

MEET  
THE  
VOICES  
CUTTING  
THROUGH  
THE NOISE.



YUSU  
ELECTIONS  
2020

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*(These manifestos are abridged for the purposes of this supplement and full versions of these manifestos will be available on the YUSU website.)*

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# HOW THE YUSU ELECTIONS WORK

Welcome to *Nouse's* YUSU Election Supplement. Here we reveal the candidates vying for your votes exclusively for the students of York to discover and scrutinise.

The manifestos outlined in this supplement will inevitably shape your student union going forwards and therefore shape the rest of your university experience.

The voting system used in the YUSU elections is known as Single Transferable Voting (STV). This means that when you cast your vote you'll be asked to rank your preferred candidates in descending order. Votes will be counted in rounds and to be elected, a candidate needs to reach a set quota of votes. The quota is deter-

mined based on the number of votes and number of positions available. The first round will count all the first preference votes, and if at this stage no-one has exceeded the quota, the person with the fewest votes will be knocked out of the running. Their votes will then be transferred to people's second preferences.


If 'Re-Open Nominations' (RON) receives the most votes through the STV system then, surprisingly, nominations for that position will be re-opened and students will be urged to vote again at a by-election. In the past RON has been used as a protest vote, as a way of expressing discontent at YUSU and the electoral system. RON can also be used if students simply don't feel any of the

candidates are suitable for the position.

YUSU is putting candidate wellbeing at the top of their list of priorities, with the overwhelming pressure and stress of campaigning being seen as a deterrent from YUSU roles (the number of sabb candidates is down this year from 24 last year to 15). Students are urged to feel free to ask questions and hold candidates to account, but show respect and empathy when doing so.

Within this supplement you will also find interviews with a few key figures such as current president Samara Jones and ex-academic officer James Hare, as well as a clash of comments on page 15 on whether sabb terms should be extended to two years. Enjoy.

# KEY YUSU ELECTION DATES



**NOUSE REVEALS  
CANDIDATES**

**11 FEB**



**CANDIDATE  
INTERVIEW NIGHT**

**12 FEB**



**13 FEB  
DEBATE NIGHT**



**VOTING OPENS**

**17 FEB**



**21 FEB**

**VOTING CLOSES**



**22 FEB**

**ELECTION  
RESULTS NIGHT**

# THE 2019/20 PRESIDENT

## NOUSE TALKS TO CURRENT YUSU PRESIDENT SAMARA JONES AHEAD OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE BEGINNING

Ahead of announcing the candidates for YUSU President (page right), *Nouse* spoke to current President Samara Jones about the key responsibilities of the role, the prospect of re-running, and what she would be looking for in her successor.

**Now you've settled into the role how would you describe it in terms of key responsibilities and challenges?**

I would say a big part of the role is representation to the University, attending lots of meetings and trying to represent the student voice, but this is something you can share between the whole team depending on each other's key priorities and personal interests.

It is a lot of admin at times, sitting in the office going through emails, but then you get to do the cool stuff - freshers fair; all of freshers week is so much fun and you can get to be out there meeting students, and you get to do that throughout the year - being able to talk to students. Being out there and being prepared for the unexpected and big things that come up like Roses (and student media).

**What key characteristics would you be looking for in your successor?**

Someone who is positive, open minded and willing to get stuck in. You've got to be flexible but able to prioritise -

know when to say no but to remain open-minded. Good time management will come in handy.

**Did you consider re-running? And what do you think about the general principle of candidates re-running?**

I really did think about it and if you'd asked me at the end of last term, I would've said I was on the fence but probably leaning towards re-running.

I went home over Christmas and enjoyed the time off but thought that I was ready to move on. I love this job and would love to do it longer but I'd like to give someone else the opportunity. to do it now.

