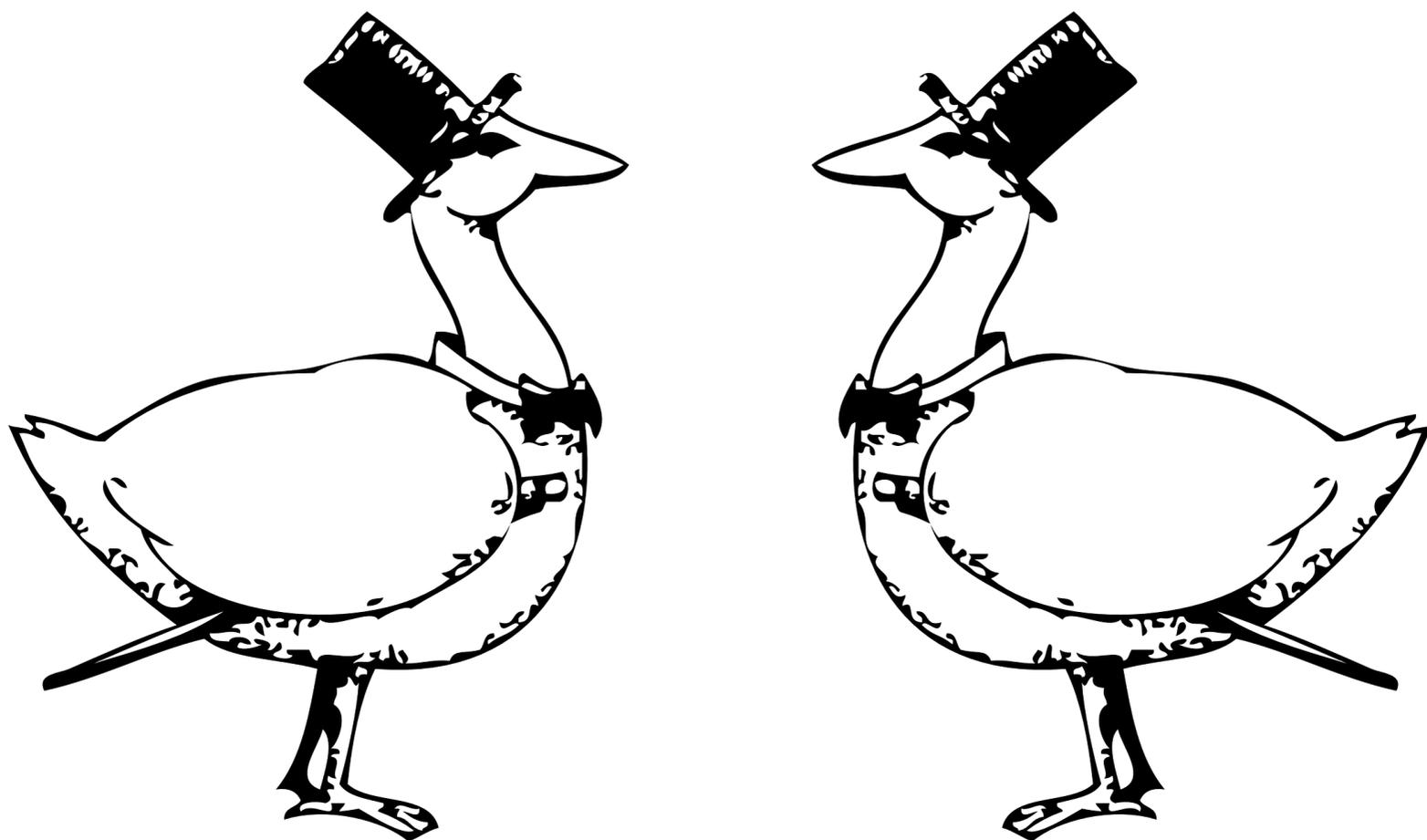


KEEP CALM IT'S THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE



*YUSU Elections
Supplement 2017*

Contents

Illustrations: Shitty Watercolour;
Harriet Cheshire

The Issues

Nouse gives a rundown of the topics most likely to dominate this election cycle; from mental health to freedom of speech and buses.



3

Presidential Profiles

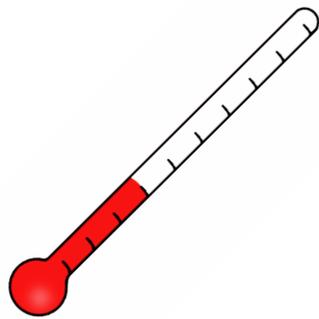
Our seven potential presidents talk to *Nouse* about their policies, their campaigns and themselves. Some are serious. Some are not.



4

Engagement

Polling the people: over 50 randomly selected students give their thoughts on YUSU, voting and the upcoming contests.



6

Comment

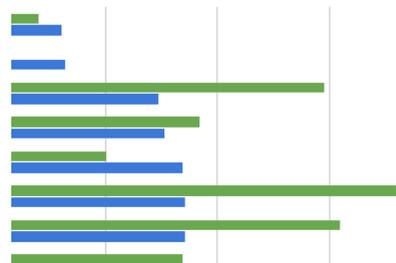
Luke Rix-Standing takes a look at the YUSU Election voting system and why it might be setting an example for our democracy.



8

Analysis

Michael Mokrysz dives into the data to illuminate York's voting patterns, one college and department at a time.



12



ELECTION TIMELINE

URY interview
night

Monday
Week 6

Monday
Week 6

Online
campaigning
begins

Hustings night

Friday
Week 6

Friday
Week 6

Voting opens

Physical
campaigning

Friday
Week 7

Friday
Week 7

Voting closes

Results night

Saturday
Week 7

With online campaigning officially underway, we take an irreverent look at the battleground issues that could make (or break) a candidate's campaign

1 Popularity

Let's be honest, it's never been all about the manifestos. From the mightiest VC to the lowliest ordinary member, most university elections root themselves in likeability and profile. Last year two of the five SABB roles were snapped up by former college chairs, while all four of the top finishers for Prez had headed up either a JCR or a political society. Look out for candidates with pre-existing networks of support and name recognition, particularly in politically active circles that have reason to go to the ballot box.

2 Mental Health



Probably the biggest issue of last year's campaign, and certainly the most pressing. The mental health crisis sweeping British universities has been well-documented, and York's Open Door Services have strained under the rising demand. The £500 000 pledged by the current administration may lessen the urgency, but the situation will require management and careful monitoring far beyond their tenure. If you need one reason to vote, this might be it: the SABBs can't fix the NHS, but they can have a good old go at fixing Open Door.

