# FRUSTRATIONS

The comments that follow have been taken from a series of sessions run with both staff groups (at AMSU Conference) or with groups of elected officers (NUS Convention and USI events) between 1995 – 2007, rather more sessions were run with staff groups which may explain the longer list. One of the groups was a mixed group of staff and elected officers.

**Executive frustrations with Staff**

1. Staff always thinking that their area is a priority

2. Comparing you to your predecessor

3. Going on about previous years (which were always better!)

4. Being disgruntled if advice is not taken

5. Staff passing the buck on difficult operational issues

6. Staff who lobby the executive

7. Staff should realise that students lead a fluid lifestyle - so don't insist on formal hours

8. Staff who do not see what we do as work

9. Projects go ahead and will go ahead whether I am in post or not.

10. Lobbying more than one member of the executive - giving out different messages to different executive members

11. Presenting executive members with a fait accompli

12. Staff who pester you about the whereabouts of other officers

13. Being chased up for work

14. Staff are quite ready to take pride when things go well - but pass the buck to the executive when things go wrong

15. Staff who leak information to Councillors who then attack the executive

16. Managers who will only deal with the President

**Staff Frustrations with Executive**

1. Sabbatical burnout - things grind to a halt
2. Having to battle over boundaries - who does what
3. Becoming a lame duck officer after a successor is elected
4. Being forced to make policy decisions because they won’t
5. Low priority given to welfare and representation
6. Do only easy things Ents, clubs and bars
7. Using personal political influence with staff
8. Having to be seen to be tough - perceptions of leadership
9. Starting projects but not finishing them
10. Carrying out mundane tasks
11. Not being truly representative of a diversity of student opinion
12. Being very insular and not talking to students
13. Creeping to the University and being scared to upset them
14. No hope/confidence that they can change things
15. Blaming membership apathy
16. Forget how hard it is to get involved and forget their own experience
17. Leave planning too late and have no clear objectives
18. Tactical fixation on certain activities
19. Lack of confidence and self belief
20. Absenteeism and unreliability
21. Lack of communication
22. Sabbs lacking in training
23. Inexperience
24. NUS Training
25. Being Stupid
26. Accountability to staff
27. Personal grudges
28. Infallibility complex
29. Lack of continuity
30. Lack of record keeping
31. Abuse of power
32. Obsession with interest groups
33. CV building
34. Lack of appreciation for the professional environment
35. Re-inventing the wheel
36. Breaches of protocol
37. Getting drunk
38. Competition between staff and executive
39. Lack of willingness to think in the long term
40. Attacking current practices during and after election campaign