

AGM'10



Annual General Meeting 2010

Agenda and Reports
February 2nd 2010 - 6pm



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What is the AGM?

The Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity for all Kent Union members to play a part in the democracy of the organisation. Throughout the duration of the meeting Sabbatical Officers, Site Presidents and Part-time Officers will all report on their activities and members will have an opportunity to put questions to the representatives. Likewise any member of Kent Union can ask questions regarding the financial statements for 2008/09 and the budget for 2009/10.

All of the motions which will be debated tonight have been submitted by students of the University and any member can join in with debating and voting on the motions. This is YOUR opportunity to input on the future of YOUR Student Union.

Please turn your phones off/ keep them on silent for the duration of the meeting. If they go off you will be fined £1 which goes to RAG.

Please be courteous and considerate to others in the meeting, especially those making speeches. ABSOLUTE silence is required during speeches and during voting. Anyone deemed to be disrupting the meeting WILL be removed from the hall.

The Chair

The Chair consists of three people; the Union Chair and the two Vice Chairs. It is the responsibility of the chair to ensure that the meetings of union council and the AGM are run as robustly as possible, whilst also ensuring that both meetings are run as efficiently as they can be so that the two meetings are able to carry out their duties of deciding policy for the Union and holding its' officers to account. During a debate, it is the chair's job to ensure that a debate is carried out fairly so that both sides have equal opportunity to have a say. In the event that a constitutional interpretation is required, the Union Chair's ruling is sought.

Staff Student Protocol (extract)

Kent Union is a democratic organisation which works under the direction of its students and student officers. Kent Union employs staff to support student officers and provide professional advice, managerial expertise and continuity. Staff are also often responsible for the implementation of political policy.

Kent Union is committed to being an excellent employer and strives to create a positive and productive working environment. Kent Union places a high level of importance on the relationship between staff and officers.

Broadly, the work of staff is to be directed by the management structure, and Elected Officers' impact on the day-to-day work of staff should be limited to the development of political policy, discussions within the Board of Trustees, and discussions with the Directors

The Board of Trustees will be the only elected body empowered to discuss individual staff members, and to discuss matters relating to recruitment, appointment, remuneration and terms and conditions of staff.

The elected officers of the Union should actively ensure that discussions on individual staff members, on conduct, performance, recruitment and of terms and conditions do not take place in either informal or formal Union meetings, or:

- In University or external media
- On online fora or websites
- In formal and informal union meetings

The Role of Staff

Staff are expected to provide professional advice to the elected officers in their areas of expertise, but may not seek to unduly influence political policy decisions or the political policy positions of officers.

Staff may not participate in, or seek to influence, the democratic processes of the Union.

Staff should not comment on political policy or political direction, including:

- In University or external media
- On online fora or websites
- In formal and informal union meetings.

Staff should not enter into discussion with Union members as to the performance of Union officers.

Unless defined as "Student Staff" in accordance with section 3.0 above, the responsibilities and restrictions placed on staff members shall override the privileges of Union membership.

In practice:

- Staff members cannot participate in democratic meetings.

- Staff members should not stand or vote in any Union elections.

Student Staff shall enjoy the full rights and privileges of membership, save for any restriction placed on that staff member whilst on duty.

In particular:

Student Staff may not campaign on an issue or in an election whilst on duty for Kent Union

The restrictions on Staff outlined above apply to Student Staff whilst on duty or acting as a staff member.

RULES: DEBATING

DE1 Principles of Debate

DE1.1 The Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that all debates are fair, inclusive and robust. In particular, the Chair shall:

- Be impartial and not participate in debate.
- Ensure that debates are 'balanced'.
- Ensure that students are given an equal opportunity to participate.
- Ensure that only one item is discussed at any one point in time.
- Ensure that, as far as is possible, all items on the Agenda get discussed.
- Advise the meeting as to proper conduct with regard to this Constitution, its Rules and the Law.
- Adjourn the meeting, or remove speaking rights from individuals, if necessary to ensure the good conduct and course of business of the meeting.

DE2 Order of Debate

DE2.1 Debates should follow the following structure:

- A speech for the proposal
- A speech against the proposal
- An equal number of speeches for and against the proposal
- Summation speeches

DE2.2 The proposer and seconder of a motion will be given the opportunity to make the first two speeches for the motion.

DE2.3 The proposer of a motion will be given the opportunity to make the Summation Speech.

DE3 Process of Debates

DE3.1 Before a debate:

- The Chair will indicate the amount of time after which the debate will conclude (the Guillotine)
- The Chair will indicate the amount of time available for each speech.

DE3.2 During a Debate:

- Members should address themselves to the Chair
- Members wishing to speak should raise their hand.
- The Chair will call the first member observed.
- All speakers should be given an equal amount of time to speak.
- Members may ask a question, raise a point of order, raise a point of information or propose a procedural motion.
- The Chair may move to a vote should the meeting agree that no further discussion is required.
- The proposer of a motion may withdraw the motion

DE3.3 After a Debate:

- The proposer and first opposer of a motion shall be invited to make a summation speech, which shall contain no new information.
- A vote will take place, conducted by a show of hands.
- The Chair will record votes for, votes against and abstentions.
- The Chair will indicate if a clear majority is demonstrated.
- If a clear majority is not demonstrated the Chair will conduct a count.
- Once the Chair is satisfied as to the result of a count, the Chair's ruling on the result will be final.
- Members shall not enter or leave the room during a vote.
- Debates will require a simple majority, except where otherwise specified in the Constitution.

DE4 Interventions

DE4.1 At any time, any member may raise any of the following points of order in order to challenge the conduct of the meeting:

- PO1: A request for a count of those present to ensure that the meeting is quorate
- PO2: A request that the Chair make a ruling as to the conduct of the meeting
- PO3: A request for a Constitutional Interpretation

DE4.2 The Chair will respond to the point of order immediately.

DE4.3 At any time, any member may raise a point of information. Points of information:

- Must only contain 'matters of fact'.
- May only be given with the permission of the current speaker, or the Chair.

DE4.4 At any time, except during a vote, any member may propose one of the following procedural motions:

- i. That the meeting has no confidence in the chair and that s/he should be replaced for the remainder of the meeting
- ii. To challenge the ruling of the Chair
- iii. That there should be a further round of speeches
- iv. To move straight to a vote
- v. To adjourn the meeting for a break
- vi. That the current discussion should be resolved with a secret ballot
- vii. That a vote should be recounted
- viii. That the debate should be split into parts and voted on separately
- ix. To allow non-members to speak in the meeting.
- x. To remove speaking rights from a member of the meeting
- xi. To amend the order of items on the Agenda.

DE4.5 The proposer of the motion will be given one (1) minute to speak in favour of the procedural motion. The Chair will then seek one (1) opposer to speak for one (1) minute against the procedural motion. This will be followed by a vote.

DE4.6 In the event of procedural motion i. is proposed, the Chair will immediately give way to a Vice-Chair for the duration of the debate and vote on the procedural motion.

DE5 Amendments and Emergency Debates

DE5.1 Any member of the meeting may propose an amendment to a debate.

DE5.2 The Chair will allow for the proposer of an amendment and one opposer to speak for two (2) minutes on the amendment.

DE5.3 If no opposer is found, the amendment will be carried.

DE5.4 If, following the amendment of a debate, the original proposer of the motion no longer wishes to propose the debate, the proposer of the amendment will become the proposer.

DE5.5 Requests for emergency debates can be handed to the chair at any point before the start of the meeting.

DE5.6 Emergency debates may only be discussed during Any Other Business, and only if the meeting agrees to hear the debate following a vote.

AGM 2010 Agenda

Meeting Opens 6.00pm

1. Quorum Check

The Chair organises a count of full members to present to ensure that the Quorum of 150 has been reached.

2. Declarations of Interest

An opportunity for members to declare any business or other interest that may be relevant to the meeting

3. Permissions to attend and speak

Jim Gardner, Chief Executive

Joe Cooper, Deputy Chief Executive

Peter Cole, Director of Finance

Melanie Sharman, Representation and Democracy Manager

4. Permissions to attend

Victoria Todd, Director of Central Services

Daniel Palmer, Director of UMSA

Kirsty Sutton, Student Activities Manager

Louise Dancy, Marketing Manager

Ian Dancy, Licensed Trade Manager

Tim Vivian, Outreach Worker

Daniel Carr, Postgraduate and Representation Coordinator

Maria Mann, Clerk to the Board of Trustees

David Bolsover, Volunteering Coordinator

Jamie Stephens, Student Media Manager

Chris Comper, Nursery Manager

Marianne Ougham, Student Activities Administrator

Caroline Demetriou, Sports and Societies Coordinator

5. Briefing by the Union Chair/ Staff Student Protocol (Cai Robbins)

Outline of debating rules and student staff protocol.

6. Election of Vice Chairs

The AGM may elect up to two Vice-Chairs, who must be full members of the Union.

7. Opening Address

Helen Wood, Union President and Chair of the Board of Trustees, will address the meeting.

8. Motion Basket 1

Motion One - Let's make Union Council effective.