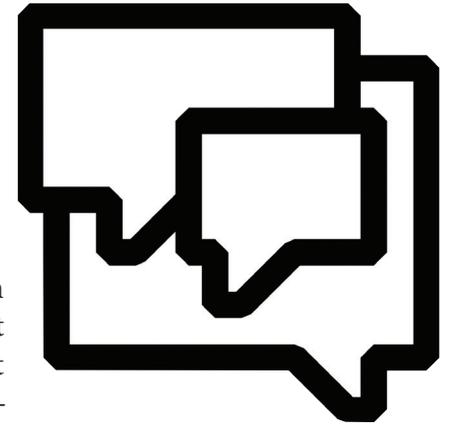
3 'Holding YUSU to Account'

The perennial rallying cry for any anti-establishment candidate seeking to become that which they profess to despise; accountability and transparency have been constant themes throughout YUSU elections gone by. When in office these champions of the common man will keep us all up-to-date with the ins and outs of what YUSU is doing, forgetting that such ins and outs are mind-numbingly boring to the average student. It's difficult to be a pressure group when you're running to be the public face of 'the system', but at least a couple of hopefuls will surely give it a go regardless.



4 Free Speech

Getting through YUSU elections without a flare-up over free speech would be like getting through Wimbledon with no rain - there's no reason why it shouldn't happen, but you just know it's not going to. Safe spaces, trigger warnings, no platforming - all the old favourites are liable to appear at any minute and transform civil discourse into madness. If you're having a dull Friday, go along to a candidate debate, ask 'would you no-platform Germaine Greer?', and then lie back and watch the carnage unfold. Yes, free speech has got the lot - a genuinely important topic that's usually riotously entertaining.



5 Money

Money talks. Last year presidential candidate Oliver Wilson offered to forego entirely the President's £18 000 pre-tax salary, a grand gesture that backfired somewhat with unnecessarily snarky mutterings of 'it's alright for some'. Furthermore, with the TEF, HE Bill and NSS all high on the agenda (Google them, I have a word limit to stick to), tuition fees will once more be in the spotlight after an inflation-aligned raise for all incoming students. Fee-loving candidates have not historically found favour with the electorate, and this looks unlikely to change.



6 Unity Health and Buses

The eternal get-out-of-jail-free cards for any student journo having a slow week, these ever-presents have been in the news cycle longer than any campus goose has been alive. Whether it's GP waiting times, issues with the new appointment interface or the slow, protracted death of the 44, these are the social media lightning rods that, however many times you flush, just refuse to go down. At least among the cabals of campus agitators that prowl SABB Facebook pages, they're sure to be vote-winners.



Alex Urquhart, *Theatre: Directing, Writing and Performance 3rd year*



What are your three main policies?

- Create a digital system of feedback, allowing students to have a say in the planning of YUSU and University policy
- Invest in Hes East, such as by introducing a Hes East Council to encourage collaboration between its colleges
- Empower events led by students, such as through free advertising for all student-led club nights

Could you describe yourself in two-three sentences?

I'm driven, passionate and decisive. I like keeping busy, I've been a part of a lot of big events held at York and that's where I've had the most fun. I like a beer, and Weetabix.

What makes you well suited for the role?

From my first term at York, my life has been centred around enhancing the student experience. From events, to chairing Derwent, I've been able to acclimatise to the professional and personal demands of student leadership.

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

I'm going to be appearing all over! Lectures, nights out and catered dinners. Please feel free to stop me for a chat. My manifesto has been built of feedback from students, and I'd love to keep hearing what people think about my policies! Also, look out for my video...

Max Flynn, *PPE 3rd year*



What are your three main policies?

- Opposing the introduction of a deposit by the University
- Ensuring that the £500 000 promised by the University for physical and mental health of students is well spent
- The introduction of student committees for YUSU Summer Ball and Campus Takeover

Could you describe yourself in two-three sentences?

In my down time I mostly binge watch episodes of *Community*. I'm also a pretty big *Star Wars* fan and love Kanye, Chance and Childish Gambino.

What makes you well suited for the role?

I love York! It's genuinely given me the best years of my life and because of that fact I can't think of anything I'd work harder at than being your President.

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

I'll be making the rounds at all the YUSU events and will be out and about on campus. I have a Facebook page and event where I'll be uploading my manifesto points and campaign videos!

Roberto Avelar, *Biology 4th year*



What are your three main policies?

- New accommodation contracts for the new colleges that cap price, and introduce a landlord ranking system
- Publish and lower hidden course fees, and establish a hardship fund for costs that aren't specified in courses
- Identify at-risk students and support them, and improve communication with leave of absence students

Could you describe yourself in two-three sentences?

I'm easy-going and open-minded. I'm always keen on getting to know new people and learn new things. I play bass pretty badly and spend most of my time thinking about ISA and all the biology work I should be doing.

What makes you well suited for the role?

I've been the YUSU International Officer the past two years, representing 4 000 students at York - I know how YUSU works. I've done campaigns, worked with liberation groups and understand the issues facing York students today.

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

Facebook group, lecture shoutouts, talking to people, giant cardboard capybara (chiguiro!), video on Facebook, probably Snapchat and Twitter too.



Jed Fulwell, *Electronic Engineering with Music Technology 3rd year*

What are your three main policies?

- 08:30pm
- Diversity
- Hey now, you're an all star

Could you describe yourself in two-three sentences?

I'm an all star, I go play. I'm a rockstar, I get paid. My favourite place in the world is V-Bar.

What makes you well suited for the role?

Absolutely nothing, and that's why I'm perfect for it.

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

Alcohol and Music



Tom Arnold, *Management Masters*

What are your three main policies?

- Increase support and publicity for student run events
- Bottled sauce in yusu bars
- Achieving all my policies

Could you describe yourself in two-three sentences?

I am ambitious but realistic. I enjoy long walks on the beach under the stars and candlelit dinners. I am very open to new ideas and experiences such as being YUSU president.

What makes you well suited for the role?

I have run popular late night events on campus, just like the one happening in V bar saturday week 9 8:30pm. I will not set unrealistic goals completely outside of the remit of the position. I believe in life after love.

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

My campaign will be an innovative marketing strategy with cardboard, social media and video. Trust me, you can't miss it.



Ellie Smith, *History 2nd year*

What are your three main policies?

- Lower the cost of university societies
- Lower the cost for university-run events
- Promote consent

Could you describe yourself in two-three sentences?

I'm a very enthusiastic and chatty person, and I'd like to think that I'm very approachable. I always like to keep myself busy and have thrown myself into university life; I'm a member of URY and my college netball team.

