

**Elle Gray**  
**Student Support Officer**

## **Union Council – April 2007**

### **British Council Meeting – International Students**

I had a meeting with a lady from the British Council to discuss provision and representation for International students at Portsmouth. She was really pleased with our work on things like the Carnival, Volunteering, Society activity and the new International students' representative that will form a part of the Ethics, Equality and Diversity Committee next year.

### **NUS Conference – Blackpool.**

This was my first experience of National Conference and I found it really interesting. The incoming media officer, Alex Harries is putting together a mini site on UPSU.net so we can all give a detailed review of our experience.

### **RAG Amsterdam Hitch Hike**

Firstly I want to thank all the Union staff who helped making this project happen. It was the first time we had ever run a hitch hike so there were many legal implications and logistical surprises along the way. The actual hitch was a huge success, 72 people got all the way to Amsterdam safely - 2 people gave us a bit of a worry by not checking in properly so they were assumed missing and reported as such to the police, but they finally made contact while I was in the police station! Everyone behaved really well, the campsite said they would have us back next year and the trip should raise between £4,000 -£7,000 for our charities. The trip also generated a lot of fundraising ideas.

### **LGBT Substance misuse**

I had a meeting with the head of the LGBT substance misuse programme in Portsmouth to discuss promotion of the service. This service is one of only two in the whole country so I am glad we can be a part of this new programme.

### **Little Big Voice Lectures**

I won a place on this conference because of the campaigning work I've done over the years. The main point of the conference was how to get media attention for your cause. We had lectures from top people in the cutting edge of Advertising, Design, Marketing, Websites/Bloggers, Creative and Community thinkers. It was also great to meet the other delegates who are from a wide range of backgrounds, and will be really useful contacts for next year.

**RAG plans for the rest of the year.**

RAG week will run Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May. We have plans for a slave auction with celebrity guest, speed dating, RAG Jail, and lecture hits. RAG week also coincides with the Societies Carnival so we're planning a fancy dress fun-run, balloon release, an assault course and a World record attempt for the Biggest game of Twister.