This Union Notes:

1. Kent Union host Union Council every third Thursday of term time.
2. Union Council exists to debate and produce Kent Union policy.
3. Union Council is a platform where officers of Kent Union can be held to account.
4. Kent Union's Board of Trustees have approved a full democracy review looking at areas of Kent Union's democracy structures.

This Union Believes:

1. Union Council is dysfunctional and discussion often becomes disjointed.
2. Union Council should be the place where policy is made through discussion and debate.
3. Union Council should be where the officers of Kent Union represent the views of the student population.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Union Presidents 09/10 and 10/11 to include improving the effectiveness of Union Council as a discussion point in the Kent Union's democracy review.
2. To ensure that the working group of the democracy review consult students on how we can improve the effectiveness, and increase the awareness of Union Council to the student population.
3. To consult with students on how to ensure that all demographics at the University of Kent are represented at Union Council appropriately and effectively.

MOTION TWO – Twinning Kent Union

This Union Notes

1. Members of the Swaziland National students union face harassment and repression despite being a legally legitimate organisation
2. Student unions have in the past 'twinned' with student unions in other countries to show solidarity
3. NUS is working with ACTSA (Action for South Africa) in Swaziland

This Union Believes

1. That students should have the right to live and study without repression
2. That members of Kent Union are lucky to be able to operate on a day to day basis without fear of harassment or persecution
3. As such, we have a responsibility to take action to protect these rights for students across the world
4. Twinning a union is a great way to show solidarity with students facing persecution

This Union Resolves

1. To mandate the union President to utilise the links NUS have with ACTSA by setting up communications with a University in Swaziland with the aim of twinning our Unions
2. To mandate the union President to reassess the status of this after two years to ensure that the communications are being made

Proposer: Jenny Bojczuk

Secunder: Samantha Kennedy

Motion Three - Entertainment for all.

This Union notes:

1. The Venue is one of the largest night clubs in the south east of Kent.
2. It provides entertainment to over 3500 students each week.
3. The Venue is open to all students 4 nights a week from Wednesday to Saturday.
4. Students can leave comments about the Venue on the Venue website at www.thevenue.co.uk
5. Kent Union are currently going through a Venue review where the concept of the club and type of entertainment that is wanted by the students is being reviewed.
6. Kent Union also run several other outlets on campus that provides entertainment for students.

This Union believes:

1. Students should have more of a say of what entertainment is in the Venue and in our outlets.
2. Students should be able to provide ideas for the Venue and to our other outlets about what type of entertainment is provided to the students of the University of Kent.
3. All students should be able to use the Venue and our outlets and therefore, the offers that we provide should be varied to allow all students to use our facilities and enjoy the entertainment.

This Union resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice-President Student Activities to work with the licence trade manager to create an entertainments committee that is made up from the study body.
2. To mandate the Vice- President Student Activities to write terms of reference for this committee.
3. To mandate the Vice- President Activities to launch the first meeting before the end of June 2009.

9. Approval of life and honorary memberships

- Alex Clarke
- Iain Kiy
- Zain Sardar
- Laura Pethers
- Tom Christian
- Danielle Tucker

10. Approval of external affiliations

- The National Union of Students (NUS)
- British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS)
- South East Student Sport Association (SESSA)
- The Association of Managers in Students' Unions (AMSU)
- The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)
- The National Association of Student Money Advisors (NASMA)
- The Institute of Money Advisers (IMA)
- The National Association of Student Employment Services (NASES)
- Advice UK
- Child Poverty Acton Group (CPAG)
- The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (NACAB)

11. Approval of Kent Union Accounts 2008 – 2009 and Approval of Kent Union Budget 2009 - 2010

Helen Wood, Chair of the Board of Trustees will introduce the Budget and Accounts

12. Approval of Kent Union Annual Report 2008 – 2009

13. Reports and Questions for Sabbatical Officers

Members may ask questions of any of the Sabbatical Officers if called upon by the chair.

Helen Wood- Union President

So far as the Kent Union President I have launched many projects that will benefit the students at the University of Kent. Much work has been done in the local community through working with the Canterbury City Council and local resident associations. Many of my manifesto points have been completed or I am still researching the possibility of them. This year Kent Union has run several campaigns that have all been suggested by students; in particular the 'Get on Board' campaign about the local buses where stagecoach are considering our recommendations. Kent Union have also been awarded with 5 awards that show that we provide outstanding student services. Finally, as the Chair to the Board of Trustees I have worked hard to review our governance arrangements and proposed recommendations to the Board and to the membership. Below you will find in more detail the work that I have done over the past 6 months:

Manifesto points-

- I have been working with Campus Watch in an attempt to make the Canterbury campus safe for our members. Discussions about the service have taken place and recommendations have been proposed to improve the service. Alongside this Campus watch allowed me to sit on their interview panels for new guards where I was allowed to ask questions from the student point of view. Furthermore, I have spoken to the police about the possibility of having a crossing at the top of Tyler hill. We have been given quotes for crossing however the highways agencies are not prepared to part with their money. The next step is to gather information that supports why students and local residents want this crossing.
- The Venue review is well on the way and on track to be developed by the end of this academic year. The concept for the Venue has been developed through Elliot People our consultants. This was concept was designed through information gathered from an on line survey, focus groups, consultation with Union Council and at the Kent Union General Meeting. The concept has been approved by the Board of trustees which leaves us to work on the design. From a suggestion made at the General Meeting we have got final year architecture students designing the balcony bar. The designs will go to a student poll where the winning design will design the balcony bar (depending on cost etc)
- I have looked into placing water coolers in study areas around the campus; however, the project will be too expensive. I will be looking into other ways that make study areas more comfortable to work in.
- As the number of first year students is increasing every year, those on sandwich courses are not allowed to live on campus for their 4th year. The University have been very sympathetic towards the students who are coming back to University after a year in industry or abroad and have offered to help them find accommodation. Kent Union's Advice Centre are aware of the difficulties when finding accommodation when you are not in the city and they will be sending out information and guidance about finances to those students to help them settle back into the University of Kent.

- One of my manifesto pledges was to provide stationery in the library; this is possible through having a specialized vending machine placed in the library. The facility has the potential to be very expensive and there is no guarantee that it would be used enough to cover the costs. I am going to put forward this idea to the library staff to see if there is any funding that can be used for this facility.
- Later in the year you will see a feedback campaign that will lobby the University to give better feedback to help students in their studies. Dan Curran and I will be working on this for the rest of the year.

Community-

- Over the summer I organized a community 'Fun on the hill' day for the local residents and students who were studying here over the summer months. I worked together with the Hales Place residents association to plan the day and to link students and the local community. The day was a great success and marks the start of Kent Union's links with the local community.
- From the beginning of my time in office I have attended many local residents associations surrounding the Canterbury campus. This has given Kent Union a chance to show what we do for the community and how students engage within the community. The residents have given us a lot of feedback which we can use to help students settle into Canterbury and enjoy living in our community.
- Over the past year our links with the Canterbury City Council have grown; this has been through regular meetings with officers from the council. Here I have been given the chance to express students' views. Most recently, Samantha and I presented the results from the 'Get on Board' campaign. These links may seem small; however, they have enabled us to communicate to students through joined up thinking.
- This year Kent Union have been lucky to have a strong relationship with the Universities Police Community Support Officers. Joint crime campaigns, a student watch crime prevention programme and discussions about a possible Tyler Hill pedestrian crossing are some of the items that we have discussed and are planning for the rest of the year.
- I would like to plan a community workshop for one of Kent Unions' outreach sites in Ashford. This will engage the local community with the degree programmes studied at Ashford School of Design. This idea is still in the planning stages but something that I think the students will benefit from.

Campaigns- All campaigns have been suggested by the students and our members.

- Samantha Kennedy and I ran the campaign 'Get on Board' which was designed to improve the bus service around Canterbury. We conducted a survey and the results that we found have been presented to Stagecoach and the University. They both took 'on board' our recommendations and will be reporting back to us when they have spoken to others in their department.
- 'Love your body' week was a great week that engaged students and made them aware of sexual health and how to feel good in the skin that you are in. As this is the first year that we conducted this campaign it did not receive as much interest as we liked, therefore, we will ensure that the campaign will be run again next year.
- To prepare for the general election, Kent Union will be hosting a 'Get out the Vote' campaign. This is to encourage students to register to vote in Canterbury as it is important that they have a chance to say on how the country and City is run. The launch date for the campaign is the 8th February.

- One of my manifesto promises was to run a feedback campaign for coursework. Dan Curran and I will be working towards this until the end of the year.
- I called a referendum asking if students wanted mixed recycling bins placed around campus. With the results that we got from the referendum plus information from Kent Union and creative campus mixed recycling bins have started to appear on campus. This referendum lead to further conversations about how we education students with the way that Canterbury recycles. Hopefully joined up thinking with the Council, University and Kent Union will help to increase recycling in Canterbury and on the University campus.