Also, I know a lot of things I'm working on I wouldn't be able to get done in another year, I'd need another two, three, four years, so instead I'll work with whoever is taking

over to keep those things going, and actually I think if people have got stuff they could get done in the next six month period they should absolutely think about rerunning, some people do and want to, other don't, and I'd love to do it again but at the same time I'm happy to move on and happy to let someone else take over

**How did you find being put in front of the entire national press for the coronavirus press announcement?**

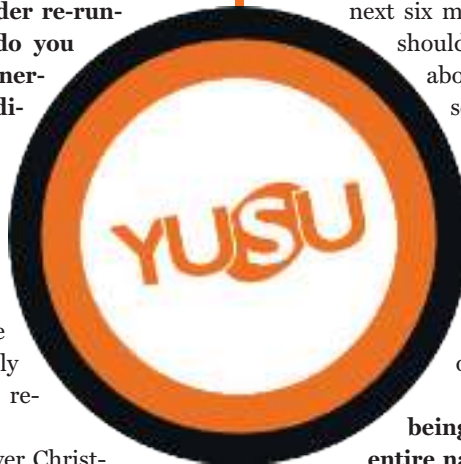
**Did you ever think this would be a part of the role?**

Part of the role is being the main spokesperson of the Union so I was aware of it, but they did say if there is something bigger national media might try and contact you. I'm not sure I ever expected it to happen, I'm not sure I expected to have a couple hours warning of "are you ok to do a press conference?" but there is so much support within the Union and the University that I never felt pressured and felt entirely supported the entire afternoon.

**What are you most proud of so far in your sabb experience? Are you happy with the job you're doing?**

I haven't had a massive amount of time to properly reflect on this but I am happy with the job we're doing, I think there's always more but it has to be progressive over years. I do feel we've improved on last year, I do feel people can raise stuff with us.

I know we haven't always got things right but I think we're learning. I'm happy and quite proud and hope we can push for even more in the next five months that I'm here.



# THE CANDIDATES FOR 2020 PRESIDENT

The main role taken upon by the YUSU president is to be the mouthpiece and leader of the Students' Union, and make decisions with and on behalf of the entire student body at York. This will involve working closely with members of the University, particularly the vice-chancellor, Charlie Jeffrey. Additionally, the YUSU president will also be the chair of the Board of Trustees at YUSU. Union presidents have helped increase University funding in areas such as mental health, have aided in raising thousands of pounds for charities, and have taken a leading role in the organisation and overseeing of Freshers' Week.

## AAALVARO SUPERLOPEZ | HE/HIM | THE CHANGE YUSU NEEDS

FOURTH YEAR | HALIFAX | @alvaro4yusuprez

**How would you describe yourself?** Very energetic & passionate. My friends would say I'm very personable & charismatic; my dog, I'm too "lickable".

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I adapt quickly to new circumstances. I truly care about people & group dynamics, & have been heavily involved in YUSU from different angles & roles.

### Key manifesto points:

- 1) Make the role more personal, approachable, "down-to-earth" & efficient
- 2) Re-energise student engagement
- 3) Long-lasting Sabbs Impact through a better feedback system



## JOSHUA MACKENZIE | HE/HIM | DON'T BE HESITANT, VOTE JOSH FOR PRESIDENT!

FOURTH YEAR | HALIFAX | ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING | /VOTEJOSH202

**How would you describe yourself?** I'm friendly, approachable, & always keen to get involved with exciting new projects.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I'm dedicated, hardworking & have credible plans that will actually happen. Elect me & you'll see real change by the start of next academic year.

### Key manifesto points:

- 1) Student saver menu, order-by-app & campaign for a Nisa student discount
- 2) Online merch shop, let societies take mobile payments & an extra club night
- 3) Introduce a register of landlords and provide free legal help to tenants



## PATRICK O'DONNELL | HE/HIM | PATRICK FOR PRESIDENT

THIRD YEAR | DERWENT | POLITICS & IR | @votepatrickforpresident

**How would you describe yourself?** I'm a friendly, outgoing person & a firm believer in engaging people to bring about positive change.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I'm a passionate & enthusiastic individual & I want to work with groups across our University & city. Listening to students is at the heart of this.

### Key manifesto points:

- 1) Reduce the cost of living for students, with a more affordable campus
- 2) Solve problems surrounding transport, healthcare & nights out
- 3) Be the representative of students to the Uni - not the other way around



## JOHN PARRY | HE/HIM | FOR THE MANY NOT THE SU

THIRD YEAR | HALIFAX | BIOLOGY | @parry4president

**How would you describe yourself?** I'm permanently tired and/or wired

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I've spent my time at York representing & working with students, I know how YUSU & the University work, where they don't & how to change that.