What makes you well suited for the role?

I'm an approachable and friendly person, and I'm never scared of a challenge. By throwing myself into university life I have really made the most of my university experience, and I want to encourage other students to do the same.

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

I'm mostly going to use posters for my campaign. I will also be making appearances on nights out, so people can come and speak to me then, or just come and get a drink with me.



Will Batchelor, *Film & TV Production 1st year*

What are your three main policies?

- Bottled sauces in YUSU bars; the packet stuff is expensive, grim and bad for the environment
- Recyclable materials used as disposable cups and crockery
- ON CAMPUS FUN - just like that found in V-Bar, 8:30, week 9 with free entry

Could you describe yourself in two-three sentences?

Fierce. Fuckable. Fabulous.

What makes you well suited for the role?

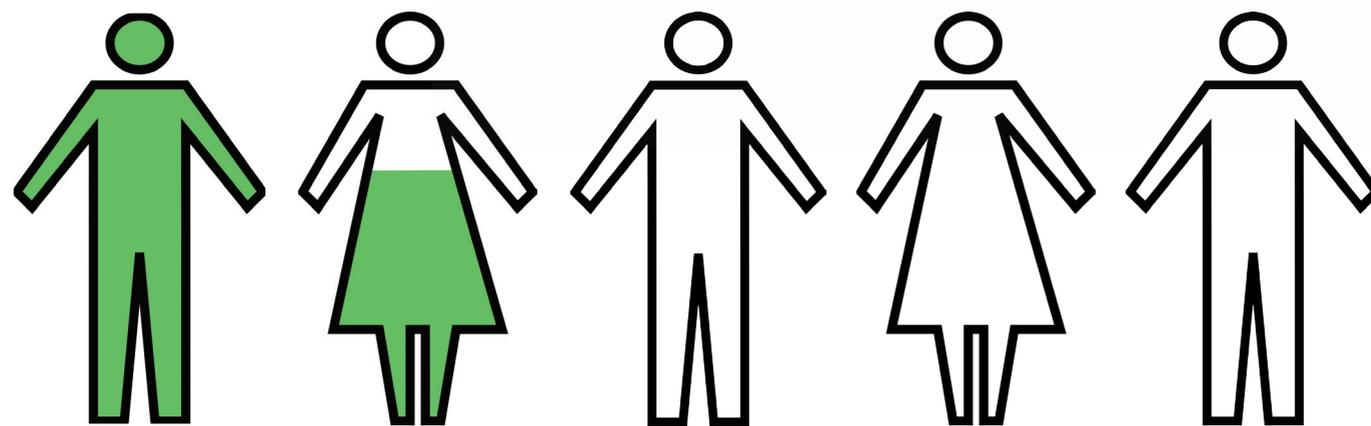
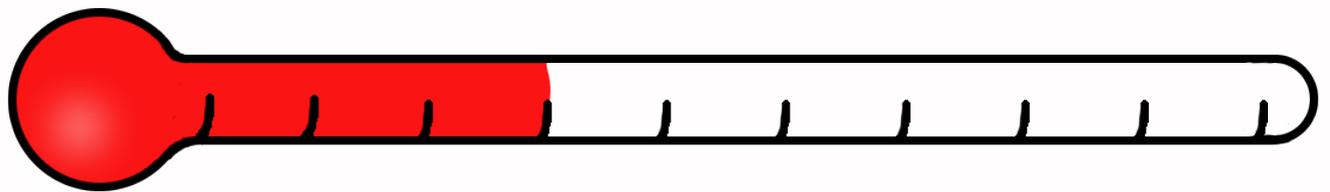
That's for the voters to decide.

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

Dancing. Glitter. All the colours of the wind!

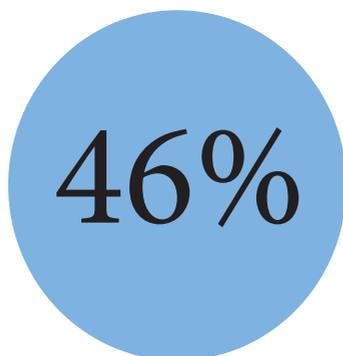
With engagement being a hot topic for elections of every shape and size, we took to the streets to find out what ordinary students think of the upcoming contests.

1. When asked how much attention they intend to pay to this year's YUSU Elections, the average students responded with a round 4/10.

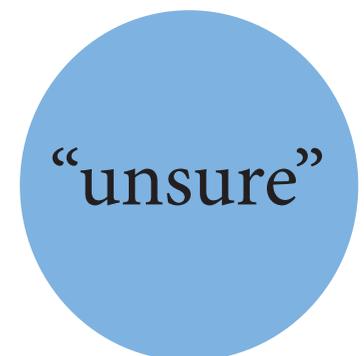


2. Students could name an average of 1.7 current SABB Officers. Student President Millie Beach was unsurprisingly the most recognised.

3. Just under half of the students surveyed said that they felt “confident in their knowledge of what YUSU does as an organisation.”



4. When asked “are you going to vote in the upcoming student elections”, the average student responded with “unsure”.



>> HOW COULD YUSU DO MORE TO ENGAGE THE STUDENT BODY?

Two areas dominated our replies: online visibility and freshers. More e-mails and social media coverage, with even emphasis on each, were suggested by over a fifth of our respondents. Information in fresher's talks and packs was repeatedly suggested by first years, who made up the majority of those who didn't know that elections were happening. Other suggestions included posters, canvassing in lectures and putting key dates into timetables.

>> WHAT SHOULD CANDIDATES BE FOCUSING ON?

The hottest topic by far was finance. Controlling rent, lowering fees and raising/instituting grants collectively garnered around 60 per cent of responses. Increasing space in the library, mental health provision and lowering the cost of sports clubs were also popular suggestions.

COMMUNITY AND WELL-BEING OFFICER:



Mia Chaudhuri-Julyan

Course/year: English Literature/third year

What are your three main policies?

- *Support:* centralised welfare request system on e:vision to make seeking help with any problem stress-free, easy and trackable (alongside the current system). This would take the admin burden off students and use allocated 'welfare advisors' to signpost to the correct support, communicate with the student's department if necessary, help with mitigating circumstances and check up later.
- *Engage:* jargon-busting, 'Student Community and Wellbeing 101' handbooks for all students (to be emailed out) which would explain everything from, for example, what a 'sabb' is, to LGBTQ and BAME terminology, to how students can submit ideas to YUSU, to what mental health is - plus details of liberation networks and support services.
- *Encourage:* termly debate forum where students can nominate an important York-related issue to talk about in teams in front of an audience - to encourage communication between opposing groups of students and develop real, applicable solutions to be presented as an idea to policy review.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I'm someone who really cares. I try to be positive in everything I do and focus on solutions when faced with a problem. I'm always up for a laugh but I also love my degree and I've tried to make my time here meaningful as much as possible!"

