

YUSU ELECTIONS 2012

Your guide to the action





A panel of representatives from across different areas of campus discussed student politics and the relationship between YUSU and the University in Heslington Hall.

leges things like how to run their elections. It frustrates me when candidates come into the elections saying how they want the relationship between colleges and the Union to be, because they are both still separate organisations.

Susana Paardekooper: Colleges are very different. Halifax is very different to Langwith and it is kind of upsetting to see them wiped over with one paintbrush.

How does the University see 'joke' candidates in the YUSU elections?

Jane Grenville: The University was very anxious about Tom Scott, 'the pirate,' several years ago. But in the end, Tom decided to do it and decided he could be a completely non-aligned spokesman for the student body. And he did the job brilliantly, but loathed every minute of it, and I really admire him for doing it. So the answer is, if it's a joke candidate and they then go on to treat it as a joke that would be a colossal problem for us, I mean off the scale, if we found we didn't have a good contact into student opinion through the President and the Students' Union that would

be an epic problem which we could do absolutely nothing about - we would be completely stuffed. We can't say stop and do it again. We can't do that.

Luke Sandford: I think it is also very important for the Union that you couldn't do that.

Jane Grenville: We would have a year of finding work-a rounds .

Kris McGee: It is people like former chairs of colleges who would attract my vote more because they have experience of micro-managing.

Does having 'joke' candidates make the elections more interesting?

Cem Turhan: People aren't going to choose between two ['joke' candidates], they are going to vote for someone serious.

Luke Sandford: I think it is important they are funny, but the second part of Question Time [last Thursday] was just awkward. The good joke candidate is one that comes to Hustings but lets people talk about the serious issues, doesn't really campaign and no one votes for them. David Hansen, a few years

ago, being the prime example.

Susana Paardekooper: I think the most painful thing for a joke candidate is if you're not funny. But you can gain some valuable ideas off some joke candidates.

Do you think a candidate who has had a year's experience running a college has an advantage in the elections?

Jane Grenville: The one President in the last few years that struggled who hadn't had experience of running a college or a society, like Fusion, was Tom Scott...The position of the Students' Union in getting the ducks lined up is colossally important and if I think that I am working with someone who understands where the ducks are dotted around the lake, and how we are going to get them in one place, to make the policy happen - that's great. If I have someone who is saying I just want to sort out the internal battles in YUSU, that's not my business and, if that is the case, it wouldn't give me a lot of confidence that there will be a YUSU next year that will try and bring to our attention to what the problems are and what the solutions might be.

CAMPAIGNING BEGINS

FRIDAY WEEK 6

Candidates begin campaigning. All materials and posters used must be approved by YUSU and there are strict guidelines and regulations governing acceptable campaigning conduct.

ELECTION RULES - Spring Term 2012
NOMINATIONS
 1. Only full members of the Union are eligible to stand in YUSU elections; this includes any student enrolled at the University of York who has not opted-out of membership.
 2. Anyone standing for election should fulfil any additional eligibility criteria, including but not limited to:
 a. Self-definition requirements for Part Time Officer positions;
 b. Trustee eligibility requirements for Full Time Officer and Student Trustee positions.

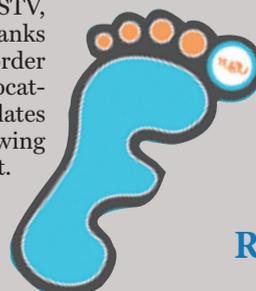
VOTING OPENS
WEDNESDAY WEEK 7

Voting opens at 12 p.m. students are able to vote at www.yusu.org/vote.

VOTING CLOSES

THURSDAY WEEK 8

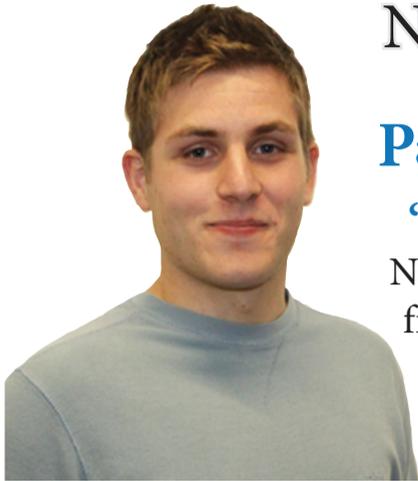
Voting will close at 12 p.m. A system of Single Transferable Vote, STV, will be used. This ranks the candidates in order of preference, reallocating votes as candidates are eliminated, allowing all votes cast to count.