### Key manifesto points:

- 1) At least one on-campus club night a week & less York Parties nights
- 2) Cheaper accommodation & fewer 9ams
- 3) A transparent & accountable YUSU that explains actions to students



# YORK SPORT PRESIDENT

The role of YUSU's Sport President is to be the primary point of contact for all sports clubs and teams in both College and University sport. Their main goal is to increase student participation in sports, and make the current teams more open and diverse. As well as sports teams and societies, the Sport President must also ensure that campus gyms and fitness centres are cheap and accessible to all students. A large part of the role will centre around the organisation and overseeing of York's massive sporting events, such as College Varsity, Colours Ball, and, of course, ensuring that Roses remain white.

## JADE BREWER | SHE/HER | VOTE FOR NEWER. VOTE JADE BREWER.

THIRD YEAR | ALCUIN | MATHEMATICS | /Jade4sport

### How would you describe yourself?

Organised, committed & approachable.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I have the experience & drive to make a difference for all student athletes to ensure they are able to partake & exceed their potential in sport.

### Key manifesto points:

- 1) Improving the welfare of student athletes
- 2) Improving communication with college sport
- 3) Ensuring each sports club receives the support they need



## MADDI CANNELL | SHE/HER | MAD FOR SPORT

CURRENT SABB | GOODRICKE | LAW | @madforsport

**How would you describe yourself?** I am a caring individual, who enjoys problem-solving & is driven to see projects completed.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** My experience, & background in College and University sport, makes me confident that I am best placed to continue addressing issues raised this year

### Key manifesto points:

- 1) Improve facility & storage provision
- 2) A new College Sport Committee structure
- 3) Make York Sport Union go further



# BLAST FROM THE PAST... ZAC SHEPPARD

For those who don't know, Zac Sheppard was the York Sport President for the last academic year (2018/19). During his time, the York Sport Union put on one of the best Roses tournaments in recent memory which saw York win in the final two hours of the weekend.

It was also a pioneering year for gender equality in sport with both the opening and closing ceremonies being used as an opportunity to showcase women's sport at York in an unprecedented manner. Nouse caught up with Zac to find out his thoughts on being a sabb at the University of York.



### What were your motivations for running to be Sport President before you won the election?

I thought it would be an awesome experience in a home Roses year and a great opportunity to spend a year improving sport at York, while also leading on to helping me work within sport.

### Do you miss being involved at the University as a sabb?

I definitely miss being in York, being able to go out on a Wednesday night and lots of

the staff at YUSU, but I always felt that one year would be enough and after that I should leave the role and go out and get a "real job". A job which I'm now really enjoying as I am getting to see uni sport from a different side than I was as York Sport President. It's really interesting seeing how sport is organised at a different university.

### Is there anything you regret not achieving during your time as York Sport President?

There isn't anything I regret about my time in the role in a sporting sense, but one thing I regret massively from my time as a sabb is that I failed in my mission of finding James Hare love, despite trying all year to set him up with people I knew.

# ACADEMIC OFFICER

The Academic Officer's role is to represent student problems facing the academic side of University, whether that be learning facilities, assessment feedback or diversity within the curriculum. One of the main roles of the Academic Officer is to be the liaison of over 400 course, faculty and department reps across the University. Through this, they are responsible for ensuring that every student feels as though they have a say in what happens on their course. Academic Officers in the past have lobbied for extra study spaces, funding for dissertation bindings, & have run academic diversity events to help broaden the curriculum at York.

## MATT "THE BEARD" JOHNSTONE | HE/HIM | BELIEVE IN THE BEARD

THIRD YEAR | LANGWITH | MATHEMATICS | /JohnstoneForAcademic20



**How would you describe yourself?** I'm an outgoing mathematician with a penchant for getting the job done.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I have three years of experience as a Rep and have worked with two Academic Sabbs. I will take the best from both with a proactive approach.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Put learning first - make the University work for us
- 2) Stand up for students' rights during strikes
- 3) Place fairness at the heart of everything I do

## GIANG NGUYEN | SHE/HER | #JOINTHEGUCCIGIANG #JOINTHEGIANGGANG

CURRENT SABB | DERWENT | PPE | /GiangForAcademicOfficer

**How would you describe yourself?** I have a passion for policy. I am energetic, organised, caring & interested in York's art & culture.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** This is my current job & I love it. I want to continue making changes on eg. Careers, academic supervision, assessments & diversifying the curriculum.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) No Fears Careers: tailored employability support & overhaul alumni system
- 2) #BetterAssessment: ensure the marking & feedback system is consistent
- 3) Building an inclusive York: work with the GSA & improve representation

