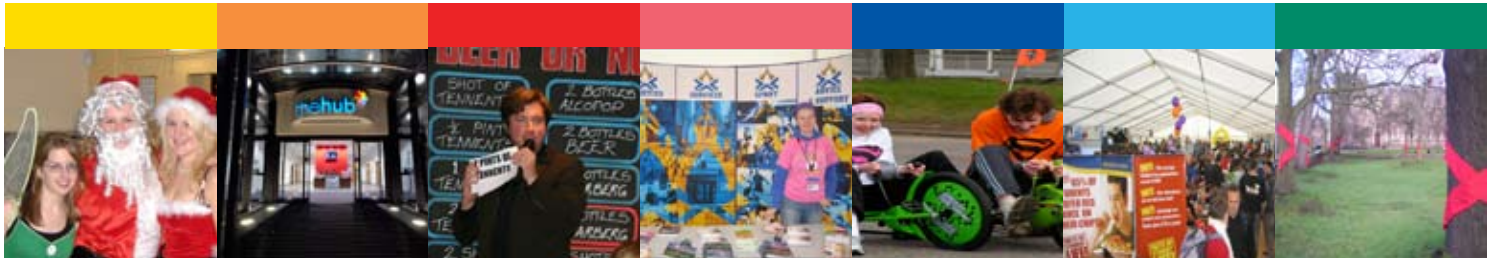


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student show
jailbreak
entertainments
campaigns
reform
education



Annual Report 2006-07



www.ausa.org.uk



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Abbreviations

AUSA – Aberdeen University Students' Association
BUSA – British Universities Sports Association
liP – Investors in People
OSCR – Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator
AGM – Annual General Meeting
AECC – Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre
ASR – Aberdeen Student Radio

Vision

Enriching and supporting the student community by providing a wide range of high quality services and opportunities

Mission Statement

AUSA provides representation and services for students, run by students, to enhance their experiences and enable students to enjoy and gain more from their university education

Core Values

- A pleasant, safe and healthy environment
- An environment where students should have fun while learning
- Effective representation, advice and support for students
- Student focused service provision
- Opportunities for personal development
- Accountability, integrity and fairness
- Always striving for continuous improvement

Outgoing President's Welcome



RICHARD MILLER: SA President 2006-07

Hello, and welcome to this, the first ever AUSA annual report. This has been a year of great change and improvement for AUSA, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

Since we have so much going on throughout the year, I believe it is important that we signpost the developments and make this information accessible to our members, the University and all those who want to know what the Students' Association are doing these days. Inside this document we hope to include information about all areas of AUSA, and hope that you take the time to read it to get to know the Students' Association a little bit better.

We are committed to being transparent, and will continue working to make sure that students in Aberdeen get a good deal from their time here. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with AUSA this year, especially the Executive Committee and SA Council members who have worked hard to make the Students' Association an organisation I have been proud to be a part of.

AUSA Executive 2006-07



Richard Miller
SA President

Chris Mackenzie
VP Societies
& Student
Activities

John Hardey
VP Education
& Employability

James Fairwood
VP Sport

Drew Elliot
VP Charities

**Lynda
Macdonald**
VP Advice
& Support

David Bernard

Joe Tyler

Helen Mason

Sandy McKinnon

Angela Fraser

Tom Stewart-Moore

Yasmin Mahdi

Cheryl Garret

Laura Farmer

JVP Education & Employability

Welfare Officer

JVP Societies

JVP Societies

JVP Sport

JVP Sport

Equal Opportunities Officer

Student Activities Convenor

Foresterhill Convenor

Student Activities

Societies

AUSA's portfolio of 60+ societies is testimony to the lively and diverse student body at Aberdeen University.

This year the focus has been on reviewing and streamlining the administration of societies by bringing it up-to-date, making it effective and efficient and taking advantage of basic IT solutions; laying the essential foundations for future years.

It has also seen the creation of a comprehensive Societies' Handbook; the development and implementation of a massive web expansion; increased marketing potential for societies and, with the move to the Hub, the rebirth of the Societies' Centre and a new 24/7 secure storage facility on campus for equipment.

There is still a lot of work to be done in updating and improving the way in which societies are managed, however this year has been the founding step in identifying weak areas and has set the Societies' Union on a clear path for improvement and resource management.