The election results are announced from 7.30 p.m. Previously held in Courtyard, this year The Lounge will host the election party. A live blog will be provided by *Nouse*.

RESULTS AND ELECTION PARTY
THURSDAY WEEK 8

PRESIDENT



Nacho Hernando

Panel comments:

“James running will hinder Nacho because they are both from Goodricke, but his experience as college chair is important.”

Key Policies:

- Establish an academic mentoring scheme to increase post-graduate employment.
- Lobby the University to review careers services and coordinate efforts with the Alumni Office, and for an increase in College Welfare grants by at least 50 per cent.
- Lobby the City of York Council to uphold its landlords' Code of Best Practice.
- Better coordinated and college-based International Freshers' Week. Greater support post-Freshers' for International students finding accommodation.



James Carney

Panel comments:

“He wants to completely change YUSU. A bit of an anti-establishment candidate, but haven't really seen a positive vision.”

Key Policies:

- Campaign for a supermarket on Hes West.
- Scrap YUSU's Freshers' Ball, and redirect money into individual college balls for Freshers'.
- Establish University student cards as 'discount cards' giving students deals on cinema tickets, meals, and drinks.
- Push a greener agenda, re-introducing student activism onto campus.
- Deliver more frequent events; establish a weekly YUSU night on Friday, which will not interfere with students' academic commitments.
- Make all voting available online, including at college and society level.



Kallum Taylor

Panel comments:

“His policies would give the University something to work with. He's connected to students, but was disappointing at Question Time.”

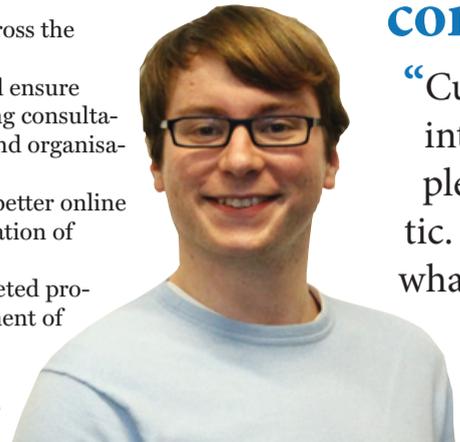
Key Policies:

- Secure value for money; 2013 Freshers' to have free key text resource pack, increased free printing, and better academic standards across the board. Increased legal support for students off-campus.
- Boost employability through improving Careers Services and increased student rep. responsibilities.
- Invest in equipment for YUSU and college events, and promote shared college and YUSU nights or events.
- Improve Heslington West and maintain Heslington East.
- More lockers and bike storage on campus.

Peter Warner-Medley

Key Policies:

- Raise student satisfaction across the board.
- Set the agenda for YUSU and ensure that it reaches out, coordinating consultations with different societies and organisations across campus.
- Improving communication; better online presence and increased celebration of achieved awards.
- Protect students' rights: targeted protests, alongside acknowledgement of realities of situations.
- Improve voting quality and turnout; train Assembly chairs and provide more visibility.



Panel comments:

“Cutting officers' internet is completely unrealistic. But he knows what he is talking about.”

Zahra Latif

Key Policies:

- Open representation; better communication through open air assemblies, 'be a sabb for a day'.
- Lobby councillors with the University to protect students' rights in the wake of HMO legislation. Promote a better relationship between students and locals.
- Improving alumnae links upon graduation.
- Empower part-time Officers, giving them more responsibility.
- Innovate Careers Service to improve student participation and results.



Panel comments:

“A broad policy base, she seems very committed. Healthy to get away from the traditional President career path.”