What makes you well suited for the role?

"I'm not afraid to challenge and negotiate with the University to deliver the support that students deserve and need. As YUSU Women's Officer this year, I've delivered unprecedented initiatives including (for example) persuading the University to approve gender-neutral consent talks. This term I'm asking you to let me put my experience, passion and drive to good use for York."

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

"I'm going to be launching a public Facebook page, Instagram and a Snapchat, but also keep an eye out for my blue and black signs up in Week 7, as well as cheeky appearances to come chat to lots of you at society meetings and sports practises!"



Thomas Underwood

Course/year: English Literature/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Add an extra tier of student support and provide mental health first aid training to all porters and security.
- Establish neighbourhood reps to bring off-campus students back into the fold of university life.
- Create an organised student response policy regarding external speakers which revolves around student consultation from all parties.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"This is a tough one, but I'd say that I'm pretty outgoing, and definitely someone who's willing to give things a shot. I play underwater hockey, I write, and get involved in a fair bit of mental health activism. For me, the most important part of my university experience has been trying out new and exciting things, which have really given me the adaptability I need to take on the role of Community and Well Being Officer."

What makes you well suited for the role?

"I'm totally driven and I have a commitment to getting stuff done. Pretty much my entire university life has been dedicated to well being, from being the chairing Constantine Wellbeing Officer, to giving talks, to advising national charity policy, I've been committed from the beginning."

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

"You'll see the usual stuff, the cardboard, the Facebook posts, the leaflets, etc, but Mia (who's running against me) and I have agreed that we want to raise awareness about the issues of those with disabilities in the election process. For these candidates, a lot of the campaigning is simply not achievable, and we want to highlight this by boycotting certain things, like lecture shout outs, most club nights, and the campaign videos. We're not saying that the candidates who do these things are ableist, just that these are activities that those with disabilities will find harder to accomplish. So for us this campaign is less about what you will see, and more about what you won't see."

What have the elections ever done for us?

Jack Davies questions whether the YUSU democratic process is worth all the fuss, let alone the egomania

Love it or hate it (and you would be forgiven for being of the latter stance, given the current political climate), from our education system to our healthcare, the political spectre looms large as an omnipresent force in society.

It should stand to sense, then, that student politics should play an equally pivotal role in our student lives; this, glaringly, is not always the case. But if you're reading this, the chances are you're a student with at least a passing interest in the marquee events of the York University political bubble that are the upcoming YUSU elections. And you may well be thinking "why should I care about them?" The answer? You really shouldn't.

Never has there been a more futile exercise in such narcissistic egomania than in student elections. Second and third years, postgrads, consider for a second what you have actually seen change around the University from one administration of sabbatical officers to another. Struggling? Yeah, me too. These elections are little more than vehicles for our more careering fellow students to acquire some substantial CV-fodder to wow any potential future employers, demonstrating their ability to appeal to their peers by gaining a popular mandate.

At this juncture, given my thus far overwhelmingly acerbic tone, it is prob-

able that you believe I think that the whole notion of YUSU is pointless. In their defence, there are some important roles filled within the Union. Officers representing minorities play an integral part in aiming to ensure that the overall university experience can be the same for everyone without worries of discrimination; part-time officers in other areas, such as the Environment and Ethics team, help to make the University more conscientious of sustainability issues; and of course a President is needed to oversee everything.

My qualm is not with the Union itself, but the elections process that comes around once a year, and even more so the hype and artificial fervour that surrounds it. Candidate manifestos will be released amidst a fanfare of sensational, idealist promises that will, ultimately, never be implemented save for the odd token gesture. Obviously, we need people to run the Union, but the splurging ejaculation of campaign materials designed to pique your interest is purposeless, the whole process seemingly devised as a means to actually create some kind of concern within students for the affairs of YUSU for a couple of weeks before they return to their glaring indifference for the rest of the year.

Why are we even remotely arsed about

student politics? Things around campus will remain largely in stasis no matter who has mustered the most support for their pipedream-policies by the time voting closes on the 24th of February. The small things that do change will no doubt be similar to the previous introduction of the bollock-achingly inconvenient Yoyo Wallet, stopping us from using our debit cards in YUSU bars and thereby forcing us all to download the app. This is coming from a senior editor of a stu-

dent newspaper funded by YUSU, charged with part of the responsibility to put together this irrelevant shitrag about the elections. Seriously, why are you reading this? You could be doing something so much better with your time than immersing yourself in the synthetic world of student politics. Stop, you mug!

Regardless of my rant, the elections will bumble on. Campus will be plastered with pizza boxes adorned with corny slogans, there'll be all sorts of attention-grabbing techniques employed: speeches, posters, leaflets, sycophantic freebies and even the odd bit of edgy graffiti here and there promoting various candidates. It'll be easy to get caught up in the brief frenzy, especially if you're a first year living on campus. But through all the hyperbole, just remember the most important thing: it's one gigantic, aimless, unavailing, mind-bogglingly futile ego parade.



Career politicians remain YUSU's staple diet

Finn Judge calls into question the role of YUSU in promoting careers over issues and representation

Sabbatical office: what is it supposed to mean? Its literal definition is a period of paid leave with the presumption of return. On the contrary, all of our current sabbatical team have finished their degrees, and are unlikely to descend upon normal student life again.

Good on them. Nevertheless, to think of sabbatical positions as a career break, as the term denotes, rather than a rung in a tall career ladder, distracts us from the reality of why people run for



these positions. Objectively, I wish them luck. Managing a union is gold dust for the CV – especially in the eyes of Labour's National Executive Committee. I bear no ill will toward these institutions. However, their function as a lucrative endgame – an ulterior motive, even – for those who rep-

resent us, must be brought into question. The trajectory is clear – and institutional. For instance, the winner of YUSU's presidency will likely benefit, as our incumbent did, from what our former Comment Editor referred to as "the divine right of college chairs". After their coronation, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation will continue to train our new "sabbs" in how to make a career out of politics. If the charity's honest opinion is that career-driven representatives are more effective than those compelled by single is-

sues, I would love to hear the argument. Of course, career and passion are by no means mutually exclusive. However, the former quality alone seems to be what forges success: former Scottish Labour leader Jim Murphy was widely chastised for bringing the NUS, under his presidency, towards a more Blairite policy stance. This was largely against students' wishes, but you know how the story ended. Conflicts of interest likes this leave YUSU with a choice: it must either defend its harbouring of career politics, or do its utmost to disrupt the process.