Awards-

This year we have already achieved many awards for our outstanding student services. We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded with:

- The Third Sector Award for accountability and transparency
- We have been entered into the Times Top 100 companies that shows that our staff provide quality student services
- We have been awarded with the Best Bar none for the 5th year in a row showing how our bars are socially responsible
- We have been awarded with Investors in Volunteers bronze status.
- We have been awarded with Investors in People silver status; this shows that we provide outstanding service to all members of Kent Union.

Board of Trustees-

- The Charities Act 2006 has led to Student Unions' across the country having to change the way that they are governed so they can register as a Charity. This means that Kent Union will have to comply with the Charity Commission's regulations which included us reviewing and tightening up the Kent Unions' Governance structure. I have been heavily involved within the working group of the project where we recommended changes to the Board of Trustees, that have been approved. We recommended that we should increase the Board of Trustees from 9 trustees to 13. Increasing the number of students' on the Board from 7 to 9 and increasing the number of external trustees from 2 to 4. This leaves the Board with a student majority and a Board that has a mixture of knowledge and experience leading to a sustainable Union for students. The change in governance arrangements have been put to the student membership for approval through a referendum, we will find out the results of the referendum at the AGM.
- From conducting the governance review it has been clear that there are other areas of Kent Union that need reviewing. Our democracy structures have not been reviewed since the Sabbatical structure was changed in 2005. The review will cover Union Council, General Meeting, Annual General Meeting, referenda and officer roles. The review will last 18 months which will include focus groups and consultation with students through Union Council.
- In preparation for potential cuts in higher education funding Kent Union have reviewed our management structure. The new structure has included splitting the food and beverage department into licence trade and retail and creating a new position of Deputy Chief Executive.
- A regular Welcome week paper is submitted to the Board of Trustees. We have discussed potential changes to the Welcome ball, dates of the welcome fayres and progress updates of the planning stages.

- A promotional plan has been approved and regularly updated at the Board showing different promotions and events that we can run in outlets.
- We have discussed a fundraising strategy that will be implemented when Kent Union becomes a registered Charity at the end of August 2010.
- The Venue concept has been approved by the Board of Trustees including the business plan for the project.

This year has been packed with changes that will help and support students for years to come. Within the next 6 months I will strive to finish all my manifesto pledges and kick start the democracy review that will increase representation in all areas including Postgraduate and international representation. We still have a lot more work to do in regards to defending student against the potential rise in tuition fees and the potential future cuts in Higher Education funding, however, all the Sabbaticals are devoted to representing and defending our members and will make sure that students are heard when big decisions are being made about the future.

Samantha Kennedy, Vice-President (Welfare) AGM report

Transport – Get On Board – www.kentunion.co.uk/getonboard

- The first stage of the Get on Board campaign centred on a survey in response to student feedback that the bus system does not meet their requirements and to fulfil manifesto commitments.
- The second stage of the campaign is lobbying Stagecoach and the University to make these improvements. The first meeting Helen Wood and I had with Stagecoach and the University in January was positive.
- I am now working on gaining local support for the campaign through local councilors and residents associations. Julian Brazier MP for Canterbury and Whitstable already supports the campaign.

Transport - Parking

- I have reviewed the parking permit application to make it clearer for students and for the panel – the University is introducing the new form soon.

Review of pastoral support system (PASS)

- It was a manifesto promise of mine to undertake this review. Dan Curran and I have been working with the Senior Tutor Network to complete this.
- The changes to the PASS system largely focus on scrapping all current terms used (Tutor, Senior Tutor etc.); creating a single point of contact for students which is the same for every department; allowing what happens beyond that first point of contact to be flexible.
- Proposals are going to Learning and Teaching Board in March to begin making these changes next academic year.

Sexual Health and Body Image – Love Your Body – www.kentunion.co.uk/loveyourbody

- Love Your Body week ran during November and also included World Aids Day on December 1st.
- This was to fulfil my manifesto and in response to student and officer requests for a sexual health campaign.
- 100 per cent of volunteers who were involved in running the week and gave feedback want to see it run again next year. All feedback has been collated and a handover pack is ready.

Accommodation - Housing Week – www.kentunion.co.uk/housingweek

- Housing week took place during the first week of December and included advice workshops, the Housing Fair, re-launching the Accreditation website and college talks each evening.
- We provided a housing checklist which went down really well with students. Turnout at the Q&A sessions was a mixed success - Overall around 175 first year students but a big difference between colleges.
- Next stage is to look at what information students need as they move into their new properties.
- We are also working on a plan to limit the impact of both students moving out of University accommodation and out of their houses in Canterbury.

Environment & Ethics – Go Green Week – www.kentunion.co.uk/green

- The 8th-12th February will be the UK's third national week of student action on climate change in schools, colleges and universities - including the University of Kent. Catherine Morris and I are working together with Kent's People and Planet, Animal and Environmental Welfare Society, Conservation Society, Amnesty International Society, Sew Crafty Society, the University's Creative Campus initiative and Estates Department to deliver Go Green Week.

Health - Fresh Start

- As part of Fresh Start the college welfare officers and I are running a **BBC Grub Club** event – mashed potato sculpting the day after AGM from 12-3pm on the Plaza (opposite Essentials). Come along for lots of freebies.

Health – Mental Health

- The first Welfare Group has been established – the Mental Health Welfare Group - who had lots of success signing up members at the Societies Fayre.
- The Disabilities and Dyslexia Support Service have employed a dedicated member of staff for Mental Health who will be going with me and the chair of the Mental Health Group to a national meeting to discuss approaches to student mental health.

Democracy – Vote for Students – www.kentunion.co.uk/vote, www.voteforstudents.org.uk (coming soon)

- Planning has begun for a campaign to run throughout the spring term registering students to vote. We will be working with NUS to get students to pledge to use their vote at www.voteforstudents.org.uk after its official launch on 1st February.

Liberation Campaigns – www.kentunion.co.uk/liberation

- All four campaigns have run open forum events and the LGBT and Women's campaigns are planning **elections** for the near future.
- I arranged for a Kent Delegate to attend **NUS Black Students Conference**.
- Now that our Representation and Democracy Manager is in place they will be providing **staff support** to the liberation campaigns.
- Canterbury City Council is running a survey in February to assess the needs of those with **disabilities** who are living independently in Canterbury. I sit on the steering group for this and will be distributing the survey to Kent students when it is published.

Community – www.kentunion.co.uk/community

- Progress on Kent Union's Community Strategy has recently been reported - of the 34 targets due for completion/action to start within the 2009-10 academic year: 8 have been completed and 21 targets have significant progress towards completion.

Student CommUNITY Reps:

- We now have two reps for Hales Place and one for St. Peters. Full details are online.

- The idea of the scheme has been well received by local police, the college masters, some residents associations, some local permanent residents and the council.

Working with Residents Associations:

- With the Council I took the lead on the Hales Place Neighbourhood Event at which lots of services giving information to all residents (students and permanent residents) were present, Kent Union ran a BBQ and music from CSR was provided. This was a fantastic success and despite horrible weather the BBQ went ahead.
- More recently Helen Wood and I have been working with a new residents association being established in St. Michaels Place to address the problems in the area which some residents attribute to students.

Medway

- This year I took over from Cai Robbins as **Medway** sabb in July then handed over to Dan Curran (VP (Education)) in November. This was due to both ill health and the additional responsibilities my role on NUS NEC brings with it.
- Freshers' Week was successful at UMSA with 20 Freshers' Helpers moving students in and running events.
- Partnership Committee decided to begin a consultation on the use of Purple (UMSA's 'nightclub' space) as well as reviewing the Summer Ball set up and the annual Boat Race.
- A new representation and democracy coordinator was appointed last term shortly before I handed over.

Casework and Social Policy

- It came to our attention at the end of August that there would be a lot of **off-campus first year students**. Because of the potential for these students to become isolated we put together a plan to ensure they didn't miss out on Welcome Week. In particular we put on free taxis on Saturday 19th and Wednesday 23rd September.
- Recently policy was passed to continue this project and work with the University to ensure we support these students. A working group has been established including students who were off-campus in their first year and staff from Accommodation.
- Delays to **student loan** payments with Student Finance England caused lots of students to contact me and Advice. The University worked with the Advice Centre and were very understanding with students. I assisted them with a couple of specific cases.
- Around 40 Kent students are living in **Chaucer College** this year. At the beginning of the year I dealt with several cases where students were unhappy with this accommodation.
- The **Access to Learning Fund** Panel process has been raised as an area of concern for the Advice team with many applications returned for further information which therefore delays payment. I will be discussing this with the Financial Aid office and college masters to resolve this situation asap.

Activity as NUS Society and Citizenship Zone NEC rep

- I attended NUS Zone Conferences in October in Manchester where I was elected to the Society and Citizenship Zone Committee and came 1st which means I now represent the Zone Committee on NUS National Executive Council (NEC).
- Since then I have been regularly reporting to Union Council activity undertaken in this role and meetings attended.
- I will be attending 5 NEC and 4 Zone Committee meetings over year. So far I have attended one NEC and one Zone Committee.

If you are interested in seeing a more detailed account of what meetings etc I have been attending on a day-to-day basis please check out my blog at www.kentunion.co.uk/vpwelfare. I also regularly update www.twitter.com/samanthakennedy and facebook.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions please email me – union-welfare@kent.ac.uk.