Societies' Union Committee

The Societies' Union Committee did not meet as often and as effectively as perhaps one would desire. A large part of this has been due to the absence of a collated and up-to-date handbook for societies and their management, including rules and guidelines for disciplining, financing and regulating them. All of this has been remedied with the "AUSA Societies' Handbook" being published for the forthcoming academic year. This will provide a clear and much needed framework for all involved in the running, management and administration of Societies.



Successes and Notable Society Events / Achievements

With over 60 societies and more than 3000 members only a handful of highlights and notable events run by societies can be included here: Centre Stage Theatre Co. and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society's excellent productions; Treading The Boards Musical Society sold out 4 out of 5 performances of The Wizard of Oz at Aberdeen Arts Centre in February; Wilderness Medical Society went to Peru to carry out research into the effects of altitude and will again present their findings to a symposium of the Royal College; and MedSoc hosted a successful Fashion Show to raise money for charity.

Sport

The Sports Union is responsible for running student sport in the Students' Association. Its job is to increase participation in sport and recreation by putting on events and activities. The VP Sport's job is to oversee all of this including our 53 affiliated sports clubs by arranging fixtures, training times, facilities and much more.

Superteams

This one day event was held on Sunday 11th March on campus. It was one of the biggest student sport participation events of the year with 462 students taking part and 60 volunteers involved in its organisation. The team worked tirelessly on different stages of the event, which included 2 climbing walls, motorised go-carts and paintballing. The event was a big success, everybody had a great day out and it increased students participation in sport - a big aim of the Sports Union.

Sports Ball

This was once again held at Ardoe House Hotel on Thursday 9th February. Attended by 476 people, various prizes and awards including the Blues winners were presented. Guests were also joined by current Scottish rugby captain Jason White who gave the guest of honour speech.



Granite City Challenge

The annual inter-varsity sporting challenge against city rivals - The Robert Gordon University - took place on Wednesday 21st March 2007. It was Aberdeen University's turn to host the event this year. At the end of the day it was a resounding 17-9 victory to Aberdeen which extends Aberdeen University's unbeaten run.

Soccer 6s

The men's soccer 6s was held on Kings playing field and attracted 22 teams. A BBQ was also held during the day which contributed to the football club raising nearly £800. This year saw the first women's soccer 6s take place at Balgownie. Only 6 teams entered, but as it was the first year this event had been run the signs are promising that it could become a permanent fixture in the sporting calendar.

Rugby 7s

Held every year on Kings playing field, this event attracted participating teams from as far away as Newcastle. The event was coordinated jointly between the Sports Union and the Rugby Club. Coca Cola sponsored the event, providing the trophies, drinks to sell at the BBQ and t-shirts. 24 teams took part and the rugby club raised £1500 from the day - a magnificent achievement.

Cairngorm Accident

A first year student (Lairig club member) and a former student both lost their lives in November 2006 in the Cairngorms whilst winter climbing. The thoughts of all at AUSA are with the families and friends of those involved. The University Safety Adviser worked with the Students' Association to gather information on the circumstances of the accident and to consider whether any changes may be needed in the Association's arrangements for its affiliated sports clubs. A number of recommendations were proposed and approved for the Lairig club and two further recommendations approved for implementation by the Students' Association.

This was a difficult time for all involved and the Students' Association would like to thank University personnel for their assistance and support.



Sports Facilities

The new sports facility has received the necessary funding from **sportscotland**, University of Aberdeen and Aberdeen City Council so plans can start to progress. With the design of the new facility finalised recently, exciting times certainly lie ahead for sports development and provision within AUSA, University of Aberdeen and the wider community.

Our training facility at Balgownie has unfortunately failed a safety test. The light coming from the floodlights did not meet the safety standards required so during hours of darkness this facility is useless. This is obviously disappointing and has meant a reshuffle in the training facilities and times for certain clubs which has caused much disruption.

Fixtures

249 fixtures were played by Monday 12th February. The next stage saw teams that qualified for the BUSA knockouts compete against teams throughout the UK which increased the costs placed upon students. The cricket, men's and women's rugby, men's and women's fencing, and women's tennis teams all made it through to the semi-finals.