Abir Ahmmed

Key Policies:

- Construction of a moon base.
- Build a rocket silo under the lake.
- Renovate Central Hall to allow it to be used for intergalactic space exploration.
- Campaign to deepen the new Sports Centre swimming pool by three feet, allowing weightless training to take place there.



Panel comments:

“He has one joke, that by the end of Question Time became unfunny. The University isn't confident when policies look like this.”

Thomas Stuart Taylor

Key Policies:

- Expansion of Nightline.
- Oversee completion of library renovation.
- Ensure that YUSU, and the President, become more transparent in the decision-making process.
- “Geese Police” - practicalities of this policy remain unclear.
- Five-point plan to improve graduate employment and prospects.
- Tackle the issue of YUSU censorship.



Panel comments:

“If I were running, I would take his ideas and put them in place next year. He has a vaguely serious under tone to his policies.”

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Chris West

Key Policies:

- Introduction of £5 voucher to subsidise initial society membership.
- Develop relationship between local businesses and societies.
- Workshops to encourage student enterprise and free access to Freshers' Fair.
- Campaign for the return of poster-ing.
- Media training for societies.
- Improving RAG and society communication.



Panel comments:

“Depends whether being treasurer of Darts and History society is enough experience. But he would be very quick to learn if he got in.”

Hannah Brearley

Key Policies:

- Improve communication by holding meetings with RAG, Volunteering, and representative from societies.
- Create a “colours” scheme to reward student participation.
- “Activity Blog” to promote awareness of campus societies.
- Creation of international sports volunteering scheme.
- Source sponsor for YUSU.



Panel comments:

“Hannah works really hard and is the only one to have direct YUSU experience, but she might be lacking in society experience.”

Helen Marrison

Key Policies:

- Lobby for use of Hes East rooms and equipment.
- Better inks with specific alumni to improve employability.
- YUSU pot of gold: recourse for unsuccessful applications to University grants.
- Bigger RAG events: development of events such as Winter Wonderland.
- Increased visibility.



Panel comments:

“A lot of respect for how she runs her assembly. Her ideas might make setting up societies more accessible, but may not be realistic.”

WELFARE

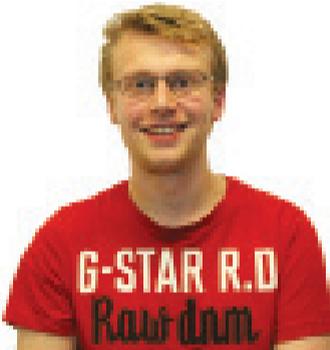
Bob Hughes

Panel comments:

“Bob has this infectious enthusiasm that makes him instantly likeable, which makes him quite hard to beat with the incumbent boost.”

Key Policies:

- Improve the safety and quality of on-campus accommodation.
- Coordinate efforts with University to hold bad landlords accountable, increase awareness of students' rights and oppose rent increases.
- Raise awareness of departmental roles and responsibilities.



Hannah Wigley

Panel comments:

“Lovely person, but being nice doesn't just win you elections. But don't write her off because a split vote might work to her advantage.”

Key Policies:

- Implement thorough training for all Welfare Reps.
- Standardise the election and training process of STYCs.
- Raise awareness of issues, such as drink spiking, with concerted campaigns focusing on both town-bars and campus.



Lewis Haines

Panel comments:

“Really good candidate, but vote might be split between Lewis and Bob, which may disadvantage Lewis.”

Key Policies:

- Creation of Freshers' nights “free from social pressures”.
- Increased training for Liberation Officers, complemented by better publicity and structuring of groups to enable effective communication to and from students.
- Commitment to push forward proposed changes to STYC system.



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Graeme Osborn

Key Policies:

- Electronic submission of assessment; with potential for online feedback.
- Earlier notification of exam dates.
- Investment in teaching spaces, specifically classrooms on Hes West.
- Faster feedback.
- Better quality teaching.



Panel comments:

“From a University perspective he has done a fabulous job, but he has been quite poor at communicating this with students.”

