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**President**

## **Union Council – March 2007**

### **Elections**

The past fortnight has understandably been dominated by preparations for elections fortnight. The process has worked smoothly and effectively and a number of interesting ideas have come to fruition that I would like to see continue over the years.

### **Candidates Questions Time**

Building upon the success of last year it was great to see PUREfm get back onboard with the question time sessions. It is great to find another forum to which candidates can be engaged and challenged over their manifestos. If we are to 'Smash Apathy' then these are exactly the kind of mechanisms that we need to set in place. Issues did arise over the professionalism over some of the sessions, but we shouldn't forget that these are not professionals running the shows.

### **Hustings**

Traditionally hustings have been a rather raucous occasion with intelligent debate left to the sidelines. It was the intention this year to address this balance, to which reasonable progress has been made. All of the hustings were attended to a degree and it was welcoming to see that the hustings process even found its way onto a forum thread on UPSU.net. The hustings were flexible enough to react to the atmosphere within the audience, we also put a lot of thought into the activities as these can very easily become overlong and tedious if not carefully managed. The hustings also found their way onto the podcasts which has proved very helpful as the candidates can struggle to be heard over the crowds.

### **UPSU Finances**

I am very happy to pass on the praise received at the Board of Governors Finance and IT meeting that welcomed the financial stability of the charitable aspect of UPSU. This is just another little reminder of the considerable steps that UPSU has taken over the past two years to establish genuine respect among the University Directorate and Board of Governors.

### **Building Openings**

Over the past two weeks there have been a number of building openings on the University Campus that I have attended. Firstly there was the Spinnaker building which was very interesting to see the equipment used by those undertaking a sports science degree. It almost made me think it was a real course! This was followed by the Leaning Direct building which has sees UoP committed to being a centre of excellence for foundation degrees.

By the time this report is presented at Union Council I will expect to see all members of the new team there. I wish them all the best in their new position and I trust they will take the union to bigger and brighter heights.