

Officer Report – Academic Affairs 2007/2008
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Hey all!

For most of you this will be the most boring part of the UGM so I apologise and will do my best to keep it relatively interesting – but no promises. Stealing Anso's idea I will go over my manifesto aims and explain the developments in those, before going on to talk about the other things I have been involved in and will shiftily conclude on my future plans.

- **Research NUS campaigns and inform students.**
The lack on exec notice boards have been problematic but I have ordered NUS toolkits for anonymous marking and equality campaigns which when I get them I will be displaying everywhere.
- **Better Assignment feedback**
We have managed to put a policy through the university to ensure that lecturers have to inform students when they will receive assignments back. If it is over three weeks then they must give students a date so make sure they do, if not then complain. Also I have just been employed but the university to act as a research assistant researching if the language used in feedback is helpful and if not how to set guide lines for it to be improved.
- **Mark My Words Campaign**
I thought it would best to research whether students actually wanted this campaign first. So as of yet I have asked 157 students of which 102 are for anonymous marking, 36 against and 19 uninterested. I will put it on the union website when I manage to put it in tables and graphs and other fancy things.
- **Keep Wednesday's Free**
The policy still stands that students should be lecture free on Wednesday afternoon. We have received numerous complaints that this isn't the case and Steve has sorted that out. Continue to tell us if that changes.
- **Work with Student Services**
I have emailed them and they said that they will get back to me when they want help promoting skills and or events – as of yet that's the last I have heard.
- **Maintain the Student academic reps aka. S.T.A.R System**
I have worked with Tim Moss to completely change the handbook. Also promoted at freshers fair about the reps and how people can get involved. We put on two training days in October and will have another two later this month. Now due to Tim's hard work reps can find out their meeting times in what's on Winchester. We have also got faulty reps written into the relevant committee constitutions to ensure student representation.
- **Revise the current Library Fines System**

This year I have got the library to agree that 24 hour loans will not be done by hour but by day which has dramatically reduced unnecessary fines. Also in talks to them to email students a day or two before their fines are due rather than when they already have fines. I have researched other libraries in the south and that is available for students on the union website. Lastly I have set up a library forum on Monday to allow students to have their say to library staff and get things changed for the better.

Besides those I have helped out in fresher fortnight and fair. Been to two regional conferences, one extra-ordinary conference, and women's conference and got elected to national conference in April. I sit on Academic Standard committee, Learning and Teaching committee and Senate. I have sat on many many disciplinaries and a couple of academic appeals. I have taken student concerns straight to lecturers and will continue to do so. Since Emily has sadly left I have chaired Equality and diversity committee and been attempting to look after liberation groups. Finally I have attended exec meetings weekly and most importantly I have been part of the league winning women's football team. (aware that's not relevant but wanted to throw it in there.)

My plans for the remaining months include plugging Graduate Career fair on the 14th Feb, so love your future! Hopefully I will be working closer with student services to promote study skills especially the run up to exams. Go to women's conference and in March and be a tour rep. Complete Mark My words research. Get more student opinion on the library. Establish a mature students society and forever continue to promote academic quality and universal equality.

Love Winchester, Love exec, love your future!

Thank you very much