Eppie Leishman

Key Policies:

- Evaluation of markers' feedback.
- Better support for students when they graduate.
- Improve Course Rep. system and structure, creating more accountability for departments.



Panel comments:

“Eppie's chances depend on how Graeme has been perceived this year. Pretty standard, solid Academic Affairs policies.”

YORK SPORT

Dong-Oh Shin

Key Policies:

- Increase awareness of sporting clubs and facilities available.
- Increase communication: establishing inter-college and college-university channels.
- Improve transport to and from away matches.
- Examine the possibilities regarding the lease on the sports tent.



Panel comments:

“Really good campaign and I think he will get a lot of support with his posters – which are excellent. But all the work has been done on the tent lease already.”

Charlotte Winter

Key Policies:

- Improve the level of sport played through new facilities.
- Extend leagues and improve the infrastructure of college sport.
- Investigate the creation of more Barbarian teams.
- Foster better communication through termly meetings with club Presidents, and wider discussion between clubs.



Panel comments:

“Her name has been mentioned for quite a while. I think she will get a big boost from the tacit consent from a lot of very large clubs.”

Part-Time Officers

Union Chair



Josh Allen

- Demystification- make it clear who does what at York.
- Engage the entire student body in succeeding with aims.
- Improve communication by saying in full what is going on.

Mark Taylor

- Create an environment for productive discussion.
- Ensure the involvement of all parties present.
- Maintain a focus on issues and keep debate structured.



Nick Hall

- A more open Union with increased access to officers.
- Increase accountability through better publicity.
- A more democratic union with a review of bye-laws.

Campaigns Officer(s)

Ben Dilks & Megan Cross

- Make YUSU campaigns and committee more accessible.
- Priority campaign - students vote on a campaign.
- Introduce a programme of training for student activists.



Peter Hollingsworth

- Fight campaigns that help welfare and strengthen YUSU.
- Make Campaigns Committee more inclusive and well-known.
- Make campaigning on campus much more accessible and fun.

Disabled Students' Off.

Emma Hersey

- Overall aim is to give disabled students a louder voice at York.
- Disabled Student Network Meetings held every week.
- Make sure campus wide events are accessible to all.



Madelaine Kirkman

- Better transition to University for freshers with disabilities.
- Increased lighting and navigation tools to help students.
- Make it easier for disabled students' concerns to be raised.

Ents Officer(s)

Chris Edwards & Sanchita Chawla

- Chris has experience as current YUSU Ents Officer.
- Sanchita has been involved with various professional event organising activities.
- Able to handle responsibility.



Environment & Ethics



Isobel Edwards

- Put in place Fairtrade Officer and integration with Union.
- Switch the University bank from HSBC to Co-operative.
- More ethical and environmental events on campus.

Emma Hughes

- Better lighting on campus to avoid health and safety risks.
- Ensure all University research/ investments are ethically sound.
- Make sure concerns are voiced for reps. from all colleges.



International Officer(s)



Mike Anstey & Ankita Chawla

- Promote welfare and the voice of International Students.
- Create Welfare clinics for international students.
- Stringent checks on activities affecting international students.

Ian Lau

- Greater involvement for international students.
- Push for greater support for international students.
- Showcase the many cultures of international students.



Egle Vasiliauskaite

- connect International Committee to the rest of student body better.
- Increase the participation of home students in ISA events.
- Strengthen committee through bonding events.

Maciej Rys

- Get more British students involved in ISA events.
- Make sure ISA's budget is well spent and events are interesting.
- Ensure ISA cooperates with cultural and non-cultural societies.



Women's Officer

Emma Hawken

- Promote women's liberation and equality through various methods.
- Expand capabilities of committee and work with other networks.
- Create inclusive environment which is accessible to all students.



University Senate Rep



James Burch

- Interested in running of University and helping out with it.
- Brought up potential problems to YUSU at senate meeting.
- Very few first years in positions, so could have useful perspective.

Jason Rose

- Ensure students are cared about during decision making process.
- Make sure new students get a fair deal for their increased costs.
- Make transparency and accountability prevalent at every level.