AGM Student Activities Report

Achievements;

- Implemented the new society governance review; This included the new budget application and new society forum structure.
- Represented Kent RAG at the national RAG conference and put forward a winning bid for the conference to be held at Kent in 2010.
- Worked closely with the international office to increase international student engagement events throughout the year.
- Worked closely with James Budge (VP Sports) to put on a successful re-fresher's fayre.
- Working with InQuire to expand the distribution of the paper.
- Held the largest Society President's training day in September

This year has been a busy year for me! Above are the milestone achievements, which I am glad to report to you have been achieved. I am proud to be able to say that a lot of my points on my manifesto are starting to be completed after 6-7 months in office. The huge task of implementing the society governance review, which was a review that I was heavily involved in as a key volunteer (Soc Fed Com) took a long time to try and iron out the problems and get it ready to roll out in September. The new budget system has its positives and negatives. The main negative is the sheer complexity of applying for the money and as its relatively new educating societies on what they can and can't apply for. However, it is important to say that the great thing about this budget application is the sheer flexibility of re-allocation in the second term. Most societies who have applied, if not all, have received more funding this year than they had last year. It allows me the opportunity to give more money to more active societies and helps me keep my ears to ground with society activity.

Society Forums, for me, is a shining example of what other areas of Kent Union can be turned into. The feedback from societies has been overwhelmingly positive. They like the opportunity to talk about the issues that affect them, they like the opportunity to air their problems and know that it will be directly fed back up to the sabbatical (me). This new form of engagement has proved very useful and I am especially grateful to the newly elected Forum chairs of Societies Federation Committee, who have done a good job in fleshing out this new role in our structure.

I have taken a bit of a lead on international events this year as it is an area that interests me greatly and my student background has given me quite a bit of knowledge on the area. I have been working closely with the international office and European office to devise a number of events to integrate international students into our community here at Kent and to ultimately improve their student experience. I have given a number of talks to incoming international students on what Kent Union can offer them and how they can get the most of their year abroad. An example would be last Friday where I spoke to a group of Dunkirk students about societies and volunteering and about our events in The Venue. The two main international events, which I headed up so far have been the Intercambio, which saw 100 students come together in Rutherford bar and practice their languages. This gave a lot of European students the opportunity to meet native English people and the feedback from students has been fantastic. I also organised a Mediterranean Night, which saw 500 international students enjoy themselves with cultural music and dance. These kind of vibrant events is what our

campus has been missing for so many years. We talk about international engagement and if we cast our eyes into Canterbury city, it isn't hard to see a number of cultural events taking place every week but I have to try to bring these cultural events back to campus. The American society came to me and asked me to help them put in a bid in to the international office to acquire more money to put on a larger Thanksgiving. We managed to secure a significant amount of money and this event was a complete success!

At the end of this month (27th Feb), I am organising The International Showcase, which is part of WorldFest (20th-27th Feb), which will see a number of student groups compete for the prize and being crowned as the winners of the International Showcase. Finally on the international front, I have been asked by the university to sit on the Internationalisation Task Force, which looks at strategic international aims of the university. I think I am right in saying that there hasn't been a student representative before in this working group.

So far in this report, I have spoken about the past and I have done but I would like to take the opportunity to tell you what I will be doing for the remaining time I have in my post:

- I would like to continue the work with the society governance review and work with Soc Fed Com to tweak the budget system.
- I will be trying to get out and away from my desk and into campus and talking to students. The idea is simple – Talk to at least twenty students a week and hear what they want to say and what I can do to accomplish that.
- I will work towards taking InQuire to the next step. Firstly, I would like everyone to realise that the students who run the newspaper are volunteers and as of yet have **always** published their newspaper every week. I believe the newspaper has improved greatly since the days of KRED and I would like to continue to help InQuire take it to the next step. My initial ideas are to finally get boxes put in more campuses so we can improve the distribution. Secondly, I would like to push towards giving InQuire's website a much needed facelift.
- I have spoken about RAG briefly in my report but I feel that I have promoted RAG well outside of this university but I need to turn my attention to our university and start to help RAG heavily promote fund-raising to societies and volunteering groups to help RAG meet their target of £50,000. I am planning on running a number of Haiti fund-raisers, which I hope to see you all at!

Thank you for reading my report and if you would like to ask me question, you can contact me at b.alonso@kent.ac.uk or I will be more than happy to answer your questions at AGM.

Ben Alonso

Daniel Curran Vice-President (Education)

Support the national effort by researching into alternative methods for funding higher education.

This point was very poorly thought out, obviously lots of research was done into the higher education funding issue by many different people. One of the main alternatives was the NUS approach which was a form of graduation tax. Whilst I am undecided on this method it did send a message to government that tuition fees are not the only way. At this point higher education funding is a decision that lies with the review panel that was formed late 2009, and many people believe that this panel will bring forward a recommendation to increase tuition fees around 2011. So in line with many other student unions and the NUS we are looking to have a week of campaigning around fees and other issues that affect students in Canterbury. This is a collective effort involving Kent union, Canterbury Christchurch union and Canterbury college union under the banner of Canterbury united. The events we are planning through the week will look to raise awareness in the community about the possible tuition fee increase and the effects that it is likely to have on students and the local area, whilst also promoting the good work that students do. The main Day of action will be held on the 27th February which will be debate/questions to local councillors. We have Jean Samuel (Labour), Guy Voizey (liberal democrats), Julian Brazier (Conservative) and Aaron porter (NUS) attending the debate itself, we are also looking to finalise a chair so that the event runs smoothly and is fair. The campaign will also look to engage local business such as pubs and shops to join the campaign to further the reach and bring the community close together. Voter registration and use of the vote will be the main message behind the campaign to our students and also the message to local councillors will be one of pressure, so that they are properly representing their constituency, For example students in schools will be one that are affected by the fee increase so they need to know what each government will do if they get into power and we all deserve the right to vote based on key decisions such as tuition fees.

Look into ways of improving the representation that course reps' provide and how they feel their jobs should operate, so that they can also be facilitators of change.

This point is one that I consider ongoing throughout my time in office. Everyone involved in the course reps system is constantly trying to improve it both those involved and those who use it. A big problem this year has been the change to the school co-ordinator role which was to make the middle level of the rep system one that does not necessarily sit on school level meeting but organise which reps will go to the added meetings. Also this position was elected by the reps in each school instead of in the main by-elections. The main issues we have faced are the miscommunication of the school co-ordinator role meaning that the reps have been a bit unclear as to their job, and due to lots of election problems and the change of procedure the positions were not filled until middle of the first term which is quite late. Currently a course rep review is being drafted to try to put into planning solutions to this and other problems in the course rep system. Apart from this the system has been quite effective this year with reps being very important in tackling some of the campaigns I have started. To look forward I will keep on talking to reps to find out their opinions on how we can make the whole system better, and also at AGM I will be bringing a motion to get the faculty reps elected in March so they can be trained, have a formal handover and give some consistency to the course rep system.

Investigate the universities current feedback systems to see how they can be improved and to also fight to make sure work is marked and handed back on time.

This campaign started back in the summer when I went round the faculty deans to speak about how feedback can be influenced at faculty level and the main area they can tackle here is to make sure the schools and lectures are abiding to the 3 week return deadline that is outlined in the university policy. Also speaking to humanities the faculty has passed a standard feedback form for pieces of

work which I believe could look to give students very clear and constructive feedback to their work. I am waiting to see student's reaction to this sheet before trying to push it to other faculties. A job of the course reps and myself will be to establish faculty committees where issues like feedback can be discussed by the reps in one faculty because it is unlikely a solution will fit all three but they should fit one by one, so that will be a big aim going forward. The last aim of this campaign will be to try to get exam feedback which I have discussed with different members of staff who have very mixed opinions, so I will try to find a way to make this winnable and then plan a way forward.

To look at ways to make education forum even more proactive and interesting for the students involved.

I started this point by trying to theme education forum so that they had a direction of conversation whilst still leaving room for flexibility. Out of the 5 we planned 3 where themed to campaign ideas for the year. Also I booked speakers to each one to start the forum to try to provide a basis for the discussions on the night; this has proved to work very well. The first forum we invited the senior deputy vice chancellor David nightingale to speak and the questions and discussions went on for over half an hour which was very good to see. The next forum I got a library update from Jon Sortillo and then had NUS vice-president higher education Aaron porter along to talk to the reps about his work on feedback campaigns which gave the reps lots to think about our own feedback campaign. At the most recent forum there was a presentation about last year's National Student Survey results that the university have analysed and this again gave reps lots to think about what areas need improvement. Looking forward the plans is to have one forum themed on higher education funding and the importance of voting for students and at the other to have exam feedback and year review.

Push postgraduate forum so that it is known by all postgraduates and recognized by the university as a place where postgraduate issues can be expressed and tackled.

This has not been an easy task and will need a lot more work, however the establishment of the graduate school board will help. This year we looked to try to link the board so that they could use the forum for student consultation, which worked at the first forum but not at the second.