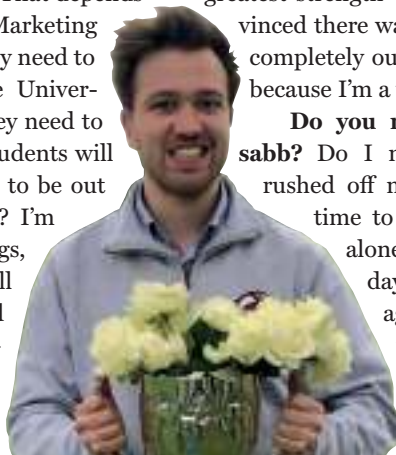


# "HARE TO HELP" ... ONE LAST TIME

*Nouse talks to 2018/2019 Academic Officer & Nouse alumni James Hare:*

**What's the main characteristic you think is important in being a good Academic Officer?** That depends

on who you ask. Marketing will tell you that they need to be photogenic, the University will tell you they need to be diplomatic & students will tell you they need to be out there. The reality? I'm none of those things, and I'd argue I still did a pretty good job. The best officers are those who are willing to listen to



those who know more than them. People are often too quick to feign expertise out of a fear of displaying weakness & sabbs are particularly prone to doing so. My greatest strength was always being convinced there was a good chance I was completely out of my depth not just because I'm a weak swimmer.

**Do you miss your time as a sabb?** Do I miss being constantly rushed off my feet, barely having time to eat proper meals, let alone sleep & the general day-to-day drama that aged me 20 years? Actually yes, I do. When my time in office came to an end last June I was definitely

ready to leave, but with each passing day I miss it more & more. Sure, there were public facing bits I never enjoyed, but it's difficult to replace that buzz you get from achieving things when you're in office.

**Do you have any key regrets from your time as Academic Officer?** There are things I was working on in my final weeks I wish I could have pushed through - sorting out free bus travel for students at King's Manor is chief among them, as well as a lot of innovative widening participation work which was the logical next step from Equity of Provision. But ultimately, my biggest regret is probably that I didn't relax & just enjoy the ride until it was far too late. For too much of the year I tried to be Academic Officer, rather than just being myself & it really weighed me down.

# ACTIVITIES OFFICER

The main role of the Student Activities Officer is the overseeing of student activities and societies, making sure that the social side of university is as diverse, engaging and accessible as possible to all students at the University. The Activities Officer represents over 200 student groups at the University, from student media to Psychedelic Society. As such, the Activities Officer is responsible for lobbying and supporting the interests of these societies. Past Activities Officers have helped in securing grants, the generation of society spaces and important award ceremonies for student recognition.

## RUTH AWOLOLA | SHE/HER | RAISE THE RUTH



THIRD YEAR | DERWENT | ENGLISH IN EDUCATION | @Ruth4AO

**How would you describe yourself?** I'm passionate, outgoing and driven. The sort of gal you'd trust to save your seat in the library.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I've got a wealth of experience in student activities and I would say they have massively shaped my time here and me as a person. I just want to give back the best I can.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Promoting and supporting the wide variety of student activities on offer
- 2) Ensuring you get the recognition you deserve
- 3) Ensuring the student voice is heard when it comes to shaping our nights

## HUGH CAMPKIN | HE/HIM | A VOTE FOR HUGH IS A VOTE FOR YU

FOURTH YEAR | HALIFAX | MUSIC PRODUCTION | HughSU for YUSU Activities

**How would you describe yourself?** Music Producer & Events Organiser, set on reviving the dying nightclub & creative scene in York.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** As former YUsnow President, & helping organise many events & activities on & off campus, I'm versed on the current issues in York's nightlife scene

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Unite creativity, and make York a cultural hub
- 2) More performance and events spaces
- 3) Student involvement and transparency with York Parties



## KIT CLARK | THEY/THEM | GET YOUR KIT ON

THIRD YEAR | VANBRUGH | PHILOSOPHY | @getyourkiton

**How would you describe yourself?** I'm a hardworking person who enjoys helping others and loves a challenge.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I have experience in working with a wide range of people & pride myself on getting work done effectively & creatively.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Focus on York venues, promoting local artists and lobbying the local council
- 2) Better training for committees and a GIAG showcase
- 3) The creation of a RAG resource Hub to support Fundraising



