

Council report

14 December 2009- week 12

This semester started with many vacancies in union Council. A lot of the positions were vacant including all the positions on the Senate and various vacancies are in different zones. During the volunteering bazaar we tried to get as many students as possible to stand for the vacant positions. During the course of this semester we ran an election to fill the vacancies. All the positions and Senate are now filled by one and all other positions advertised are now filled. It was good to see that most elections were contested, and many students who did not know about the democratic process of the union were standing for positions.

The positions in Scarborough which were vacant at the start of the year have now also been filled. There were several vacancies and Scarborough have carried out elections to fill them, which now means they have a full Scarborough Exec committee.

This year was the first year to adopt the new zone structure. Most of them are now complete there are however some vacancies on some of the zones which are being filled internally. Their meetings are a good opportunity for everyone involved in that particular zone to share any plans they have and to discuss any relevant points. I feel they have worked well this semester. As we have run them once we can work on making them more convenient for certain zones this includes ideas such as the timing so that all members of the zone can attend.

During the first councils of this semester many positive changes took place for the union including several important standing orders being passed and the site is being ratified eventually. During this council will also be several standing orders some to do with the elections in semester two weeks 5- which are of course very important. I can see a new agenda that will give more detail on this later on.

Shaun the chair of the environment and ethical committee and I have been working on an environmental campaign. We now have a copy of 'Age of Stupid' which is a movie which we want to show to students to highlight the dangers of human activity in terms of global warming. We also plan to talk to students in particular on Taylor Court and the lawns to give them publicity and advice on how they can reduce not only their own bills but also the damage to the environment.

For next semester we plan to make their meetings at times which will be better for all zones so that all their members can attend and politically relevant to the welfare zone. There is also planning for the elections in semester two which I will talk about further as you can see in your agenda.