Postgraduate representation will need to be improved to help this forum work because if the reps do not engage in the rep system then it is unlikely they will engage in the forum. Looking forward I think establishment of a postgraduate community at Kent could help to give the postgraduates something identifiably postgraduate and this will help with engagement. Most likely at AGM a motion will be going forward to turn Woolf student committee into a graduate student association which will be a structure that postgraduates can identify as representing them all. If this is then pushed forward there can be cross representation between the course rep system and the GSA. I think this will give a solid ground to help establish an effective postgraduate forum.

Work closely with the six student committee education officers, supporting their campaigns and training them so they can best represent their colleges.

This year the education reps have been a great source of inspiration and ideas for not just my campaigns but also campaigns of their own. So far they have helped to plan the Canterbury town takeover/Canterbury united campaign and free Wednesdays. They have also formulated their own campaigns one being a campaign to get a computer room in parkwood where the aim is quite obvious but the solution is a little harder, so we have been working with various members of staff to see how it can be accommodated in future plans for the university. Another one is a library resources campaign which is focusing on the best use of resources we have. So this is getting staff to make sure their reading lists are ordered and have enough books so that the students can access these resources when needed, obviously this also has big problems with available funding so it is very much a work in progress. Looking forward the officers will be conducting a study spaces review of the

rooms in their colleges to see if rooms are in good condition and of the right use for the students that need them.

Review the south east weighting campaign, to establish what can be done next.

This campaign has been run for two years with lots of action centred on the average cost per week for students in this area compared to their loan per week. With big argument looking at accommodation prices being in excess of the maintenance loan available to many students. This campaign was a south east issues hence the name south east weighting, its aim was to bring the loan weighting into line with the likes of London loans on the basis that costs are getting closer by the day. This year I have contacted all the south east university unions to find out their interest in it but with lots of other higher education issues surrounding funding it has taken a back seat for now. So I have started to write a report explaining the aims and objectives of the campaign and what action has been done to date. I have spoken to other universities so that they can write costing for their areas and the loans available so that we can get actual figures to go forward with.

Free Wednesdays for postgraduate and undergraduates.

This campaign was run originally for undergraduates a few years back, but now is being extended to postgraduates. Working with James budge and the course reps we have raised the issue with sports teams and the relevant schools to make sure they are abiding to the undergraduates policy and asking them to extend the teaching policy to postgraduates. So far we have seen a fall from 176 events occurring on a Wednesday afternoon last term to 93 occurring this term, so there already has been great improvement. Also we have got the planning department to re-enforce a strict policy for putting teaching on a Wednesday afternoon meaning they have to state a reason why it needs to be there with evidence.

Review of Pastoral academic support system.

This was something I have been involved in from the beginning and it has come from the QAA audits recommendation that the system is not effective enough for students. So along with other members of the senior tutor network myself and Sam Kennedy have been working to try and find a system that student can identify as support in their schools. This system needs to include pastoral care and tackle academic issues such as integrity. This group will eventually bring a recommendation to learning and teaching board of a new system that will improve student support at university.

AGM Report

Hello AGM,

The following report summarises the key successes that I have had this year as a Sabbatical Officer. As I write this report the Sports Federation is three members off of the record number of students participating in sports clubs at the University of Kent. I hope that, by the time that I see you, this record will have been broken. Here is what I have been doing:

Post-graduate Football and Rounders:

The number of post-graduate students at the University of Kent is on the increase and I was approached by the Virginia Woolf Sports Officer over the summer who told me that there was a lot of interest in a Virginia Woolf football team. We decided to run an event entitled "Post-graduate Football and Rounders" to gauge exactly how much interest there was. A successful event proved that there was a lot of demand for the Virginia Woolf team and thus they were integrated into the college league.

Website:

I have given every club the opportunity to promote information about themselves and their activities by allocating them all a page which can be accessed by going to www.kentunion.co.uk/CLUBNAME. President contact details are all on these pages (with their permission) so that students can contact them easily.

Training Times:

I fulfilled my manifesto pledge to ensure that training times were allocated by the sports centre before welcome week to ensure that sports clubs could promote themselves effectively.

First Aid:

I promised that I would ensure that there was always first aid available at the Parkwood pitches in my manifesto and as a result the student first aid volunteering group now administer first aid from the new pavilion on a Wednesday afternoon (fixtures day).

Welcome Week Sports Day:

During Welcome week I organised a sports day which saw many clubs run taster sessions to showcase their activity and encourage more students to participate in the club. The event saw new students compete in an inter-college tournament consisting of 8 different sports ran by the clubs.

Free Wednesdays:

I have been working closely with Daniel Curran (Vice-President Education) to try and remove as many teaching hours from a Wednesday afternoon after 1pm as possible and as a result we have seen a drop from 176 in the first term to 93 in the second term.

New Clubs:

The Sports Federation Executive has ratified a waterpolo club this year who are currently organising regular bookings at a local pool. The Ju Jitsu club that was ratified last year had no activity at the beginning of this year but I arranged some sessions at the end of last term which were well attended and I am trying to get them off the ground as a student run club.

Fundraising Events:

I have worked closely with the Venue Manager in order to secure club themed nights at the Venue. This has allowed a number of clubs to fundraise money required for them to develop.

Sports Council:

Sports Federation mandated me to write an associate membership policy which I have done and which will be taken to next council to be amended by those who it concerns and hopefully approved.

I was also mandated to set up a working group to revise the current initiations policy which is in progress.

Fresh Start:

This was a project that aimed to encourage students to get active and to promote the benefits of a healthy body. The campaign consisted of events such as a sponsored row on a rowing machine which covered the same distance as that between Canterbury and Paris, a Charity Fun Run and Ready, Steady, Microwave.

Refreshers Fayre:

After a successful referendum, I have worked closely with Ben Alonso (Vice-President Student Activities) to run a refreshers fayre in the second term.

Plans for the future:

- To create a minibus policy to ensure that priorities for usage are fair.
- To review transport to trips and fixtures as minibus legislation is likely to change which will stop volunteers from being able to drive minibuses on a normal car licence. Alternatives must be found in order to support club activity
- To plan and execute a successful Varsity and Medway Varsity.
- To plan events for WorldFest in order to promote multicultural sport.
- To form a committee to write an initiations policy.
- To campaign for parking permits for sports club presidents. There is a lack of storage for sports clubs at the moment so with the
- To campaign for lower/tiered prices of sports centre membership. On top of club fees, students have to pay for every sports facility on campus at once. I believe that students should be able to pay for the facilities that they want to use so I plan to run a campaign in order to tackle this issue.

14. Questions for Part-time Officers

Member may ask questions of any of the elected officers if called upon by the Chair

Marsha Todd – Students with Disabilities Officer – AGM 2nd February 2010

I have attended all committee meetings, including Flexible Learning Committees, Library User Panel, Information Services Disability Support Panel, and the Students with Disabilities Forum. Despite my best efforts to set up the Students with Disabilities Committee this has not yet happened as it's been difficult to find interested parties to attend, but I will be working to get an elected committee next month and to arrange some events.

Students may have disabilities that are hidden like mental health problems, speech, hearing or sight impairments. A lot of students with hidden disabilities feel stigmatised by being seen as disabled so do not report it. I would encourage students to register with the university as having a disability so they can receive support.

A motion was brought to Council regarding Accessible Venues Motion saying that open meetings should be accessible to all which I have been working with the officers to implement. I will continue to deal with accessibility issues, highlighting the problems of moving around campus.

I am always there to discuss any issues disabled students have and to bring matters to the attention of the relevant parties. I can be contacted at mgbt2@kent.ac.uk or swdis@kent.ac.uk

Manifesto Pledges

- Extra lighting
 - currently looking into this campaign from previous years and the advancements that have been made
- Toilet improvements
 - campaigned for in Love Your Body Week
- Run talks
 - I will be running the talk discussed below
- Triage System
 - I am having a meeting with Mel Sharman to discuss the best possible route to achieving this goal.
- Mammogram portable system
 - I looked into this and realised the cost would be too high to fund this event unfortunately.
- Women's Forum
 - I've held some forums with little success. I am changing the day and time to hopefully aid a bigger turn out.
- 'Spikies'
 - by the time AGM I hope to have spoken to the Venue manager about trialling the use of Spikies, as hospitality outlets already do so.
- Self defence classes
 - I was made aware that the society already does these, yet still wish to help promote them alongside by role.

Projects for the future

- To successfully raise money for Breast Cancer through the joint skydive with Rob Derry
- To hold a Mens v Womens quiz for charity
- An evening with a representative from East Kent Rape line to hold an open discussion on rape and the support that is provided
- Pro Choice campaign

Robert Derry

Men's Officers report for AGM

Manifesto Pledges

1)

I pledged to: Give students more information about health issues

I did: Put up a board in Keynes college (near the reception area) on which is displayed information about: Testicular and Prostate cancer, University Medical Centre contact information, University Counselling service information and information about NHS direct services. This information is also more tailored to university students than the general population as it particularly warns of health risks young men face.