Hussein Kesvani

- Bring students into the locus of departmental decision making.
- Ensure extra funding from higher fees is not used to plug funding gaps.
- Target areas for improvement with reps and senior faculty reps.



Itai Choto

- Student-centred structure and personal learning experience.
- Encourage progress through transparency and accountability.
- Academic programmes structured more around the student.



Harry Toynton

- Stand up for all York students and their interests at all times.
- Work to ensure all students are treated fairly.
- A fair and impartial perspective and an ability to resolve problems.

Student Trustee



James Burch

- Interested in running of University and helping out with it.
- Brought up potential problems to YUSU at senate meeting.

Jason Rose

- One of the first trustees of YUSU and looking to help steer Union correctly.
- Experience as company director, as chair and auditing of a political party.



Harry Clementson

- In-depth knowledge of student life and advantage to students.
- Translate experience into monitored progress.
- High level of communication between Trustee and other members.

Megan O'Kane

- Hold Union to account and ensure it works to its full potential.
- Decisions made have the best interests of students at the centre.
- Union works within constitution and stability maintained.



Mark Taylor

- Ensure good practice of the officers by vetoing actions that conflict.
- Guarantee that actions taken are on behalf of the whole student body.
- Encourage good practice as well as criticising poor conduct.

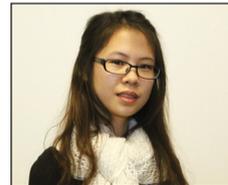
LGBT Officer

Leon Morris

- Make events more accessible and allow everyone to express themselves.
- Continue work of predecessors and campaign for the LGBT community.
- Work closely with charities to promote the needs of LGBT students.



Volunteering Officer(s)



Guan Li

- Publicise the activities for everyone who wants to be a volunteer.
- Help students to achieve what they want to do.
- Contact committees to provide relevant volunteering experience.

Louisa Moorhouse

- Ensure development and dynamism within all aspects of volunteering.
- Encourage knowledge and participation of volunteering across campus.
- Ensure the available funds give maximum benefit to projects.





YUSU Jargon explained

Assemblies: There are four assemblies. Members of the Union make decisions about YUSU policies and mandate Officers to act upon them. An assembly covers Academic, Community, Liberation & Welfare, and Student Development, each with an independent Chair to hold the Officer to account.

Campaign Networks: Introduced in 2011, these are a method to increase student participation and cover the following areas: Disabled Students, Environment & Ethics, International Students, LGBT, Mature Students, Racial Equality, and Women.

Manifesto: A series of promises or pledges outlined by candidates.

Returning Officer (RO): The individual overseeing elections, ensuring they are conducted in a fair and responsible manner.

Re-Open Nominations (RON): As a member, you are entitled to vote for 'RON' should you not like any of the candidates standing. If a majority vote RON, this will trigger a re-run of the nominations process.

Single Transferable Vote (STV): The system of voting currently used by YUSU. It is designed to minimise wasted votes, by reallocating each members' votes according to how they have rated the candidates.

Question Time in pictures:



Yu Gao

- Hardworking, creative and passionate for volunteering activities.
- Devoted to offering great opportunities for volunteering activities to all of students at the University.

Amy Jepson

- Expand volunteering to include more work with 11-16 year olds.
- Improve knowledge on campus of the smaller volunteering projects.
- Further develop volunteering links with the local York community.



RAG Officer(s)



Becky Mursell & Erin Cork

- Open up opportunities for more students to actively get involved.
- Focus on wider range of challenge events to broaden appeal to students.
- Publicise the achievements of RAG and try and involve the community.

Mature Students' Officer

Minal Niriksha Supri

- Try and increase the participation of mature students in campus life.
- Encourage those off-campus to take advantage of facilities.
- Represent the diverse range of students at the University of York.



Racial Equality Officer(s)



Vishnu Nithiyanthan

- Ensure all races are represented equally and have a voice in the Union.
- Support students with any issues raised and provide full support.
- Build relationships with other areas of the student body.

Rebekah Phiri

- Continue the work of the current Racial Equality Networks campaign.
- Work with welfare services to provide specialised support networks.
- Targeted events for certain issues alongside other societies.