## BRIAN "WALLY" TERRY | HE/HIM | MAKING STUDENTS SMILE

THIRD YEAR | CONSTANTINE | MATHEMATICS | @Brian4Activities

**How would you describe yourself?** A fun-loving, adventurous person who wants to make students' lives & student activities better.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I want to make students smile & my manifesto will deliver that by improving events, nightlife & societies as well as listening to them.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Better nightlife & a regular on-campus club night
- 2) Improved student activities and better recognition for students' talents
- 3) An honest and experienced candidate with an open manifesto





# COMMUNITY & WELLBEING

The main undertaking of YUSU's Community and Wellbeing Officer is to represent students' welfare and tackle issues that threaten it. From sexual health to room prices, it is the job of this Officer to ensure that the University is the most welcoming, accessible and accepting place it can be, while also ensuring that students from all backgrounds and ethnicities are represented and comfortable at university. Past Officers have lobbied for lower rent prices, gained compensation for students experiencing difficulties living on campus, and have generally fought the issues that affect students at University, and within the local area as well.

## CARLY PRECIOUS | THEY/THEM | YOUR WELLBEING IS PRECIOUS

THIRD YEAR | GOODRICKE | BIOLOGY | @carlyprecious

**How would you describe yourself?** I'm 5ft short, making me a fighter. I'm empathetic, passionate & will stand for what I believe in.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I have experience with a variety of organisations within & beyond the University, often uniting groups in common goals as one community.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Improve mental health support
- 2) Affordable accommodation
- 3) Increase student financial support



## ELLIE WALPOLE | SHE/HER | EL CAN, EL WILL AND #ELWOULD

THIRD YEAR | LANGWITH | THEATRE | @ellie4yusu

**How would you describe yourself?** I'm resilient, caring & friendly. I'm also ambitious & passionate about making a difference.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I've had a lot of varying experiences of different welfare systems while studying at York. This drives me to want to make positive changes if elected.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Providing education and support for symptoms of stress #letstalkYork
- 2) Lobby the University to transform the Exceptional Circumstances system
- 3) Work with Disabled Student Network and Officers to improve accessibility



# STEPH HAYLE: "I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS"

*Nouse talks to 2018/19 and 2019/20 Community and Wellbeing Officer Steph Hayle: What are you looking for in your successor?*

Somebody who continues the campaign work I've been doing, and doing them more effectively because I don't want them to die!

I also want someone who is really passionate about this job, and understands that intersectionality is part of what we do at York.

We have to take a whole-University approach, we can't be insular, and we have to be looking at big-picture,



long-term sustainable projects.

**Do you have any regrets from your time as sabb?**

I don't have any regrets. In terms of Freshers' events I wish I had been able to go around and see everybody. I went round them and said hi to committees, but I don't really have the energy to go clubbing anymore; I'm so tired all the time! I try not to look back. I think I've done as well as I could have done.

**What do you now understand about the Wellbeing Officer role you didn't before?**

When you first start as a sabb, you spend a few months training and get-

ting to know people, and how the University works. A lot of committee meetings you have four a year, so by the time you've got into the role, you've only got two to go. At the start you're not sure about your obligations, how to write reports, you don't even know the right people to ask. By the time you've got into the swing of things, it's election season.

The advantage of being a second-year sabb is that I don't have to go through that, and I was able to spend my first few months already making changes.

That's why on the first day of my second term I got the £16,000 reimbursement for students. In my second year, I knew exactly who to go to, and we had a relationship where they respected my expertise.

# PART-TIME OFFICERS

PTOs, or Part-Time Officers, are student volunteers who take an unpaid role at YUSU. They undertake this role while studying at university, and do not take a year out like the full-time Sabbatical Officers do. These officers represent specific groups at university, such as BAME, LGBT, and the Working Class. Contrasting to full-time Sabbs, PTOs can run as a pair as some of this year's candidates are.

In terms of the roles of the individual officers: the Disability Officer is responsible for representing disabled students at the University, as well as promoting awareness of accessibility and welfare issues that face disabled students on campus; similarly, the Women and Non-Binary Officer's main focus will be on representing the aforementioned groups, past officers have helped tackle rape culture by supporting the #It'sNotOk campaign; BAME Officers, again, focus on ensuring that all BAME identifying students at the University feel as though they have a voice in YUSU and are adequately represented in the Union; International Student officers have a vital role in the Union, as they represent 20 per cent of the population at the University, and are here to ensure that international students are getting a fair deal while studying at York; RAG Officers are vital for developing fundraising events for students to get involved with. The role of the Working Class and Social Mobility Officer is a fairly new one, however, it is instrumental in ensuring that working class students feel accepted and represented at the University.