2)

I pledged to: Raise money for charity.

I did: Have planned alongside Laura King (Women's Officer) to take part in a joint 10,000ft parachute jump in early March, the money raised from this will be split 50/50 between Orchid cancer research (a cancer that researches into male cancer) and Breakthrough Breast Cancer. From doing this jump we hope to raise a minimum of £1000.

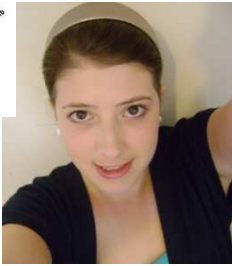
Other things I have done

- 1) Set up a Men's Officers committee in order to get others point of view about events I was planning and to find out the views of students. These meetings are held periodically in Origins with the date and time of each meeting being published in the Men's Officers Union Council reports and on the Men's Board in Keynes at least one week prior to the meeting.

Plans for the future

Other plans include:

- 1) A Men vs. Women pub quiz to be organised with Laura King (Women's Officer), to raise money for Male and Female cancer charities. If this event goes well and raises a decent amount of money we hope to do other similarly themed events.



Name	Sabina Pasokhy
Position	Darwin President
Email	Sp301@kent.ac.uk or Darwin@kent.ac.uk

Hello,

I have been your Darwin President this year; hopefully some of you can recognise me from some of the events we've put on or the green T-shirt people in Welcome Week.

What the committee has done:

- **Welcome Week** events (Including a societies showcase, live music society & themed nights)
- I attend **Union Council** and represent you, questioning your Sabbatical and part-time officers on their manifesto pledges and general activity.
- Town bar crawl had a good turn out with many students now involved in the committee.
- Committee **by-elections**, all positions were filled and we have a good team.
- **General meeting**, students had the opportunity to question me on anything, to see the questions and my answers go onto www.kentunion.co.uk.
- **Battle of the Bands** in aid of **Children in need**, this was a successful event with many great student bands playing. Cupid's Blind were the winners and we raised over £250 for charity.
- **Xmas meal**, this was another good social and really got everyone in the festive mood.
- The officers & the committee have been **supporting** all the events run by the sabbaticals to the best of our ability all throughout the year & getting involved as much as possible.

Things to come:

- **Core text campaign**, this is a campaign initiated by our Education officer from the feed back we received and we hope to run it with the support of other student committees and VP Education.
- We plan to have a **Darwin Rade** to raise more money for charity later this term.
- **Masquerade Ball**, we are very busy planning our biggest event. The Ball is on **20th Feb 2010** and is always an amazing night. Tickets this year will be set at **£7** and all those who have kept their £2 off vouchers from their Welcome Week planners will get them for £5. We are very excited and hope that it will be even more special this year than previous years.
- More **socials** this term!
- **Elections**, the election of the new Darwin president will take place in March which is always an exciting time for us and will be shortly followed by electing the new committee.

Other interests:

- Thanks to your votes I have been elected as your **NUS representative**, and will be attending the conference. Please email me about any motions you would like me to take to NUS.
- I attended **students against homelessness** sleep out, which was an eye opening experience.
- I attended the **KSCV awards** which recognise volunteers and their achievements.

- I was elected onto the **Internal Audit committee** and have attended one meeting in which I asked relevant questions to how the students' safety was taken into account as well as where and why money was spent on different things.

Thank you for reading my report, this is a concise version of what I have tried to achieve this year. For more information email me and we are always happy to try and put on an event or campaign you are interested in. Sabina

Keynes President Annual General Meeting Report.

Lauren Crowley – ljg30 – Keynes@kent.ac.uk

Manifesto Pledges

- **Increase promotion of officer elections increasing voter turnout.**

This year myself and Tom Ritchie continued the previous review of the Student Committee (SC) constitution. In doing so we set a quoracy for election turnout, setting it at 6% of college members. We also held all day elections in the college promoting to everyone who passes through the college rather than just people who turn up to our meetings, eliminating some of the 'popularity contest' it can often turn into. We almost tripled our average voter turnout and this seems to be a very effective way of continuing college elections.

- **Work with the other presidents to create more intercollegiate events.**

Last term we held a joint social between Keynes and Eliot. However we were unfortunately unable to take part in the Battle of the Colleges due to time restraints as we continue to move towards Keynestock and its auditions beginning very soon. I hope to be able to integrate other SCs into the fun that is Keynestock, especially with our crucial need for volunteers on the day.

- **Increase integration of Park-Wood students into Keynes college.**

We have mainly concentrated on promotion of the SC over the last term, doing monthly doorknocks in Keynes and termly in Park Wood. We have spent time in PW recruiting for and promoting the college sports teams, and hope to run an event in Woody's this year.

As well as these, here are some other achievements or plans from Keynes SC:

- Discount cards – Keynes freshers are receiving free cards that get them cheaper drinks in the Kbar on Mondays.
- Website – Our new and updated website is currently nearly completed and will be live soon.
- SC Review – Myself and the other presidents have reviewed the current system and have almost completed plans for the upcoming democracy review.
- We are in the process of reviewing the way we audition bands for Keynestock, and if all goes to plan, it will be the student population deciding who goes through rather than a judging panel.
- We are planning a welfare campaign on the issue of bed and breakfast accommodation after we passed the referendum mandating Kent Union to lobby the university on it.
- After our success with the Keynes survey we hope to continue it again this year.
- As a side note, myself and the Keynes Welfare officer Colum McGuire were elected as NUS delegates last term, allowing us to represent all students at a national level.

If you have any questions for myself or my committee, you can contact us at keynes@kent.ac.uk.

Thanks,

Lauren Crowley

The Report of your International Students' Officer

Kimberleigh Peterson

What have I done thus far?

- ◆ In my manifesto I promised that I would establish an **International Students' Committee**. I have fulfilled that promise and I am proud to say that we have a group of dedicated students who represent different parts of the world working to brainstorm and organise projects to benefit the International Students here and now and those to come.
- ◆ One of the projects that we have been brainstorming on is the **International Students' Buddying Scheme** in collaboration with the International Office. It is akin to a mentoring scheme and it is ideally supposed to support first year students and make their transition into life at UKC just a bit easier by having a 'big brother' there to lend an ear as they go along.
- ◆ I have hosted an International Pub Quiz in Woody's during Freshers' Week.
- ◆ I talked to my fellow International Students during the International Induction Meeting where I explained the process of culture shock
- ◆ This year I am working hand in hand with the *Unit for the Enhancement of Learning & Teaching* (UELТ) and attended their first event, which was the International Students' High Tea. This is a department at the University who give all students additional educational support.
- ◆ I am assisting in the planning of **WorldFest** with the International Office, which will be hosted in mid-late February. To whet the students' appetites for this cultural extravaganza, I will be hosting a Caribbean themed party in the Venue and hopefully another cultural event to expose both International and home students to different cultures. In the light of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, I would like to donate some of the proceeds from the party to a charity helping this cause, I will discuss this with Raise & Give (RaG)
- ◆ It is my goal to collaborate with the Parkwood Student Committee and the Woolf Student Committee and participate more in their activities because large numbers of international students live in Parkwood and a large number of the postgraduates are also International Students.

If you have any comments or questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me at kp219@kent.ac.uk

AGM Report – Woolf College Student Committee President, Elliot Dickens.

Firstly, many thanks to the last president, Danielle Tucker, for all her hard work over the summer and for putting on a fantastic Freshers Week for postgrads. With a really successful block challenge and a huge bar crawl in town many postgrads showed they could have just as much fun as the undergrads! Secondly, thanks also to the other members of Woolf Committee and our Graduate School Board reps who have worked tirelessly representing postgraduate students. We had a couple of successful events last term, and hope to build on this for the Spring and summer terms. My final thanks goes to Dan Carr, who has summoned all his wisdom and superhuman powers to make massive steps towards better representation and inclusion in this Union for postgraduate students – thanks Dan! This AGM will see the most important piece of postgraduate policy being put forward, the first step towards changing Woolf Student Committee into the Kent Graduate Students' Association. If this motion passes, we will be in a stronger position to represent those postgrads that live off campus, as well as in Woolf College. We hope to operate almost like a Union within a Union, taking a large part of responsibility for all things postgraduate!

We have a fantastic range of events planned for postgrads this term. Culminating in a big one off night in Woolf College just for postgraduates. So get involved! Any thoughts, ideas and desire to play a part in the postgraduate community here at Kent should be put down in an email to me, straight away! Get in touch with me at ed90@kent.ac.uk

Craig Dove – Rutherford Student Committee President

Dear Student,

My name is Craig and I've held the position of Rutherford Student Committee President for the last five months or so. I've had a lovely time, meeting new people and enjoying some very special occasions. Follows is a list of the things I have and haven't achieved this year, I hope it is to your liking...