Charities

The Charities Campaign continued to raise money for local groups in the North East of Scotland this year. The two flagship events: the ever popular Student Show; this year entitled "Invasion of the Doric Snatchers"; and Torcher - the traditional torchlight parade through the city - were extremely successful and very popular. As well as these two events, the Charities Campaign also raised money through Jailbreak, Schools Collections, the annual Fashion Show as well as many smaller events throughout the year. Bookends - the second hand bookshop has also gone from strength to strength. Services and Charities' commission have been increased which led to a £10,000 income.

The total raised by the campaign this year was a massive £80,000 - all of which was disbursed to local charities and groups catering for a diverse range of needs in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Sums awarded ranged from £50 to £8,000.



Jeans in the 'Deen

Aberdeen University Student Charities Campaign launched a new charities initiative this year - Jeans in the 'Deen. The charity event asked all University staff to participate and wear denim jeans for one Friday in return for a donation to the Charities Campaign. As the fundraiser was in its first year, the Campaign worked closely with the University's Communications and Human Resource departments to successfully engage staff and obtain appropriate permissions. Jeans in the 'Deen took place on Friday April 27th and raised just over £1,400 while simultaneously raising Campaign awareness amongst University staff.

Volunteering

The Volunteering service at AUSA continues to offer students the opportunity to volunteer and gain new skills and experience in order to enhance their life skills and career prospects. There are currently over 80 voluntary organisations registered with the service, offering more than 100 different opportunities. These include:

- helping out at a youth club which is based on a converted double-decker bus
- helping protect local nature reserves with the countryside ranger service
- helping out in Aberdeen Arts Centre
- helping out in the AUSA bookshop

During the year, voluntary organisations have visited the Students' Association to promote their opportunities to students. AUSA has also organised regular events to promote the service and encourage students to find out more. The key message has been the importance to them of "Standing out from the Crowd"; employers look for more than just qualifications: personal qualities and transferable skills such as time management and communication amongst others, which can be gained and built upon by volunteering.

A group of students this year also set up a volunteering group called "Dirty Weekenders" to encourage fellow students to try volunteering. They hold events at weekends such as helping out conservation projects, painting projects and fundraising projects. Organisations they have helped this year include Aberdeen Foyer, British Red Cross, and Creative Waste.

Futureskills

The Futureskills Employability Competition, a collaboration with the University's Careers department, was once



again a big success this year with 14 teams entering. Each team was provided with an individual mentor to support their development along the way. Three top prizes of £1000, £500 and £300 were on offer with the winners coming from the Squash Club.

Media

Gaudie Newspaper

This year's Gaudie team have been one of the best in recent memory; they have worked tirelessly to produce the weekly newspaper - informing students, the University and Aberdeen citizens of the goings on - on and off campus. This year, Gaudie finally moved into a new office, fully furnished with new equipment and software. Gaudie has covered a range of issues, from the controversial to the surreal over the last year.

Aberdeen Student Radio (ASR) www.aberdeenstudentradio.com

Aberdeen Student Radio is to launch on the 24th September, 2007 after several years off-air. This exciting new project offers students the opportunity to produce and broadcast their own shows. The first radio committee was elected this year, and equipment was purchased with financial support from the University. There is much work to be done from now on. In this formative and ambitious period, we hope to be broadcasting throughout the academic year. ASR will be covering a wide range of issues, campus news, student issues, international news, politics, sport, education, welfare and all other areas of student life.

AUSA Website – www.ausa.org.uk

AUSA made an increased effort to direct traffic to the website in 2006-7. Mouse mats advertising the site were distributed into all computer labs on King's Campus, the website was given a section in the AUSA Handbook, and all emails sent by AUSA referred back to the site. The website continues to be developed and improved and is a major method of communicating with students. Between 9/1/07 and 31/7/07 the site had 64,315 visits (viewers from 146 countries, with 55,431 visits from UK viewers) with 366,879 page views.

NOTE: The figures above illustrate the traffic through ausa.org.uk from January 9th 2007 – July 31st 2007 - figures for the website were unavailable before January 9th 2007



Education & Employability

Education and Employability is possibly one of the largest remits within AUSA. It covers all aspects of academic affairs through to opportunities for students to improve their CV with the Joblink and Volunteering Services. There have been changes this year in how academic affairs operates as the University's college structure continues to develop. There have also been many opportunities to develop student representation in the wider University structures.

