

Andrew Machin
Education & Representation Officer

AGM – May 2008

Aims for the start of the year: -

Improve the course rep structure – Done
Postgraduate Issues to be dealt with – Ongoing
Improve the Union Disciplinary structure – Done

Extra Achievements of note: -

Top-up fees debate
Course Rep Review
Coursework receipts

My year in office has been a very exciting and challenging one. A year in the life of a sabbatical officer is a hectic, whirlwind time, which throws many challenges your way. However, I have loved every moment of it and am extremely happy and proud to say that I have another year to look forward to.

When I came into office the course rep structure was in slight disarray and so I completely revamped the course rep structure, and now it runs efficiently and deals with all student problems as effectively as possible. There is now a fully functioning course rep exec council and this has really helped course reps to express their concerns, it takes place once a month and considering it is in its first year, is very well attended. The training was much improved this year as well, and I feel that this has set the reps (who have been trained) in good stead for their future at university and in the working world.

The Course Rep review is now finished and I am now waiting for feedback from staff at the university. I have made several key suggestions and recommendations about what needs to happen if course reps are to progress, so it will be interesting to see what the University do. It is your job as students to hold the University to account on what they have actually contributed to course reps and if they aren't holding up their end of the bargain tell Steve and he will make sure they do.

The Disciplinary structure at the Students' Union is now as democratic and fair as possible and the guideline bans that I created at the beginning of the year have really helped with handing out appropriate and consistent bans.

Postgraduate students have been notoriously difficult to reach in the past and this year has unfortunately not been much different. There have however, been recent developments that suggest that there will possibly be a postgrad/mature students' society set up for the start of next year.

The top-up fees debate went really well and although attendance was not as high as I had hoped, many issues were raised and good arguments put forward. I would like to see more events like this held next year as I feel that with more of these issues being raised the more people will actually start to act, which is vital if we are to continue being a campaigning union.

Coursework receipts – There have been many complaints raised over coursework receipts and I am now looking into what can be done to improve this. King Henry and Mildam are the 2 main perpetrators and I have finally managed to get the University to set up a working group to tackle this issue, which is a big step in the right direction.