- ♠ Despite it not being a manifesto pledge the Rutherford Student Committee has re-started the Rutherford Horn, our college newsletter. It sets out to inform students of college news in a rather satirical manner, whilst maintaining a commendable level of journalistic integrity.
- ♠ We started the year with a truly exceptional Welcome Week, for the first time in the history of Rutherford Bar we hit capacity, resulting in the arrival of bouncers from the Venue in order to help contain the chaos. Since, we've had little success in recreating said chaos; apparently the first years have realised no-one goes to Rutherford Bar now... But we are trying to change this with some excellent upcoming events. With the right amount of planning and assistance from the powers that be I'm sure we can run some more very successful events. Two ideas set for the near future include **The Mad Hatters Tea Party** and **Rutherford Bar becomes the Playboy Mansion**.
- ♠ I have increased the number of students attending my meetings. I put this down to the enthusiasm of all the Welcome Week helpers who really made the week an experience that no Rutherford student will forget.
- ♠ I have visited Chaucer College twice this academic year. They have loaned out rooms in the college for students that couldn't be accommodated for on campus and they were all assigned to Rutherford College, it's been nice getting to know their Vice-Chancellor and ex-Eliot College Master, Dr. Keith Wren, even if he was Eliot.
- ♠ We currently have two unfilled positions on the Committee, after the positions were resigned towards the end of last term.
- ♠ If you're interested in getting involved with the RSC please don't hesitate to contact me at rford@kent.ac.uk

Have a lovely evening,

Craig Dove
Rutherford Student Committee President

Kimble Perry Part-time Students representative

Hello to all the students who are interested in familiarizing themselves with the part-time student body. This type of student is on the rise for many reasons and I stepped in to reactivate a sense of representation for part-time students.

I have approached and initiated several new course of action that will, of course, need time for development:

- Making the NUS aware of our presence in a more concrete manner. Asking for more user friendly tabs on the national website for example.

- Opening a dialogue about a national campaign regarding banks discriminatory treatment of part-time students. A continuous dialogue with the various branches of the university who are in contact with new part-time students.

- A blog on the Moodle that is full of articles concerning part-time study.

- Opening contact with a few of the part-time students who have had the time to dedicate to writing anything other than course work.

This is my last year at uni and I am preparing a booklet of information to help my colleague who steps up to the challenge of representing this variegated and dynamic group of students.

I hope to meet you at the AGM on Feb 2, 2010-01-25

Georgina Walker

Parkwood Student Committee President

The year so far has been an eventful one. We, the committee have managed to provide many new ideas and events to keep Parkwood on the map.

Our education officer has been busy trying to ensure Parkwood receives a computer room; having had talks with members of the Union, there is a chance that we will be entitled to having one. In addition to this, we have successfully established quiz nights every Sunday at Woody's; where some are themed from time to time, we hope you have managed to participate in a few.

Our welfare officer has been extremely busy with welfare issues in Parkwood. She has managed to launch weekly clinic hours for everyone living in the area. Campaigns such as 'love your body' and 'get on board' earlier on during the year, were frequently participated in by our welfare officer, in order to represent the wellbeing and interests needed in Parkwood. In order to find out what those in Parkwood really want, a mass survey was distributed to all 1500 residents; we received plenty feedback, whereby one can now know what it is that residents in the area demand. Look out for our website, which should be up and running in due time.

From the international perspective, thanks to the new international committee, our international officer can now represent the international students in Parkwood on a larger scale, so far, we have hosted international events, such as the International Dinner at Woody's, along with the international themed quiz night. We now have a diverse range of events at Woody's, with the international side of things.

Throughout the course of the year, we have been trying to unite more Parkwood residents, by bringing about more sports events, as well as promoting pre-existing sports which occur in Woody's (e.g. pool). Our sports officer has created a dodge ball team, as well as being in the process of creating more types of fun sporting activities for those interested, living within Parkwood.

Activities in Parkwood have been amazing so far, 'capture the flag' was a memorable experience, as we tied with Darwin College. What is more, the recent Parkwood Victory at 'Battle of the Colleges,' has revealed to us that you are very proud of living in Parkwood, as well as representing it. Furthermore, RAG has challenged all colleges to raise more money than them, so we are making it our aim to raise the most in Parkwood.

My manifesto pledges have been fulfilled by 50%. This term I am concentrating on providing a free cash point in Parkwood. I am on the course of speaking to local banks, as well as gathering necessary information to bring to the Union, in order to make this pledge a success. For the visitor's parking system, I am collecting first-hand information by students who have been affected by the contraventions put in place, in order to alternate it and make it more student-friendly.

RaG President: Lora Wilson

How have I carried out my Manifesto points?

- Continued our work in fundraising: I have worked hard along with my committee and members of RaG to continue fundraising and so far this year we have raised over £10,000 for charity. We have also focused many of our events on local charities such as the East Kent Rape Line, which is helping to build towards our community fundraising target of £25,000 by 2012.
- Linked with the Community: We have not only raised money for local charities but have face painted at the Hales Place Neighbourhood event, getting students out into the community to show what good we can do. There are also plans for RaG to face paint at a community fun run in March and for a community bowling night in Canterbury.
- Increased Student Involvement: We have over 200 members this year and there is a vast range of students within this; those who come each week to count the money with us, to those who get involved with a one off event. We have increased the number of socials that we hold and this has also helped to boost the number of students helping out.
- Get more societies on board: This year we have many new sports clubs and societies raising money for charity – Kent Palestinian Society, Students Against Homelessness, Musical Theatre Society, First Aid Volunteering Group, Stage Spiders, Conservation Society and Animal Welfare Society are just some of those who have put on events to raise money and I am really encouraged by this. We have also got plans with Psychology society for some fundraising this month and we hope more societies will get involved.
- Competition: WOW! We started this year with heaps of enthusiasm in the College Cup – Parkwood made over £900 in Welcome Week – before term had even started! The Colleges have increased the competition by selling RaG Wristbands and INVASION T-shirts, Darwin held Battle of the Bands, Eliot did their panto, Woolf put on a Casino Games Night and there's more to come this term! At the moment Darwin are in the lead with over £1,000 on their total and they have more plans for this term so the other colleges need to get moving!

What Else Have I Done?

- This year I have reconstructed the RaG Constitution so that it makes sense with how RaG works – I have scrapped committee positions that were not being used and have created new ones that will benefit us in our aim to promote charity and fundraising.
- I have also worked with the committee to increase the number of sponsors we have in town and we are now supported by Dominos, Shake Shed, Subway, Planet Laser and City Fish Bar. Each of these sponsors gives a discount to anyone with a RaG Discount Card and supports our events. Subway has also held an event on campus with us which we are planning to repeat at the end of this term.
- Along with my committee, I have re-invented RaG Challenge to be more competitive with the bar crawls in town. This will allow us to make more money from the event for charity whilst also benefitting the campus bars and the students who want events run on campus.
- Unfortunately we made a loss from the Snow Ball, however this has made us more determined to make this term better and to raise the money back whilst still making a profit for charity! We have evaluated why the event did not sell out and have made plans for next year to prevent this from happening again.

AGM Report

Colum McGuire
LGBT Officer

Good Evening AGM!

I'm going to try and make this report as concise as possible and not waffle, so I'm going to break down into sections reports of what I've been up to since obtaining my role this academic year.

LGBT Campaign

This was started as a reaction to policy that was passed last year. It has been a bit slow getting started, due to the already well functioning LGBT Society, but I held a launch night in October and hope to elect a committee to drive the campaign forward in the next few weeks.

LGBT Society

Although my role as union officer falls out of the LGBT Society, obviously our work goes hand in hand. The society has been very successful this year, with more paid-up members than ever before. We've had some great socials & started up a weekly coffee meeting, which fills one of my manifesto pledges to provide more entertainment on campus that doesn't revolve around alcohol/a night club scene. The society committee have worked very hard and I thank them for their dedication.

'Stardust'

Another of my manifesto points was to continue the work in the KU LGBT night 'Stardust' in The Venue. This did not get off to a get start as the night was moved to The Lighthouse by The Venue management, making many students unhappy. I met with the management and convinced them to move it back, which they did at the end of last term. Turnout for the event seems to have dropped dramatically since last year, and so both myself & The Venue management have agreed to make the event less frequent but to dedicate more time into organising them to make them more special.

UKC Student Pride

One of my initial aims was to organise a Student Pride event on campus in the summer term. This is a very big job and I decided that it wasn't viable to get done during this yearly term. Instead I intend to lay the groundwork to get this done in the next few years.

National Student Pride

In March LGBT students from UKC will be attending National Student Pride in Brighton run in conjunction with NUS. I brought a motion to Union Council making policy for Kent Union to provide funding to reduce the cost for students to attend not only this year, but for the next two years (- the motion passed). Planning is still underway but I am very much looking forward to it!

LGBT Activist Training

In December I attended LGBT Activist Training day run by NUS taking LGBT Society President, David Faulkner, with me. It was a very insightful day where we learnt a lot of useful things including budget planning, sexual health promotion & trans issues.

Love Your Body / World Aids Day

Sexual health was another feature of my election manifesto, which I worked on in conjunction with Helen Wood & Samantha Kennedy during the 'Love Your Body' campaign. I met with the Mercury Clinic on campus to get an LGBT-only testing day at the clinic during the 'Love Your Body' week, which unfortunately fell through. I also ran an event for World Aids Day, in which we raised £50 for the Terrence Higgins Trust (a HIV & AIDs charity).

