

**Steve Topazio**  
**Union Council Chair 2007/08**

### **AGM Report – May 2008**

This year has been a very successful year within Union Council with the democratic structure being changed meaning a greater diversity of students are now being represented. All members who get to vote in Union Council are now elected by the membership within the different groups within the Union, i.e Course Reps and AU exec. This change to the structure has meant that votes can no longer be swung by loading the council with friends. Whilst this may have indirectly led to a slight decrease in attendance I do feel that the changes made are good ones.

This year has also seen a big increase in the number of motions being submitted to Union Council which has sparked some interesting debate. The most interesting debate of the year was no doubt the role of the sabbatical officers which led to the highest turn out this year and meant that some union council members became more aware of the Union and what it counts for. In total 8 motions were passed and 2 failed. As the year went on more members gained the confidence to speak and meant the debates became better.

For next year I would like to see the following improvements made to Union Council:

- Better publicity of Union Council so that the students are aware of the upcoming meetings and know what Union Council is
- Members of Union Council to read motions before the meetings so that any questions can be answered before the meetings, as debate rather than point clarification is the aim of council
- Proper training of Union Council so that members know their roles and responsibilities and the do's and don't of council and how to conduct themselves. Too many times this year the chair has been ignored and talked over.
- Slot in newspaper the week before council to inform the members of the agenda for the upcoming council.
- Slot in newspaper the week after council to inform the membership of the decisions made at council.

I would like to thank the members of Union Council for all their hard work this year on Council and I look forward to working with some of you again next year.