Volunteering officers organise volunteering opportunities for students to get involved with, which are vital for students on campus and their future beyond university. Last year 750 students got involved with volunteering, therefore the role of these officers is certainly not a small one.

WORKING CLASS & SOCIAL MOBILITY

## KATE ARCHER & LUCY MASON | #VOTEKATEANDLUCY4WORKINGCLASS

(SHE/HER) & (SHE/HER) | @katenadlucyYUSU

**How would you describe yourselves?** We are a passionate duo with common goals that we are determined to see happen within the Uni

**Why are you the best people for the job?** Our shared experiences when accessing higher education make us the best for the role as we can fully tackle the barriers that are left unspoken.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Reduce cost of student living
- 2) #MoreMoneyInYourPocket
- 3) Reducing stigma around class issues



## JACKY TRAN | HE/HIM | #YESWETRAN

FIRST YEAR | VANBRUGH | SPS

**How would you describe yourself?** Passionate, determined & hard-working.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I am an active & effective campaigner on various issues & if elected as WCO, I am confident that I can bring forward meaningful action & change.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Elect a network committee and ensure it is non-partisan
- 2) Empower working-class students through increased representation
- 3) Widening participation



WORKING CLASS & SOCIAL MOBILITY

## VICTORIA CORNFORD & ROWAN CASEY | DISABILITY NOT INVISIBILITY

(SHE/HER) & (THEY/THEM) | @DISABILITYNOTINVISIBILITY

**How would you describe yourselves?** We are dedicated activists with a commitment to increasing accessibility across campus.

**Why are you the best people for the job?** We have experience running & being on the committee previously, we know what needs to change & how to achieve this.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Ensuring all students have the information they deserve from the Uni
- 2) Socials where disabled students can meet others, combating isolation
- 3) Lobbying for uni to be accessible both physically & academically



DISABLED STUDENTS

**WOMEN AND  
NON-BINARY**

**DAISY SLATE & NEHA SHAH | GET SHATE DONE**

(SHE/HER) & (SHE/HER) | @daisy\_and\_neha\_for\_WNB

**How would you describe yourselves?** We are dedicated, reliable and friendly.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** We have significant experience working in the Women & Nonbinary network through exec & officer roles, running campaigns and events.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Create a cross-society communication W+NB network
- 2) Utilise media to improve visibility & transparency
- 3) Encourage employment opportunities for W+NB students



**RAISING & GIVING**

**MAX STAFFORD | HE/HIM | MAX-4-RAG**

SECOND YEAR | JAMES | BIOLOGY | /MAX STAFFORD

**How would you describe yourself?** I am a hardworking & committed individual with passion for charity.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** Working as RAG and Volunteering Officer on the James College JCRC has given me an insight into how it all works & I have also worked with partner organisation 'Survive'.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Greater transparency on what RAG money is spent on by charities
- 2) RAG equivalent of York Award to recognise achievements of students
- 3) Encourage more cooperation between colleges in RAG activities



**REBECCA WILCOCKSON | SHE/HER | VOTE REBECCA FOR THE INCLUSIVE CANDIDATE**

SECOND YEAR | ALCUIN | SOCIOLOGY

**How would you describe yourself?** I would describe myself as hard working, kind, eager to listen & a team player.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I am currently the secretary for RAG and therefore have insight into how it is run, what works & what doesn't. I have also worked with charities and campaigned.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Make RAG more accessible and inclusive
- 2) Collaborate with different societies to run more wide scale events
- 3) Engage students more with RAG



**RAISING & GIVING**

**HAYLEY CALLAWAY | SHE/HER | VOLUNTEER WITH ME, VOTE HAYLEY C**

SECOND YEAR | CONSTANTINE | PSYCHOLOGY IN EDUCATION | /hayleycallaway

**How would you describe yourself?** I am an approachable & dedicated person who strives to see the best in people.

**Why are you the best person for the job?** I am currently KEEN's Project Coordinator, so I know how volunteering projects are run. This allows me to know the impact that volunteering can have!