Education Committee

This is the first year in which there has been a full Education Committee, with all the Area of Studies Convenor positions being filled. This has led to one of the largest and best attended student delegations to the University senate for some time which has resulted in students leading on many major debates within the University and placing students firmly at the centre of University decision making.

Class reps

This year there has been in excess of 350 class reps elected with over 100 receiving training. The Education Committee has been working to improve the links between the academic units and the class reps to better realise their role in the University.

Joblink

Joblink is AUSA's student employment service. It was established in 1996 as a means of alleviating student hardship and acts as a safe and reliable link between students and local employers. The role of Joblink is to enable the efficient exchange of information about part-time, temporary and vacation employment opportunities between employers and University of Aberdeen students.

Paid employment enables students to gain valuable experience and work related skills, which can improve their graduate employability. Joblink has registered over 3000 students seeking employment and has almost 1500 employers on its books. Two successful recruitment fairs were held in the spring and autumn term with around 700 students attending each event.



Welfare, Campaigns & Advice

This year has been an extremely productive year for the welfare arm of AUSA. By moving to the Hub, a brand new Info & Advice Centre has been established and with this came the appointment of a new full time Co-ordinator. As a direct result, usage has increased and services have been extended. This is a valuable improvement to AUSA welfare resources and reflects the increasing importance of welfare to students today. In addition, calls to Niteline - our listening and information service - have also increased. Members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) committee organised a hugely successful Ceilidh, which was well attended and enjoyed by all and also raised money for charity.

Much of the Vice President Advice & Support's time this year has focussed on assisting students with the complaints and appeals process and representation at disciplinary hearings. When not working on these they have used the opportunity to develop existing campaigns and initiate new and exciting campaigns with the support of the Welfare Committee.

Welfare Committee and Campaigns

Supported by the Welfare Convenor, this year has been highly successful for the AUSA Welfare Committee. The year of campaigns began with World AIDS Day on December 1st 2006. Amongst the activities were film screenings, talks, information stands and a candle-lit vigil. Involvement from the wider student population was substantial and over £600 was raised for local charities.

The committee has also been involved in a Safety and Security campaign, No Smoking Day, Anti-drinks Spiking and Mental Health Awareness. A much-talked-about campaign included the Chill-Out Day and Stress Awareness Fortnight. During Chill-Out Day students had the opportunity to 'burn off' their exam stress on inflatables and enjoy free pizza. Despite heavy rain, over 150 students attended and enthusiasm was high. Stress Awareness Fortnight followed Chill-Out Day and included free yoga and tai-chi classes. Over 50 students attended these relaxation classes and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. This provided an opportunity for students to relax during the stressful exam period. For the



full fortnight members of the welfare team were on hand in the library to give exam advice and supply free, healthy fair-trade food and drink to stressed students.

Niteline

AUSA is particularly pleased with efforts to enhance the Niteline listening and information service. There are now over 40 active volunteers who have remained committed throughout the year. Several social events have also been held throughout the year to allow volunteers to get to know each other. Increased focus on publicity this year has led to increased awareness and usage thanks to the dedication of the Niteline Co-ordinators.

Info & Advice Centre

The Info & Advice Centre is a support mechanism provided by AUSA for all current, prospective and potential students. The Centre's main purpose is to provide a quality referral and support system to students, whether in person, by email or over the phone. An array of services are available, ranging from private accommodation information, financial and academic assistance, and information on local and University services; an informal 'one-stop shop' for all queries and problems that a student may have.

A member of staff was employed to co-ordinate the Centre this year. The previous service was overhauled and improved, and many other services introduced, including advice on housing & landlord issues. With continual advertisement and welfare events throughout the year, the Centre has steadily increased in popularity. Since it opened in The Hub, nearly 3000 students have visited the Centre, and numerous additional queries and questions have been dealt with via telephone and email. The growing success of the Centre is highlighted by the number of students who come back to use the service throughout the year.