Itai Choto & Rohan Banerjee

- Champion student protection and student rights.
- Campaign driven by principles of fairness and respect.
- Believe in a society without prejudice, promoting equality.

Asiya Elgady

- Continue moving forward to open-mindedness and true acceptance.
- Bi-weekly drop-in sessions for anyone to get advice on their rights.
- Give topics that are not commonly discussed a platform.



Candidate information written by Neil Johnston

Photo credits: Philippa Grafton and York Vision (pages 4-7 headshots); Andy Davis and Hoagy Davis-Digges (above).

Want to know more?

Check out the YUSU Election mini-site at:

www.nouse.co.uk/elections

Paper-thin candidates

Mary O'Connor takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the some of the sabbatical candidates' campaign posters

Whilst these candidates are not running on the basis of their artistic merit, their posters are designed to give us a glimpse of the 'innovative' people we are electing to run our student union.

The Presidential candidates embody the phrase 'mixed bag.' The top posters will have a presence (employed by comedy preferably) that will ensure voters remember to vote for them above any other. Abir Ahmmed, comical with his NASA space shuttle device, heavy in phallic imagery sure to stop passers-by for a giggle. But James Carney's Google search bar makes those of us who still remain sane want to try another search engine, in the hope they won't be spammed with more of Carney's uninspiring campaign posters. Tom Taylor's artistic skills are impressively unamusing, letting down his "satirical" campaign. Zahra Latif's green hat on a teapot is endearing; conveying a clean, motherly image, made approachable to the student body. Not personally to my taste, the Peter Warner Medley poster does make use of memory devices in the bold rhetoric 'What do you think YUSU's missing' and the short, but memorable phrase 'pwm4 pres.' Hernando's bland poster arguably demonstrates his political credentials - and his lack of flair.

'H&M' is undoubtedly the primary offender. Helen Marrison is not inspiring confidence in her plans for the student body as Activities Officer by associating herself with a high-street brand, that screams 'lack of imagination,' but the practicality of her poster (showcasing her policies) off-sets this. Comparatively, Chris West's poster is comprehensive; including detailed policies, which are not too text-heavy, complemented by splashes of block colour. West's poster is eye-catching,

employing the simple slogan "Go West." Brearley's pared back poster lacks aesthetic punch in comparison, but clearly advertises her policies and strengths.

What Dong-Oh Shin lacks in subtle puns, Charlotte Winter achieves with her witty slogan "Have winter all year round." If you're not put off by Shin's lunatic expression, his poster is the most appropriate to what he is running for - Shin will certainly make the voters remember his campaign. Having said this, Winter has clearly not underestimated the power of the male vote. Winter is sure to have ingratiated herself with the male sportsmen. It must be said however, Winter has been less successful in conveying her interest in the role as Sports President, over her image as a pretty pin-up girl.

Eppie Leishman's bid for Academic Officer is complemented by the squeaky clean image on her poster. Her inclusion of her policies, especially the use of the phrase, 'I promise,' implies honesty. Using the same poster he campaigned with last year, if voters aren't put off by his shameless recycling, they would be by Graeme Osborn's putrid green traffic light.

Bob Hughes, running to be re-elected as Welfare Officer, employed the gimmick of our childhood builder friend, Bob. It was Bob (the real one) who scored the points with us by including some of his main policies sewn into the building metaphor; showing some artistic flair. As Hughes's contender, Lewis Haines' colourful campaign poster; with the York campus and lake in the background, demonstrates his close commitment to helping its students. In a similar vein, Wigley's is inoffensively unassuming; perfect for welfare.

If Carlsberg did campaign posters...they certainly would not be like this bunch.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

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BEST SMALL COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2007

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BEST SMALL COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2011

"I'd already done an internship here so I knew it was a great place to work. I've been able to jump right into running really big projects in a way I never expected. I also like that there's a hammock in the office. It makes me feel like a pirate."

Ben Emmett Red Gate Graduate

Join the fun at Red Gate, with graduate jobs for software and test engineers, marketing specialists and many more.

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