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Create a 'Do Something Special' campaign to promote volunteering
- 2) Create a volunteering blog to highlight YUSU volunteering projects
- 3) Improve volunteer recognition with 'volunteer of the month' scheme



**VOLUNTEERING**

**MOEEN BHATTI & POLINA BELKINA**

(HE/HIM) & (SHE/HER) | @MPforISP

**How would you describe yourselves?** We are proactive students, with a particular interest in student academic experience at the university.

**Why are you the best people for the job?** We are highly motivated to address international student issues & believe that we've got the ideas to immerse York as a more culturally diverse university.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Inter-society relations
- 2) International student welfare
- 3) Widening participation



**INTERNATIONAL**

LGBTQ OFFICER

## ROBYN STALHAM & MATTHEW GORDON | VOTE MATT-MAN AND ROBYN

(THEY/THEM) & (HE/HIM) | /VotemattmanandRobyn

**How would you describe yourselves?** We are both very open, passionate & honest people looking for change.

**Why are you the best people for the job?** We're both experienced with the network, dedicated & committed to supporting & representing the entire LGBTQ+ community.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Reform the current network
- 2) LGBTQ+ Action Group
- 3) Gender-Neutral Toilets & Safe Spaces



## MATT ROGAN & DAN LOYD | WORKING FOR LGBTQ. WORKING FOR YOU.

(HE/HIM) & (HE/HIM) | @MattDan4LGBTQ

**How would you describe yourselves?** Empathetic, motivated & driven by experience to make a difference for all LGBTQ students.

**Why are you the best people for the job?** We will always listen to your problems & amplify your voice, no matter how you identify - we'll work for everyone across the spectrum.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Better access to health services
- 2) More events for students
- 3) Increased visibility and awareness

LGBTQ OFFICER

BAME OFFICER

## FIKS ADEREMI & SIMISOLA ODUKOYA | #WECANF(ICKS)IT

(SHE/HER) & (SHE/HER) | @FIKS\_MI #SolvingInequalities4MinoritiesInYork


**How would you describe yourselves?** We are good listeners who are able to communicate & are always open to input from other students.

**Why are you the best people for the job?** 72 per cent of BAME students (exc. international students), compared with 83.1 per cent of white students achieved a 2:1 and above. Statistics like this motivated us to run.

**Key manifesto points:**

- 1) Make the Uni more representative of groups that make up society
- 2) Encourage BAME participation in the SU democratic process
- 3) Increase the attainment grades rate of BAME students






### NO CANDIDATES RUNNING

The Environment & Ethics Officers are responsible for representing the interests of Union members in lobbying for sustainable & fair practices at the University of York. They raise awareness through student-led campaigns & make saving the planet enjoyable and accessible. They lead the Environment & Ethics Collective, a student-led group which campaigns for the University to follow environmentally & ethically sound policies & influences student habits to be more sustainable. Students can run for this role as a pair & 'job-share' if they win. By-elections for this role will take place over weeks 9 & 10 in spring term.

ENVIRONMENT & ETHICS



### NO CANDIDATES RUNNING

The Mature Students' Officer is responsible for representing the views & interests of mature students at the University of York & campaigning to make sure that mature students feel included & supported.

They also lead the Mature Students' Association (MSA), a student group which exists to represent mature students' interests, run social events and offer an atmosphere of support for mature students. Two students can run for this role as a pair & 'job-share' if they win.

By-elections for this role will take place over weeks 9 & 10 in spring term.

MATURE STUDENT

# TWO YEARS OF STEPH HAYLE

## NOUSE TALKS TO THE COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING OFFICER ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE AS A SABB

**Where do you stand on extending sabb terms?** I think more sabbats should re-run. I think it's good that it's only a year because it allows people that burn out an 'out'. You need to be passionate, and a lot of people can be passionate for a year, but after that it's easier to lose the fire and lose the connection to students. I think more people should re-run because it allows you to pass on expertise in a more effective way.

People that come to join you can use your experience from last year, and your University knowledge to do their job more effectively too.

**Could you see yourself running for a third term if it were legal and the Education Act didn't bind you to two years?** I love being a sabb, I love my job. That said, if I had run for a third term, I would be a sabb for as long as I was a student, which isn't right: you need to be 'with it'. Obviously I know what I'm doing, but the whole benefit of being a sabb is you remember your student experience. After this year no one I know is still here, and all my friends have moved on.