Freshers need more from their Union

First year **Jan de Boer** highlights why more and more freshers are disengaged with YUSU



It may come as a surprise to a fresher that there are indeed elections going on at university right now. To many that joined university this year, the YUSU elections will be the first time students would have voted for anything larger than a secretary in a middle school.

This means that the lack of an obvious incentive for voting will give first-year voters far greater motivation to abstain and stay in bed. On the other hand, some may have voted in the Brexit referendum and the seeming lack of importance in comparison won't bode well for voting figures.

If YUSU could take the time to tell us why they are significant in the lives of a York student then we might give the campaign materials a second glance. So far, all Freshers really know YUSU for are vodka-soaked club nights in Freshers' Week. If I knew exactly how the union benefits me on the daily, I might be informed enough to participate.

It may be equivalent to herding cats, but participation is needed in order for the Union to truly represent the people they claim to represent. At the moment you are asking a third of the population to vote for people that they haven't met, on issues they do not know much about, for effects that they will feel as much as a duck tidal wave on campus lake.

In an ideal world, YUSU would be the guiding hand for all first years so that the

election of our new set of hopefuls feels like it is our decision to make. Nothing makes a situation more important than one where we wreak the consequences. So if we visibly see changes, votes will roll in.

A push to participate is what Freshers need to get involved. A good way of doing that would be making it an event on every student's timetable. This sounds small, but it does genuinely work - on my autumn timetable the history gods that be had put a "film screening" on the agenda, to which around half of the history first years turned up. As soon as we took our seats the trap was sprung and we sat through an hour of a careers talk and 60 paltry minutes of *Blackadder*.

Despite the disappointment, we still all turned up. If the election event was brought to our attention more explicitly than a long winded email then we might be able to get a few more people to vote.

I sincerely hope that the next administration takes the participation of Freshers in the elections seriously. Be it the College elections, the NSS referendum or the YUSU elections, Freshers like me have been put in the position of ignorance where we only learn of what is happening after the fact. We are in the dark as to how to truly participate in the elections, leaving us part of the disenfranchised.

Hopefully, in time, the YUSU powers that be may switch on the lights.

A voting system I'd elect every time

Luke Rix-Standing wonders if our democracy can learn some lessons from YUSU-style electing

Poor old YUSU Elections. They do get a lot of shit don't they? A fancy online interface, a planned-weeks-in-advance party, but come week 7 a solid 70% of campus will put their hands in the air because they just don't care. In this very paper we've included a section in which we prompted the student body to quantify for us just how disinterested they are in the whole shebang (hint: very), while on the opposite page our Deputy Muse Editor implores you to put down this supplement and go and do something more interesting.

We're like recalcitrant teenagers: uncle YUSU gives us societies and committees and elections to play with and we're far too interested in Donald Trump's Twitter feed to listen. Uncle YUSU is an Xbox, and sometimes we're more an Atari.

It seems only fair then, that if we're to spend most of our time haranguing YUSU Elections for our own disengagement, that we should also praise them when they do something well. So I hope I'm not breaking with tradition when I say that the YUSU Election voting system may be the best I've ever seen.

I'm genuinely not exaggerating. YUSU Election utilise the STV system with RON (Single Transferable Vote with Re-Open Nominations), in which candidates rank their choices by preference, listing as few or many candidates as they choose.

Voting then proceeds in rounds, with the lowest ranked candidate knocked out each time. If, heaven forbid, your candidate is knocked out the first round (you indie soul), then you

vote passes onto the candidate that you ranked second, and then so on down the list until, presumably, someone you voted for actually wins.

The key benefit is that you avoid the classic conundrum of splitting the vote

The key benefit is that you avoid the classic conundrum of splitting the vote: you can back the candidate of your choosing without worrying about tactically keeping the bogeyman at bay. And if you really can't bring yourself to endorse the shiniest of several turds then you can always resort to Re-Open Nominations (RON). Even the London Mayoral Elections don't let you do that.

If our elections followed the YUSU model, anyone could start a new party, without fear of splitting the vote, and back there candidates they like while still blocking the ones they condemn. Goodbye Marine Le Pen, the Stein vs. Hillary conundrum and the significance of Jeremy Corbyn. Paradise.

So even if you hate all the candidates, have little clue of their job descriptions, or think that free elections are an illusory manifestation of bourgeois oppression, you should take the time to vote, if just to try on STV with RON and sound fractionally smarter at your next dinner party.





Julian Porch



Jay Evedane

ACADEMIC OFFICER

Course/year: English Literature/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Run a promotional campaign to increase the visibility and accessibility of all the great services at York available to students.
- Coordinate with department and course reps to identify what people on their courses wish they'd known at the start of their degree, and work with departments to create e-resources on the VLE which go through these things (for example, how to effectively study independently, how to write a report or essay).
- Explore options with departments to invest in subsidised course materials for core modules to lend to students in receipt of the York Bursary.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I'm a third-year English student doing my dissertation on memes, with an unabashed love for *Shrek 2*. Infer what you will. Former bassoonist and performer, great cook, awful photographer."

What makes you well suited for the role?

"As a fresh face to YUSU, I believe I can bring a new energy and perspective to the role of Academic Officer. I'm confident I can interact and engage with students to improve academic experiences across the board."

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

"People should keep an eye out for some dank election memes, and I hope that people like and relate to them. Also, I intend to release a series of short videos and/or written posts over the week to explain my key manifesto points in a little more detail. Furthermore, I'm intending to be everywhere on campus: lectures, societies, camping out on the library bridge, and at club nights with my awful dad-dancing."

Course/year: Theatre: Writing, Directing and Performance/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Introduce widespread use of more updated teaching methods, such as flipping the lecture when current lecture styles aren't working.
- Lower the additional costs of studying with schemes like a framework for a second-hand booksale in every department.
- Make sure that the academic interests of everyone at York are looked out for by inviting part time officers to representative meetings.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I am an incredibly passionate and energetic person, and as such I care deeply about things, whether it's my large whisky collection or the latest theatre production that I'm working on. I am unapologetically Welsh and I was born and raised as a Nicherin Buddhist."

