

**BIRKBECK COLLEGE LONDON STUDENTS' UNION
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the year ended 31 July 1998**

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Staffing

The position of Vice President was altered back to a half sabbatical position this year, and funded from the direct grant of the SU. Overall, this did not prove as successful as might have been hoped, the staffing costs outweighing any increase in productivity, although it did allow the Union to draw in more advertising by allowing more time to be spent on the handbook, traditionally one of the more time consuming projects at the beginning of every year.

Welfare

Academic Learning Support and counselling continued as previously and were both very well used. Plans were made to start up an Advice Centre in the academic year 1998/99 and work was done to raise awareness of services provided.

Social Activities

Clubs & Societies were on the whole very active this year. Several societies ran very successful events, which attracted students and staff from across the college. Entertainments were also very successful, and our income from ticketed events rose accordingly, and of course helped to increase takings at the bar.

Income

Income was higher than expected this year, in the main, due to increased bar profits and an alteration in the percentage of the overall profit received, but also due to an increase in shop takings after relocation.

Communications

The handbook was improved on the previous years, but the Lamp & Owl was not produced as regularly as it should have been, or to the standard one would expect. The Class Reps system began the year looking promising, but did not reach its potential as a means of communication.

Resignation of President

In March Matt Gilman, President, resigned for personal reasons. His successor Ivor Stodolsky was not elected until May (earliest possible time for a by election), thus leaving a period when Mark Amako, Vice President, assumed the role of Acting President. The period from March onwards was severely disrupted, as the Union was left without a full committee, the Acting President was unable to take on the full responsibility of a full time paid position in the interim, and the newly elected President, Ivor Stodolsky, was unfamiliar with the workings of the Union and took over without a handover. I cannot emphasise how important the efforts of staff were, especially those of the Union Manager, to keeping things running through an extremely difficult period.

**Lucy Reed
Welfare Officer 1997/98
President 1998/99**