Accommodation

The Accommodation service has gone through a huge facelift over the last year. Previously, the service operated with paper folders of properties advertised by landlords that remained in the Info & Advice Centre. Today however, students can access advertised property records via the new Accommodation website. Since its launch, the website has received thousands of hits from current students in Aberdeen and prospective students from all over the world.

The service delivery has also been improved, with guidance now available on all types of accommodation, rentals, and advice on housing law and landlord issues. Of all the services that the

Centre provides, 51% of all enquiries are accommodation-related, highlighting the need for an efficient and well-run accommodation service.

In March 2006, the Centre held its very first Accommodation Fayre with a variety of private property information and student accommodation providers. The Fayre was a big success with over 500 students attending. In an effort to maintain a high number of advertised properties on the website, the Centre is frequently advertising for new landlords via University Communications, local press, estate agencies and corporate companies.

Finance

For many years, AUSA has had a dedicated Financial Advisor, who has continued to advise students on all financial issues concerning them, including tax and budgeting. This service has been very popular with students worried about their own financial situation. The new and improved Centre now also offers information on the differing types of funding available to all undergraduate and postgraduate students, and has introduced a range of material including information booklets and books on student finance for users to browse through for financial tips. More recently, Funder Finder was launched in the Centre. With this exclusive programme students can access details on local and national charities and trusts to which students can apply for funding. AUSA's financial services are particularly popular with postgraduate and international students, looking for advice on how to fund their studies.



General Manager's Report

AUSA Relocation

Staff eagerly awaited the move from Luthuli House to the Hub and much background work was undertaken to ensure that this would be as smooth as possible. All staff had the opportunity of feeding in their thoughts and opinions to the AUSA Hub sub group, which met on a regular basis in the year prior to opening.

Unfortunately there were delays in accessing the building due to unforeseen problems with the building works. This meant that the building was not operational for Fresher's Week 2006 (the original plan), which proved very disappointing for all concerned as proposed move in dates were cancelled.

The Association did eventually make the move in October just prior to the Open Day on 21st October 2006. As with any new building there have been snagging problems and teething difficulties. AUSA sharing a building with other service providers - after being used to having its own building - has also had its own challenges! Thanks must go to everyone for their patience, flexibility, coping with the challenges of the new building and with the new procedures and practices that have been put in place.

The move has been a big success with a much-improved working environment and facilities, providing significant potential for the future.

Strategic Plan

The AUSA Strategic Plan (2005 – 2008) was reviewed and updated during the Summer of 2006 and 2007 (end of years one & two) as proposed. Under each of the objectives, details were given of the progress made in achieving the particular objective. The review of years one and two can be accessed in full on the AUSA website together with the original and updated plan.

www.ausa.org.uk/about



AUSA STAFF (L-R): Mike Seed, Bryan Snelling, Adam Peers, Shannon Tubby, Corrina Mackenzie, David Reid, Shiona Denton, Doreen Osborne

AUSA has enjoyed continued progress during 2006/2007 though appreciates that there is never room for complacency and that there is still work to do in order to fully achieve its vision of 'enriching and supporting the student community by providing a wide range of high quality services and opportunities.'

Investors in People (IiP)

AUSA was delighted to achieve IiP status in April 2006 and have, during the last year, fed into a range of excellent training workshops and events aimed at IiP organisations. This national quality standard demonstrates AUSA's commitment to the ongoing development of its staff and to continuous improvement.

Partnerships

AUSA enjoys positive working relationships with many stakeholders including the University and are working hard to further develop these for the benefit of all students.

Charitable Status

AUSA has been working towards gaining charitable status for some time. After considerable liaison and communication with the Office of the Charities Regulator in Scotland (OSCR), AUSA finally satisfied all requirements and became a registered charity in March 2007, which should bring a range of benefits in the future.

Staff Structure

AUSA has seen some changes to its staff over the past year. New members of staff have joined the team to take up positions in Student Activities, Finance and Marketing, whilst a number of longer serving staff members have moved on. AUSA has a very dedicated team of full-time and part-time staff who do an excellent job in supporting, advising and assisting the Sabbatical Officers, volunteers and students.



AUSA STAFF (L-R): David Spowart, Lesley Lambert, Michelle Higgins, Trish Burnett, Alison Johnston, Jan de Neef, Emma Leiper, Laura Chalmers, Leanne Robertson

Job Evaluation

The job evaluation process aims to ensure a consistent approach across staff groups and that everyone is receiving equal pay for work of equal value.