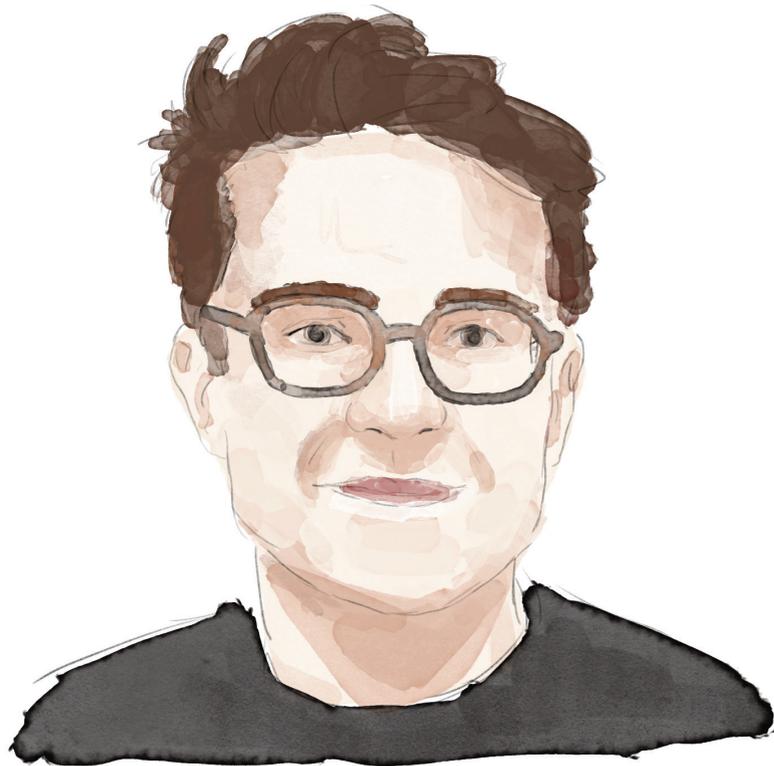
What makes you well suited for the role?

"I have all the experience you could ever need in an Academic Officer, from year seven student council member to the past two years working as TFFV's department rep, I have learned all the skills required for this role. Moreover, I have worked closely with the last two Academic Officers on large scale campaigns, so I am used to the demands of the job. But most importantly I care about education and I genuinely want to help people."

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

"Watch out for me on social media! Prepare yourself for bright colours and the slogan "update and educate", but I will definitely be out and about whenever I can, so if you see me about don't hesitate to come and chat."

ACTIVITIES OFFICER:



Daniel 'SpiderDan' Bowen

Course/year: English Literature/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Improved support for societies with a new, video-based resource hub to make society management more accessible, opt-in workshops and focused networking events.
- Renegotiate the activities table, so that societies can have greater autonomy over their election dates and calendars.
- Put a wider focus on Volunteering and RAG during 'Give It a Go' week.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I'm the kind of excitable, extroverted person who struggles to sit still for more than about half an hour at a time. I think the most valuable part of my university experience has been getting heavily involved in student societies - doing a degree so based around reading, I've needed an active social life just to keep me sane! When I'm not on campus I'm usually in the kitchen, as I really like cooking too."

What makes you well suited for the role?

"I took over as chair of LGBTQ society quite suddenly, and we had little in the way of a handover at all, so I had to figure out the basics of running a society from the ground up. It was a pretty stressful year - but I think it means I have a lot of experience for giving support to student activities when students feel like they need it the most. I don't think people realise quite how large some of our society events are; our termly 'icebreaker' event attracts several hundred people, and is so popular that we've recently been offered our own, more regular YUSU LGBTQ night. I've engaged with all sorts of other activities - including running campus-wide event Sexposé, producing marketing materials for Nightline, and writing for multiple campus papers."

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

"I've bought myself a cheap, very tight, and slightly revealing Spiderman costume. I'm going to be running around campus asking people what they want out of an Activities Officer, and just generally making a fool of myself. This will be happening all week long, so if you spot me around campus, please come and say hello - if you do come up you'd really make me feel less awkward!"



Mikey Collinson

Course/year: Biology/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Introduce a points-based society rewards scheme. This scheme will give you perks (such as Love York awards, discounted entry to YUSU club nights, promotion and public recognition on YUSU social media) for the work you already do, while giving you some aims to help your society develop further.
- Make it easier to find what's right for you through an Activities Matchmaker. This will be on the YUSU website and will match you to opportunities that appeal to your interests, future prospects, and suit your timetable.
- Ensure your committees and volunteering projects are receiving support. I'll hold open office hours where I'll be free for you to speak to me about all things activities. This is to ensure that you feel supported by YUSU and any concerns or difficulties are being treated seriously.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I'd describe myself as a down-to-earth guy who likes having a laugh and making others happy. Interests wise, I do love a good trip to the theatre, however I must confess that one of my biggest passions and the love of my life is Eurovision."

What makes you well suited for the role?

"My passion, ideas and experience makes me suited to be your next Student Activities Officer. I've been on the Pantomime Society committee since my first year and I'm now chair of the society, while also being a team leader for the incredible NightSafe volunteering project. I understand how YUSU works and how to get things done both in the union and the University, which I will use to make sure that societies, RAG and volunteering projects continue to be the best they can be."

How are you planning to conduct your campaign?

"In week six, you can find out all about me and what I'm running for on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram; just search 'Vote Mikey. Unlock Activities' or '#ActiviKeys'. Also, keep an eye out for a load of cardboard keys invading campus! I'll be dotted around uni, answering questions about my policies, while also getting your input on what you want to see from your next Student Activities Officer."

Battle of the colleges: who's got the BNOCs

In YUSU elections, some colleges are more equal than others, reveals **Michael Mokrysz**

BACK IN 2016 I compiled information on the college and department of each candidate. I've done the same this year and the patterns are striking.

An overwhelming number of last year's YUSU candidates spent first-year living near the centre of the old Heslington West. Roughly one in 100 students from those colleges run for YUSU: near enough to one per accommodation block. These established colleges - Vanbrugh, Derwent, James and Alcuin - are conveniently located for student activities. Despite questionable building quality, they have a long tradition.

Halifax College is consistently bottom for students running for YUSU. This year only one in 300 final years ran for a post;



James students are three times more likely to run than Halifax students

last year one in 450. This is quite stunning: students in most other colleges are three times more likely to run for YUSU.

Wentworth was excluded from most of this analysis because it's a postgraduate college; as a general rule postgrads don't run for Students' Union positions. But even so it was nearly as well represented as Halifax last year, with one candidate for 500 postgrads vs Halifax's two candidates for 970 undergrads. So why might Halifax be poorly represented? As a former inhabitant I have a perspective here: It's effectively off-campus. The closest part of Heslington West is a deserted 10 minute walk; more central students can walk from Alcuin to Vanbrugh to Derwent to Physics in that time. There's no bar and the bus service feels ineffective in getting around even on weekdays.

