

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Council Report – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

This semester has been an extremely busy one for all officers & staff at HUU. It began with the success of Welcome week and is ending with the drafting of new governing documents. I will give a brief overview of the events of the past three months.

With BBC Radio 5 live broadcasting a number of shows in Hull for 'Octoberfest,' HUU were scheduled to host the Richard Bacon Show on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. After a number of discussions with the BBC, it became clear that they wanted to do a 'BNP themed' show and as such, were unable to use our venue because of our 'No Platform' policy passed last year. During October, I also attended a workshop on how to interpret the results of the National Student Survey; which is the most comprehensive survey in assessing what issues are affecting Students both in Hull and nationally. At the first meeting of the Trustee board, a number of issues were discussed and our plans for the year got their final approval. A number of changes were made to our strategy going forward and our mission has changed to being to 'Develop, inform and improve the student experience at the University of Hull'. I also attended 2 NUS zone conferences (Society & Citizenship and Union Development) in Manchester. These were useful to see the work by the national union and unions across the country in order to share best practice and help HUU to improve in various areas. I also was elected to the national union development committee which will ensure HUU has a voice in formulating policy of NUS.

### **Some of the Key Achievements this Semester**

- In November, we were reaccredited as Investors in People. This involved a cross-section of staff, part-time & full-time, being interviewed by the assessor. We were also informed that we have improved considerably since the last assessment.  
'I've been witness to a fair few IiP reports, and this has to be the most positive I have seen ever seen...as 'role models' for an organisation, few would rival HUU' 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009
- After persistent lobbying of EYMS, and after a successful trial, there are now bus services that run from Asylum to the Halls of Residences on Wednesday & Saturday nights when Asylum closes. This will mean that students will save money and be guaranteed to be able to get home safely at the end of the night, regardless of whether they are in a group or on their own.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Redevelopment – Plans are now complete for the Union building's 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. There will be 7 new meeting rooms for societies as well as new student services. 'The Square' will close and student finance and admin will move on to the floor. The Accommodation office will also move into the Union building.
- Commercially the Union is improving, meeting ambitious budgets in order to fill the deficits of last year. Events have been consistently busier and we are getting a larger number of customers during the day. This has been achieved through the relocation of the shop, a better standard of service and more innovative marketing.
- After a number of conversations with the VC and members of University staff, we are now in the position to submit a proposal about how the Union is best placed to provide quality assurance when it comes to housing. We have persisted in assisting the Scheme for a number of years now but it is still not delivering for Students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all officers, staff and volunteers for their hard work this semester and the outstanding level of commitment shown to improving the student experience in Hull. I also wish them all a merry (but restful) Christmas, and a happy new year.