NUS Delegate

I was thrilled to be elected by the student body as a delegate to attend national conference in April. I look forward to representing the students of UKC and especially as a liberation officer of Kent Union.

LGBT History Month

We are currently in LGBT History Month (February) in which I am planning to hold some events such as film screenings, and a debate in conjunction with the Kent Debating society.

What's coming up....

- NUS LGBT Conference – May
- Election of LGBT Campaign committee
- Attending National Student Pride
- Continuing work on 'Donation not Discrimination' campaign\
- Battling local MP on his homophobic views

Any questions, comments, concerns, suggestions, please speak to me or email lgbt@kent.ac.uk, I always love to hear from people!

Colum McGuire.



Eliot College Annual General Report

Manifesto Points

- **Create a Student Survey for Eliot affiliates – Pending**

The questionnaire has been compiled before Christmas and is going to be sent out in a large E-mail to all Eliot Students containing information about other events and services we are trying to offer.

- **Creating Becket court and Parkwood representatives – Completed/Unsuccessful**

Looked into creating these at the beginning of the year; however uptake and interest was low from Becket and Parkwood. The questionnaire will ask students what they want in terms of representation. The new Student Committee concept proposed by Helen Wood, Lauren Crowley, the other presidents and I will hopefully supersede the system we have in place at the moment. More information as it develops.

- **Increase publicity for the Eliot Pantomime to raise more money for charity – Completed/Successful**

The Pantomime was very successful with many non-committee members taking part, with each night a success in its own right. We raised over 500 pounds for Demelza House. We are designing new events for this coming term to increase this figure.

Eliot Student Committee

Although not all of my Manifesto pledges have been completed or successful, Eliot College is flourishing with many new events planned as well as a potentially revolutionary Student Committee overhaul, based on a review myself and the other presidents are conducting. We feel if put into practice, it will increase the participation of students on a grass roots level as well as levels of representation and democracy.

I will endeavour to complete the rest of my Manifesto pledges in this upcoming term, as well as attempt to improve the college as much as possible for this year's and next year's students.

We are planning to do a food campaign for those students living on campus in catered accommodation. I created a group about this two years ago and had over 500 people join in little under a week, which shows the potential this campaign has.

I have many new ideas for the future of Eliot. I am hoping to create an event in the spring term that will become tradition, akin to Keynestock of the Masquerade Ball. This event is still in planning stages, so any ideas would be great. If anyone has any questions, ideas or queries, please E-mail me on tawr2@kent.ac.uk.

Thanks,
Tom Ritchie

15. Motion Basket Two

Motion Four - Eco Co-Op - Use your degree.

This Union Notes:

1. There are undergraduate and postgraduate Conservation degrees available at the University of Kent from the DICE department.
2. There is a Conservation society that is funded and supported by Kent Union.
3. Students' at the University of Kent are interested in the conservation and environmental issues on the Canterbury campus and the surrounding area.
4. Conservation students and the Conservation Society have found that there are Great Crested Newts habiting on the University of Kent campus.
5. Elements and factors regarding the wild life on campus are regularly looked at within the DICE undergraduate/ postgraduate degrees.
6. Conservation students are aware of potential planning on the Canterbury Campus.

This Union Believes:

1. Students who are a part of the DICE department and interested in the conservation and environmental issues should be consulted in future work to the University campus.
2. The DICE students and conservation society members have a great interest in the environment that we live in and that we should use their knowledge to inform the University and Kent Union if there are potential problems with building work etc.
3. DICE department students and conservation society members should also utilise that knowledge for physical inputs where possible and appropriate.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Vice- President Welfare and Environmental and Ethics officer to lobby the University to involve the Conservation society, other linked societies, DICE students and other linked degrees partaking in planned environmental changes (e.g. building work) that may happen on the campus.
2. To involve the Conservation society, other linked societies, DICE students and other linked degrees in Kent Union building work and other relevant projects.
3. To mandate the Environmental and Ethics officer to organise open forums for environmental issues to be discussed and to create policy to be take to Union Council or lobby the University with.

Proposer: Damon Reid-Williams - Ordinary Council Member

Seconded: Helen Wood - Union President

Motion Five - Election of Faculty representatives

This Union Notes

1. Course representative elections have been run by Kent union for the last few years.
2. These elections have always contained a Faculty position that sits on the faculty level meetings in the university.
3. The faculty reps hold a vote on union council.

This Union Believes

1. The Faculty rep position should hold as much weight and responsibility as the part time officers in Kent Union.
2. The position should have time for a formal handover.
3. The position also needs more training and time to meet with the faculty dean and staff before the year starts.
4. The position and course rep system needs more consistency.

This Union Resolves

1. Kent union will run the elections for Faculty reps in March alongside the sabbatical and part time officer elections.
2. Faculty reps will be regarded as part time officers and follow all rules and responsibilities they do

First proposer: Daniel Curran Vice-President (Education)

Second proposer: Lauren Crowley Humanities Faculty Rep

Motion Six - University education in Palestine

This Union Notes:

- 1.** That over one third of the Palestinian population are students in full-time school or university education; and that in spite of the systematic attacks on educational institutions over 43 years of the illegal Israeli occupation, (recognized by the UN), Palestinian education and higher education remain resilient.
- 2.** That Israel's separation, and isolation of Palestinian areas by the UN recognized illegal wall inside the West Bank, around 700 military roadblocks and checkpoints, frequent closures of cities, prolonged curfews, and prison-like restrictions on the movement of all Palestinians, prevent thousands of students and teachers from reaching their schools and universities.
- 3.** That Birzeit University, near Ramallah in the West Bank, was sealed off by an Israeli Army roadblock for nearly 3 years between 2001-2003; and that today the road to Birzeit remains subject to frequent 'flying checkpoints', which block, harass and intimidate students and faculty trying to reach the University.
- 4.** That Al Quds University in East Jerusalem is now surrounded by an 8-meter high concrete wall, which cuts the University off from 36% of its students.
- 5.** That students from Gaza are barred from reaching the 8 Palestinian universities in the West Bank.
- 6.** That 73 educational institutions have been partially or fully destroyed in the Gaza Strip since September 2000, including kindergartens, schools, and a teacher training college which was completely demolished on 16 March 2004.
- 7.** That 8 out of the total 11 universities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have been shelled or broken into by the Israeli Army since September 2000.
- 8.** That Hebron University and the Palestine Polytechnic University in Hebron were closed down by Israeli military order for much of 2003; and that the students of Hebron had to physically break down the gates to their universities, in defiance of the Israeli Army, to reconvene classes and demand their right to an education.
- 9.** That Birzeit University has been closed down by Israeli military order 15 times in its history; and that all the Palestinian universities and the majority of schools, including kindergartens, were closed down by military order between the years 1987-1992, denying a whole generation their right to education.
- 10.** That over 700 children, 200 university students and 39 teachers has been killed by the Israeli Army since September 2000.
- 11.** That schoolgirls Raghda Adnan al-Assar and Ghadeer Jaber Mukhaymar, aged 10 and 9, were shot dead by Israeli soldiers while sitting at their desks in UN schools in the Gaza Strip in September and October 2004; and that schoolgirls Rania Iyad Aram and Iman al-Hams, aged 8 and 13, were shot and killed on their way to school within the same month.

12. That over 3,000 Palestinian children have been arrested by the Israeli Army since September 2000 and that some 300 children are currently held in Israeli prisons and detention Centres.
13. That 2 presidents of Birzeit University Student Council were imprisoned in 2004 and 4 out of the total 11 members of the Student Council were imprisoned in the same year; and that there are currently some 80 students from Birzeit University held in Israeli prisons and detention centres, 10 of whom are held without charge or trial, including human rights worker and sociology student, Ziyad Hmeidan.
14. The Right to Education is an international Campaign set up by Birzeit University to reach out to students, teachers and campaigners worldwide to support the right to education in Palestine.

This Union Believes:

1. That the right to education is a fundamental human right and basic to human freedom, as declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which states that “Everyone has the right to education”, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), 13 which recognizes that “Education is both a human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights.”
2. That the obstruction and attacks on Palestinian education in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by the illegal Israeli occupation not only violate the human rights of individuals, but are an attack on the development of Palestinian society as a whole.
3. It is the responsibility of governments, civil society organizations and ordinary people to defend the universal right to education and to demand its realization.
4. If peace is sought, then freedom, justice, education and development are necessary.

This Union Resolves:

1. To affiliate to the Right to Education Campaign at Birzeit University as a public show of solidarity and support to all Palestinian students and teachers who are struggling to live, work and study under the current situation.
2. To endorse our call to all higher educational institutions to raise awareness about the issues facing Palestinian education.
3. To support the Right to Education Campaign’s calls for international action against Israeli violations of the human right to education in the occupied Palestinian territory.
4. To send a letter of support to the Birzeit University Student Council.

Proposer: Charlotte Dunne

Seconded: Ahmad Muna

15. Referendum results

Results of the Governance Referendum will be read out at this point.

16. Any other Business