All University staff went through a job evaluation process during 2006 as part of the implementation of the framework agreement and the move to a national single pay spine. The framework agreement came out of the national pay settlement and the University had to undertake this task.

It was felt that it would be sensible to follow the same process for all AUSA staff and this was completed in June 2007. The vast majority of staff benefited from the process and can take comfort that all posts have been analysed.

Members' Feedback

AUSA is very keen to meet the needs of its membership and listen to members' views on a wide range of topics. Questionnaires were undertaken during the year relating to catering at outlets across Campus, the results of which were forwarded to the University Campus Services. These were taken on board and various improvements/changes have been made which benefit everybody.

Other questionnaires initiated by AUSA included a student lifestyle survey relating to current provision and satisfaction of entertainments, pubs and nightclubs in Aberdeen, and halls of residence (including views on support, catering, smoking, internet, rent and recycling).

AUSA Promotional Booklet

To complement the AUSA website and other promotional material/media, the generic AUSA promotional leaflet was revised and a new attractive and user-friendly booklet produced, aimed to appeal primarily - but not exclusively - to students. The booklet has been and will continue to be circulated to various stakeholders.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Democracy

Elections

This year's Executive Committee elections, held in April were the first ever at Aberdeen University to go online. A project that had been in the making for the past 4 years, online voting was hailed as a big success due to 2,472 voters casting 17,983 individual votes for 19 different candidates. This was a huge increase on the previous years turn out of approx. 1600 students, an increase in percentage terms of approx. 65%.

Overall, the online elections software worked very well and helped increase the turnout this year. The Returning Officer was also impressed by the system and has recommended its use in University Elections in the future.

Council 2006/2007

This year AUSA Council was well attended, with all meetings reaching quoracy. It debated and addressed some key issues and worked towards getting a better deal for students at Aberdeen University, especially on anonymous marking, internet access, food on campus, student accommodation and ethics, and the environment.

Executive Committee

Meeting more frequently than SA Council, the Executive Committee are charged with enacting policy passed at SA Council. They put in a lot of work to make sure that the will of the SA Council was enforced, and that constitutional commitments were adhered to over the past year.

AGM

This year's AGM was a great success. Having over 250 students attending - and therefore quorate - was a great boost for AUSA. At the AGM the annual accounts were presented and approved. The Sabbaticals presented their annual reports and answered questions. The AGM also made constitutional amendments; perhaps most notable was a significant change made to the wording of the constitution to satisfy the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) in order to allow AUSA to achieve charitable status. Other amendments included updating the

membership of the Education Committee, the introduction of a Junior Vice President Charities, and the removal of the Student Activities committee.

The AGM also approved a passionate policy mandating the Students' Association to lobby against the closure of the Gender Studies course. The minutes of the AGM are available on the AUSA webpage www.ausa.org.uk/about/agm



Social Activities & Events

Freshers Week 2006

Freshers Week 2006 was a great success in many areas. It saw an expansion of the model successfully employed in 2005 and there are plans to further develop this event in the future.

More Freshers' Handbooks were sent out than last year, with Postgraduate students in their 1st year at Aberdeen University receiving a handbook for the first time. The Handbook was also given a makeover from previous years and included an Academic Diary to increase functionality; both changes were well received.

The Freshers' Fayres were held under a marquee on Kings Playing Fields and were a great success. The Freshers' week entertainments were also seen as successful with Freshers' week partners Liquid Nightclub and Moshulu proving to be very popular venues.

New initiatives this year included collaboration with Vue Cinema. They provided a number of films free of charge to AU students, all of which were extremely successful. AUSA were also able to increase the number of non-drinking events to provide an alternative to those students who wished to get involved in Freshers' week but without a focus on alcohol consumption.

The Union

The Union Bar continued to provide students with a safe, competitively-priced and exciting venue to relax, socialise and meet. The re-introduction of 'The Wheel of Booze' nights on a Wednesday and the continuation of successful themed nights from Freshers' Week (Beer or No Beer, Quiz, etc) contributed to a varied programme of entertainments. These were complimented by an array of live music acts over the year displaying a diverse selection of musical tastes and talents. The Union also played host to several AUSA evenings, notably Superteams, the Election Results party and several Societies' meetings and social evenings.



