

**Elle Gray  
President**

## **Union Council – February 2008**

Catering – Oral Update  
Sabb Hours – Oral Update  
UPEL/UPSULiason – Oral Update  
NUS Motions – Oral Update

### **Newspaper Issues**

As some of you may know, Pugwash news had to print a retraction of a front page story because the University threatened legal action against us if we did not. We are now putting mechanisms in place to ensure that this should never happen again. To protect our trustees and student journalists we will be giving them legal and journalistic training, and a permanent member of staff (Mike Cooter, Communications Manager) will oversee the paper.

### **Tripartite Update**

I had a meeting with the Leader of the Council and the VC of the University, and we discussed many issues including Student Safety, Crime, Housing, Recycling, Flooding, City Space and Volunteering. I asked for a Student representation on the Safer Portsmouth Partnership and we will now have a place. We have always had a place but previous Sabbs have not taken up the offer. A fence will also be taken down on Winston Churchill Avenue to reduce incidents of crime. We are also working on setting up a map of incidents involving students to see if there are any “hot spots” that need extra attention.

### **Union Strategy**

We are currently reviewing other documents from Student Unions across the Country to see how other SU's have gone through their strategic processes. It is a lot of work, but very exciting to know that by doing this we are ensuring a strong Union for the Future. We have also set up a working group to propose how we consult with students and other stakeholders in this process.

### **QAA**

### **Fees Debate**

The campaign against fees continues with our Fees debate, and a campaign asking students how much debt they are in.

### **Trade Union Links**

Ben and I have met with local Unison reps and attended a meeting to strengthen links between organisations. It was very interesting and we may be copying some ideas about how to increase attendance!

### **Planning Elections**

We have included new opportunities like Videos of the candidates and a far reaching overhaul of “Hustings” to increase understanding of the process and reach a wider audience.