130	114	402
David Tavernor	40	39	176	56	311
Emma Neath	209	47	88	134	478
RON	8	10	6	6	30
Spoilt	12	15	11	34	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

<b>Sports Officer</b>	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gary McLean	189	87	231	235	742
Chris Chedzoy	141	72	168	105	486
RON	11	5	4	1	21
Spoilt	13	20	8	3	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

<b>Exec Secretary</b>					
	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hollie Burgess	294	117	339	240	990
RON	28	10	22	20	80
Spoilt	32	57	50	84	223
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

<b>Environment Executive</b>					
	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Christopher Bateman	269	111	333	233	946
RON	46	14	26	23	109
Spoilt	39	59	52	88	238
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

<b>Education Executive</b>					
	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Samuel Cranmer	189	47	189	144	569
Tim Cobbett	105	69	162	101	437
RON	22	58	21	18	119
Spoilt	38	10	39	81	168
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

<b>International Executive</b>					
	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Rowdy Kit Fabon	273	114	332	231	950
RON	39	13	31	30	113
Spoilt	42	57	48	83	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

**Events Executive**

	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ashleigh Stevens	51	24	77	63	215
Emily Orchard	194	71	157	150	572
*David Wray	60	25	114	35	184
RON	16	13	19	22	70
Spoilt	33	51	44	74	202
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1243</b>

\* Candidate deducted 50 votes for breaking election rules

<b>LGBT Executive</b>					
	<b>Park</b>	<b>Pittville</b>	<b>FCH</b>	<b>Oxstalls</b>	<b>Total</b>
Michael Findlay	255	109	324	234	922
RON	58	19	34	23	134
Spoilt	41	56	53	87	237
<b>Total</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>1293</b>

Total Declarations	<b>Ox</b>	344	Ballots	<b>Ox</b>	344
	<b>FCH</b>	414		<b>FCH</b>	411
	<b>Park</b>	354		<b>Park</b>	354
	<b>Pitt</b>	181		<b>Pitt</b>	184
	<b>Total</b>	1293		<b>Total</b>	1293

4 Postal votes were included in the Pitt count

Turnout (Approx %) **Total** 15.40%

## **19.0 Concluding Comments**

I feel extremely privileged to have been President of the Students' Union. It has given me the chance to do so many things I would never have the opportunity to do anywhere else, and for that I am very grateful. It has been an absolute pleasure to come into the offices each day and work with such a fantastic and supporting team.

I am particularly proud of the work that has been done in regards to student representation this year. The SU has done a great job of introducing a system that, while in its infancy, is already proving to be working and producing results.

There have been many testing times this year. I will never forget the morning of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008, when (as a person that has studied media and journalism for over 5 years) I lost a lot of my faith in the British media when lies and many inaccurate facts were reported about the University of Gloucestershire and its students. I can only wish that the truths which were subsequently published in Space would be read by the journalists and audience that were subject to such misrepresentation of what was printed and broadcast.

The cancellation of the traditional Summer Ball at Cheltenham Racecourse was another controversial moment for the SU this year, but was done out of necessity. The Summer Ball, as it was, was always a huge financial risk for the Students' Union and one I was not willing to take this year. As was stated in last year's annual report 'there is [was] a decision to be made regarding the future of the Summer Ball'. We gave our students the chance to save the event from cancellation by buying their tickets in advance, however not enough were sold for us to take a financial risk on an events which costs upwards of £100,000 and many work hours to put on.

I'd like to thank my fellow elected officers for their continued hard work over the past 12 months. The staff at the SU is a great team, lead by the hardest working man I've ever known in Ian Pain. Their dedication is the main reason the SU succeeds in almost everything it does, despite limited resources.

The Students' Union continues to provide a pivotal role in providing and enhancing the student experience. Whilst everyone is feeling the brunt of the recession, if the Students' Union were to be given (even a little) more block grant, this would ease the pressure on our commercial services and allow us to engage even more students and provide an even better service for them.

It has been the biggest privilege I've ever had to have lived and worked in the Students' Union.

James Durant  
Students' Union President 2008/09