Over on Heslington East, Goodricke and Langwith are doing fairly well. Both are old colleges that moved campus to occupy new buildings. They brought a lot of tradition over with them, and they have some facilities and departments.

Heslington East may struggle with

engagement. Student activities generally happen on Heslington West because there are more room choices and access is easier. Booking rooms on Heslington East commonly involves getting a key from a porter who might be away from the desk when you need it; with some exceptions, rooms on Heslington West are accessible to all 24/7.

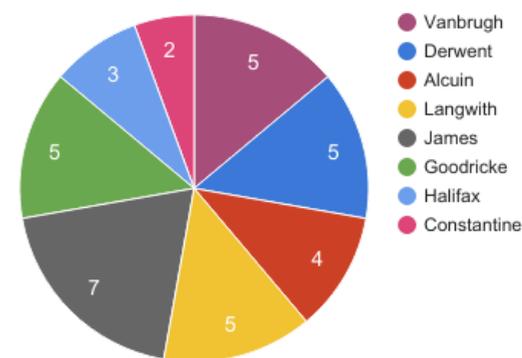
This lack of activities on Heslington East forces a late night trip home for many students. This is common after first-year as many students live off-campus - but in the first, formative year people are less keen to wander far to campus areas they don't know. Constantine College only opened in 2014 and the first batch of graduates will be this academic year - as such the 2016 results aren't surprising. But this year it does have final-years and only one in 300 of them ran. Constantine is isolated at the far end of Heslington East, although regular 66 buses stop there in the daytime.

Two new colleges are planned to arrive on Heslington East in the coming few years. New colleges all start from scratch and, if Constantine is a trend, they may be well underengaged and underrepresented in turn.

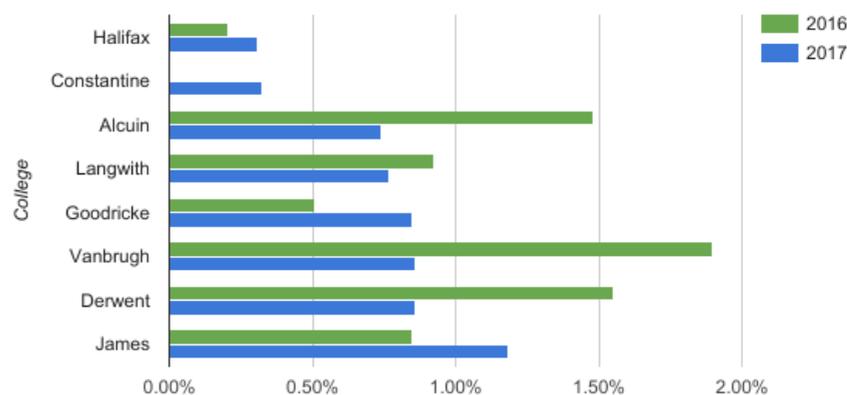
You might wonder why these issues are important. My argument is simple: if students aren't engaged with the University community they might not become 'Big Names On Campus' or run for YUSU. If high-profile or YUSU people aren't aware of unengaged students they can't be properly in touch with the wider student community, which means the next generation of students hit the same issues we did.

We're electing representatives of 16 000 students across nine colleges, three campuses, a dozen departments and hundreds of student groups. That's a great deal of variety. If our representatives had broader experiences of York they could better appreciate our concerns and identify priorities. It's unclear whether Heslington East's lack of student activities is hurting its participation in our democratic process, but the relative remoteness of Halifax and Constantine looks to be a serious factor.

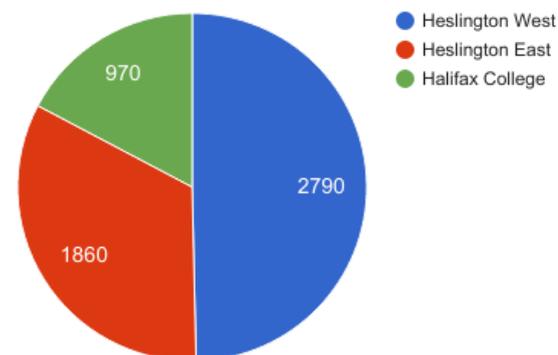
Which colleges are this year's candidates from?



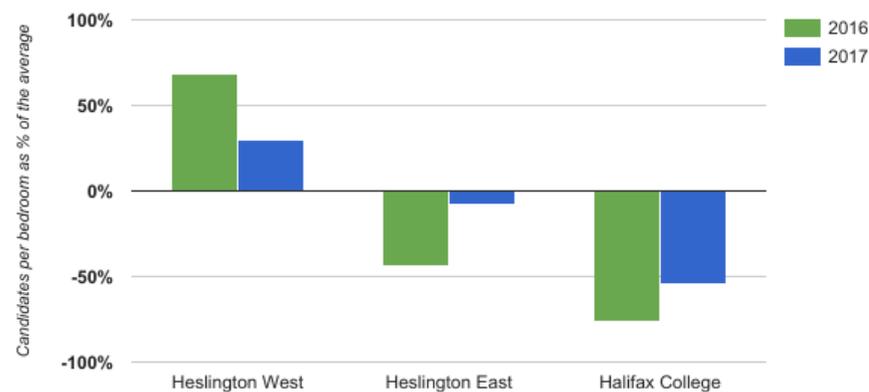
How well represented is each college?



How many bedrooms does each part of campus have?



How did the number of candidates fielded by each part of campus differ?





Laura Carruthers

Course/year: History and Politics/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Seek an external sponsor for York Sport, to increase the sporting budget.
- Expand College Varsity to a university-wide, Roses-style, two-day weekend event.
- Work with York Sport to offer termly gym memberships.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I am a bubbly, self-motivated person and throw myself into everything I do. I am always willing to try new experiences. When I am not on the lacrosse pitch, I can usually be found with my friends debating politics and quoting *Harry Potter!*"

What makes you well suited for the role?

"I'm experienced at all levels of sport at York, captaining the Uni Women's firsts lacrosse team to victory at the National Championships, and organising Roses as a tournament secretary. I am also determined, committed and organised."

Alexander Lake

Course/year: History/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Building the York Sport brand around campus, engaging students more.
- Making the running of college sport easier for organisers.
- Creating a better dialogue between York Sport and students.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I'm hugely passionate about sport, and playing for the white rose of York University. I'm a confident, hard working young man, with aspirations to work in sport in my career."

What makes you well suited for the role?

"My passion for York Sport will translate into me completing the job to above and beyond the levels expected, putting in passionate hard work to make YUSU sport the best it's ever been and leave a legacy for future generations."

