

Union Council – November 2007

This month:

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Media Exec

The first three Media Exec meetings have now been conducted, and Gamel Oki, Pugwash magazine editor, has been elected as chairperson. The Media Exec's remit is not tightly defined, but its aim is to help speed the passage of information between the Union's various media forms to foster a spirit of openness of information and to assist in allowing the Union's various activities to better publicise themselves across Union media. I would ask that the Union Council bear with us while the five members of the exec - as well as myself - find our feet in the roles, but to please feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Pure FM

Both in their official report to the Media Exec, and from conversations had with committee members, Pure FM report that they are working well as a team, with student DJs and presenter being trained and given shows. The station is also running a number of outside broadcasts, or OBs, over the coming weeks, allowing them to broadcast a range of live events coverage from events within and without the Union. I am confident that this, and the committee's recent commitment to creating advertising media for their various radio shows for distribution internally, shows they are working well both as a team and as an arm of UPSU Media. Finally, the station are also working well with the Pugwash News newspaper and Pugwash magazine teams to develop a presence for themselves in the newspaper.

Pugwash News newspaper

Issue 4 of the newspaper has now come out and is available on campus, both within the Union and in various University buildings, as well as having been distributed to students' halls of residence. I am somewhat awe-struck by the team's hard work and dedication, as well as their ability to work through or around any issues which have arisen during the creation procedure, and am thoroughly impressed by the standard of content and presentation the paper is continuing to achieve.

Pugwash Magazine

As you read this, Issue 1 of the magazine should be at the printer's being turned into the first issue of the magazine for the 2007-2008 academic year. Once again, the Pugwash magazine team and the Union's Communications Manager have worked extremely hard to create this publication, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude that we as a Union continue to work so hard to create such a high quality product.

I have also been collating and cataloguing all the back issues of the magazine I can find, with a large number of issues dating back to 1998 now available to anyone who would like one - for more information, please visit www.pugwashmag.com and go to the Back Issues page.

Media Suite

The Union's Media Suite, which includes four iMac computers, and one high-end video production PC, have been in almost constant use over the last month. At the time of writing, I believe we have a solution to the shared storage issues in the pipeline which should be in operation - I hope - no later than the 20th November. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for the problems which have been encountered thus far, and to thank the staff and students for their patience in this matter.

UPSU.net

The Union's online presence continues to grow, with additional functionality in the form of group and communications management tools being developed. A large amount of the website's content is currently being refreshed, and the templates which control how the web pages look have also undergone a considerable refresh. Work has also taken place on improving navigation around the site, as well as an extensive re-work of the information and help pages which list contact details, provide opening hours and directions to the Union, and other content which has not been updated in a considerable amount of time.

Looking to the future, I am keen to hand over ownership of individual pages to various key members of staff and student volunteers to ensure their maintenance and development continues well into the future. All interested parties should beat a path to my desk with immediate effect...