The Union continues to provide AUSA with a valuable venue for entertaining existing students, visiting teams and groups and contributes enormously to the fulfilment of its commitment to providing its student population with social space and a safe environment in which to relax.

Graduation Ball

The 2006/2007 graduating year saw a new type of Graduation Ball where AUSA took a new approach on a traditional event. In the past, the event had been held at a local Aberdeen hotel but this year AUSA wanted to increase the capacity available and improve the atmosphere, so instead held the event at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC).

The total number of dinner tickets sold was just under 1000 but attendance was increased once dance-only tickets went on sale.

AUSA took the event one step further and, at the request of the Sabbatical Officers, booked big-name entertainment - Scotland's biggest ceilidh band, Iron Broo, as well as popular DJ duo 'The New Testament Party Crew,' featuring Peaches Geldof and Frederick Macpherson.

Big Launch

The Big Launch was a brand new initiative introduced for the first week of the second semester in January/February.

With the move to the Hub just after Fresher's Week, it was felt that a launch of all AUSA services available in the Hub would be valuable. The Big Launch included activities, special offers and promotions as well as lots of free promotional items and the chance to win a Nintendo Wii by getting involved and finding out more about the Students' Association.

Overall this event was a big success with a huge increase in footfall for AUSA services.



SA Award Winners

David Davidson Award for Outstanding Voluntary Contribution to AUSA

2006/7 – Scott McMenemy

Sports Trophy Winners – 2006/07

Blues Bowl	Ms. Stephanie McDowal
The Morrison Trophy	Ms. Gillian Toal
AJM Edwards Memorial Award	Mr. Gordon Cox
The Centenary Cup	Ms. Elizabeth Crighton
The Allender Memorial Trophy	Aberdeen University Cricket Club

The Blues awards ceremony, attended by the University Principal, was held on the 10th May 2007 to officially present the Blues winners with their medals.

Rachael Rennie	Full-Blue Badminton	Aileen Byrne	Half-Blue Gaelic-Football
Gillian Toal	Full-Blue Boat	Sinead Sheehan	Half-Blue Gaelic-Football
Stephanie McDowal	Full-Blue Boat	Anna Fulton-Peebles	Half-Blue Lacrosse
Robert Hamilton	Full-Blue Boat	Polly Liddell	Half-Blue Riding
Leanne MaGuire	Full-Blue Gaelic-Football	Susan Hill	Half-Blue Riding
Robert Coatworth	Full-Blue Rifle	Deborah Buckley	Half-Blue Riding
Claire Robb	Full-Blue Ski & Snowboard	Julian Green	Half-Blue Rifle
Martin Leel	Full-Blue Swimming & Water polo	Susan Coghill	Half-Blue Sailing
Graham M Neill	Full-Blue Tennis	Caroline Beveridge	Half-Blue Sailing
Pamela Nicholson	Half-Blue Athletics	Alison Graham	Half-Blue Shinty
Nicholas Barron	Half-Blue Cricket	Doneil Macleod	Half-Blue Shinty
Robert Cannon	Half-Blue Cricket	Robert Grant	Half-Blue Tennis
Kenny Reid	Half-Blue Cricket	Kirsty Thomas	Half-Blue Trampoline
Alison Filshie	Half-Blue Curling	Ea Damborg	Half-Blue Womens' Basketball
Jamie Sala	Half-Blue Fencing	Laura Baxendale	Half-Blue Womens' Rugby
Mike Caldwell	Half-Blue Fencing		

The Future

Audit

AUSA will be subject to an audit in November 2007 as part of the University Strategic Internal Audit rolling programme. This will include 'an audit of the governance arrangements within the Association and consideration of the robustness of the Students' Association interface with the University.' A second element of the audit is 'to review the respective roles and relationship between the Students' Association Sports Union and the University's Sport and Recreation Services.' AUSA welcomes this audit and looks forward to reading and commenting on the report. The report will be looked at closely and any recommendations implemented if required.