Josie Phillipps

Course/year: Environmental Geography/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Make York a top 35 university for sport through performance based incentives.
- Create a college sport website, regularly updated with fixtures and league tables.
 - Support liberation networks by expanding equal opportunities within sport.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"There's barely a sport I haven't tried, as I love getting involved and trying new things. I'm committed to the end and very competitive. I'm also a girl who would never say no to a second helping of chicken katsu curry!"

What makes you well suited for the role?

"I'm always happy to get involved with enthusiasm. I've been behind the scenes as a sports rep for my college in and I'm currently on the York Sport Committee. I've experienced a wide variety of sports, giving me more knowledge of York Sport."

Peter Fisher

Course/year: Biological Archaeology/third year

What are your three main policies?

- Improve fitness of sports teams at the University of York.
 - Put in place a stronger foundation for future development of clubs.
- Make sport and fitness accessible to everyone and improve awareness of it.

Could you describe yourself in two - three sentences?

"I'm currently the men's first team volleyball captain at York, I am a personal trainer and I want to make an actual difference to sport at the uni. I am very experienced and am committed to everything I set my mind to."

What makes you well suited for the role?

"As a fitness instructor I have worked with everyone from beginners to professional and Olympic/Paralympic level athletes. I have represented York in several sports, and have held many positions on sports committees, giving me vital experience."

LGBTQ OFFICER

Rowen Ellis

ROWEN ELLIS

Key policies:

Creating an inclusive and safe environment for LGBTQ students by improving the BAME, disabled and international student presence within the LGBTQ Network and improving the presence of Heslington East students within the network



Representing a wide array of LGBTQ identities within the student union by continuing membership of and facilitating communication between our various subnetworks for specific LGBTQ identities
Improving communication between the student body, officers and YUSU

POLICY CO-ORDINATOR

JACK HARVEY

Key policies:

Make sure that the Policy Review Group stringently follows YUSU regulations. Make the PRG open and transparent once more by informing students on its investigations and policy processes.

Put students at the heart of all new policy making.



HENRY FAIRNINGTON

Key policies:

Continue campaigns such as bins in male bathrooms, and ensure that the University is a safe, accepting, and inclusive place for all its residents.

Increase awareness of LGBTQ identities and promote acceptance across campus to make the university as a whole a safer environment for people to be themselves.

Work with individual colleges to launch an awareness campaign at the very start of term, and by suggesting name and pronoun cards to be used in seminars to prevent misgendering.

Continue to make the LGBTQ community at YUSU a more accessible and accepting place for all. Continue to vary the times of meetings to include both campuses and allow more people to attend events.



LUCAS NORTH

Key policies:

Advertise and promote the Policy Review Group and its activities.

Hold workshops allowing students to submit ideas more easily.

Lobby for an increase in the democracy and campaigns budget and improve accountability for all YUSU officers.



WOMEN'S OFFICERS

EMILY GOULDING & RADIA MUSTAFA

Key policies:

Advocate the inclusion of free sanitary products in the YUSU shop for all students, such as pads and tampons.

Raise awareness about rape and sexual assault on campus.

Teaching students basic self-defence, whilst tackling stigma around mental health issues.



CATHERINE YARROW & MICHAELA THARBY

Key policies:

Improve welfare for women and non-binary students dealing with abortion, providing support packs and leading a campaign to stand up to rape culture.

Increase social engagement by creating "femme nights" on campus and change the Women's Officer name to "Women & Non-Binary Officer".

Provide gender and teaching workshops for postgraduate tutors and societies.



ANNA MARIE HILL & TILLY HANNAH DALGLISH

Key policies:

Revitalise the Women's Network by increasing its activity and visibility.

Increase the confidence of women and non-binary students through workshops and other support.

Make the Women's Network as accessible as possible by catering to students' needs.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICER

JENS DAHLE-GRANLI



Key policies:
 Campaign to revoke the Rent Guarantee Scheme fee.
 Improve the freshers' guide with more comprehensive information along with improvements to the YUSU web page.
 Make sure that international students enjoy the same benefits as UK students.

AGNIESZKA GZIUT & MUHAMMAD HASSAN



Key policies:
 Expand the International Students' Association Wednesday meetings.
 Protect existing ISA schemes including the Winter Ball and Global Week.
 Combat discrimination against international students as well as spreading awareness about inclusivity..

VOLUNTEERING OFFICER

ALICE DRIVER & JASMINE PLEDGER



Key policies:
 Develop a "Volunteering Community" working with projects, colleges, RAG.
 Create a platform for organisations and projects to recruit volunteers, whilst also promoting volunteering opportunities.
 Running the Make a Difference (MAD) events fortnightly and extend links with the careers services.

ALEXANDRA SPIBY



Key policies:
 Set up a system alongside Night Safe to have students volunteering at bus stops and across campus.
 Create greater integration with the local community.
 Offer "skills trade" sessions allowing students to help others, additionally implementing processes to help students who want to volunteer abroad.

DISABLED STUDENTS OFFICER

AISLING MUSSON



Key policies:
 Committed to improving accessibility for disabled students on campus, producing a "best-practice" guide for societies whilst also lobbying to improve wheelchair accessibility on campus.
 Raise awareness about the stigma that disabled students face and implement new events to improve disability awareness.
 Endeavour to make Disabled Students' Network a "campaigning network", working alongside the University to enact specific improvements for disabled students in accordance with new mental health funding.

SOPHIE WAIN & CLAUDIA D'ALMO



Key policies:
 Improve relationships between colleges and RAG.
 Offer more affordable challenges.
 Deliver bigger and better RAG week.

ENVIRONMENT AND ETHICS OFFICER

SAM LINLEY



Key policies:
 Running primarily on making sure that students affected by cuts to the Disabled Students' Allowance do not lose out on support from the University.
 Improving accessibility in sports and campus facilities, introducing new sporting events for the disabled (including at Roses) and pledging to reduce the number of issues concerning accessibility at the University. Working with the Open Door team and the wider Disabled Students' Network to ensure disabled students can easily voice concerns regarding mental health issues.

ANNA SPOWAGE



Key policies:
 Increase the number of green spaces on campus and make allotment plots for growing free fruit and vegetables available for students.
 Creating a "free food campaign" to reduce the amount of food wasted by students similar to a Facebook buy/sell group. Users could notify others when unwanted food is nearing its sell-



YUSU would like to change its legal status to incorporate as a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG).

We are seeking students' approval in a referendum.

Voting opens Week 7.

yusu.org/referendum/vote