Strategic Plan '08/'09 onwards

As the current Strategic Plan runs from Autumn 2005 – 2008, AUSA shall be working hard during 2008 to produce a new Strategic Plan that will become live from Autumn 2008. AUSA is proud of its achievements and successes during the life of the current plan and these are outlined in the annual Strategic Plan reviews (see www.ausa.org.uk/about).

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment and feedback on a draft document. The implementation and regular review of the final document will ensure that we drive forward the Association's aims and objectives.

Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI)

AUSA are always striving for continuous improvement and have signed up for cohort four of the Students' Union Evaluation Initiative (SUEI) beginning in January 2008. This is a two year process of assessment, evaluation, identifying areas for improvement and evidencing outcomes of all activities within the Association, culminating in a final audit and report and application for accreditation.

SUEI has become the national model of quality assessment within Student Unions/Associations and is endorsed by the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Department for Innovation, Universities & Skills (DIUS).

This will definitely be a challenging process, potentially impacting on everything AUSA does. However, it is important if it is to ensure that everything AUSA does is member focused, appropriate and relevant.

Curriculum Reform

The University is embarking on a major Curriculum Reform project over the next two – three years.

The Curriculum Reform project is a review of the University's education objectives, programme structures and curriculum content, with a view to developing a high quality and distinctive educational experience for undergraduate and postgraduate students at the University of Aberdeen, which takes account of developing international approaches.

The results of the Curriculum Reform will potentially have a massive impact on students for many years to come. AUSA will have an important part to play at all stages of the process and have representation on the curriculum commission, steering group and most other 'related' groups.

Incoming President's Welcome



ANGELA FRASER: SA President 2007-08

I would like to begin by expressing how incredibly excited I am about being elected by the students to represent them as the Students' Association President for 2007/08. It is going to be an exciting time for students and the Executive Committee, because the team really does look like a perfect combination to continue the good work of last year and take AUSA forward.

In the coming academic year it is my hope that students see development in the services that the AUSA offers. Firstly we have a fantastic opportunity to develop the services that we offer at the Hub. This year we will be able to use Freshers' Week to showcase the facilities that we have at the Hub and Butchart Recreation Centre and make students more aware of the great range of services we provide.

The second most notable opportunity I will have this year is to develop Aberdeen Student Radio (ASR). I hope to build on the good work the outgoing President Richard Miller has already achieved in setting up the radio station, by working with the newly elected ASR committee to ensure that through quality and diversity ASR will develop and will indeed present a fantastic opportunity for students to get involved.

Finally in the coming year I hope to tackle the long running problem that is the segregation between our campuses at Foresterhill and Old Aberdeen. I hope to further develop the services that we provide at Old Aberdeen to Foresterhill so that we have a greater presence across all campuses.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Fraser".

Financial Statement

AUSA Financial Statements 2007

Year ended 31 July 2007

Unaudited Income & Expenditure Account

	Unrestricted Funds 2007 £	Restricted Funds 2007 £	Total 2007 £	Total 2006 £
Income				
Disbursement Grant	709,627	0	709,627	700,653
Income from trading activities	113,083	18,185	131,268	102,058
Other income	46,054	35,088	81,141	86,378
Total Incoming Resources	868,764	53,273	922,037	889,089
Expenditure				
Trading expenditure	116,278	27,136	143,414	89,157
Sports club expenditure	138,255	25,062	163,317	156,692
Representation expenditure	55,802	0	55,802	61,080
Non trading staffing costs	362,281	4,000	366,281	309,973
Administration and overheads	190,457	4,863	195,320	199,722
Total Expenditure	863,074	61,061	924,135	816,624
Surplus/(Deficit) before taxation	5,690	(7,788)	(2,098)	72,465
Corporation tax	(500)	0	(500)	2,996
Surplus/(Deficit) after taxation	5,190	(7,788)	(2,598)	75,461

Unaudited Balance Sheet

	2007	2006
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible assets	51,816	9,792
Investments	5,520	5,520
	57,336	15,312
Current Assets		
Stock	0	0
Debtors	26,931	10,896
Cash at bank and in hand	124,016	223,060
	150,946	233,956
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	74,721	113,108
Net current assets	76,226	120,848
Net Assets	133,562	136,160
Funds		
General Funds	116,637	111,447
Restricted Funds	16,925	24,713
Total Funds	133,562	136,160



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