**What are you most proud of over your last two years?** That's a really hard question. Rent cuts, of course. It might not be as low as we want it, but it's still lower than we've had before. The new departmental wellbeing scheme is obviously a huge investment too. Getting students

£16,000 for failures by Circuit Laundry was also good.

I'm proud that I've been a visible point of change over the year and a half. Today, I was at an event and saw two students who I'd never met, who recognised me and said they thought my work was a good thing. I'm proud I've made a visible impact on student wellbeing.

My proudest moment is probably working on the scholarship programme. We restructured the scheme, and fund-raised over £100,000. There are now students at York because of the work I did last year.

**Do you think there was a big difference between your two teams?** Massively. You just have to look at the gender makeup. We now have four female sabbats, and one male. It's a far more visibly diverse team this year, although I don't think that makes it any better naturally, it's all about your team dynamic and your passion as officers. We all have very different points of expertise. Last year, I knew more people coming in with James and Zac, whereas this year, it was a slightly different dynamic because I had this prior experience. I think we work well together. I'm going to miss this office, and my desk. I have slept under my desk at times: I grabbed a bean bag and had a 15-minute power nap. Don't put that under my achievements. I'm not proud of that!

**Do you think re-running was a good idea for you?** Yes. I think that the change I have been able to make is built on the fact that the University has a level of respect for

me. I think I have proven to a good portion of students that I'm good at this, and I can help fight for their best interests. When you start as a sabb, those first six months are just such a dead ground because they're so full of training. I think I've been able to do more this term than a new person coming into my role could have done because I've been planning them for the long term.

**Are you going to miss this?** 100%!

I'll miss this job so much, and I love this University. I love my colleagues, I love the students here, I love the way that York conducts itself. I love what it stands for, as an inclusive place with a really philanthropic heart. A huge proportion of our students go on to third sector jobs or working in social work. Something no other university has is that real sense you're doing something for the benefit of others. I love my office, my view over the lake, and I love the ability to fight for what I'm passionate about. Being able to affect people's lives and knowing that at the end of the day, I've really changed things is great.

There are 30 something people here who I know wouldn't be here without me is insane. It's great to know that something I did has changed the lives of 30 people forever. On rent rant: to know that I have potentially helped bring students out of hardship by changing their rent last year.

On the Friday Night Food Fest: knowing that I was able to feed students over the weekend who might not otherwise have had food. On the mental health service, I've potentially changed someone's life, brought them back from the edge. You never get to see the impact you make as a sabb, because often it takes so long for it to change. Under my second term I've been able to see all these differences. I'd do it again, and I'll miss it more than anything when I leave.



# SHOULD SABB TERMS BE EXTENDED?

## PATRICK WALKER - YES

The York sabb system is broken. Three years after former *Nouse* Editor Finn Judge argued that YUSU's top positions were dominated by relentless "careerists", York's full-time officers are still hampered by a system that leaves little time to learn how to do the job or to build relationships before YUSU elections inevitably roll around again.

Forcing sabb to run for a two-year period would be an excellent change for two reasons: firstly, it would give officers far more time to learn how to do their job. Part of the story on inaction at the Students' Union is related to the amount of time that elected officers inevitably spend learning skills and commitments, and forging new relationships with Univer-



sity representatives. Considering that the primary role of a sabb is that of a glorified lobbyist to York's management, this is quite a pressing issue.

Under a two-year term, relationships would carry over into the new year, and sabb could use the valuable quiet time over the summer to implement manifestos, rather than engaging in bizarre team-building exercises that do little to actually help students.

The results achieved by two-term sabb speak for themselves. This edition, we'll be breaking the story of the half a million pound funding increase for mental healthcare across the University. This is evidence that spending longer working in the YUSU offices gets results for students, especially when it's combined with passion and purpose.

Management expertise and relationship-building takes time.

I don't buy the burnout argument: the idea that sabb who get tired after a year need an 'out' in the form of another election in order to protect their wellbeing.

Under a new system, it would be perfectly acceptable to step down, but the pressure on officers should be that they should be staying for two years, if they can. The idea that elected officers would also lose touch with students is particularly odd too. The survey on whether to support the contentious UCU strikes shows that YUSU is at least trying to make an effort to back student views above all else.

If YUSU sabb want to be taken seriously, they need to run for election in the knowledge that their terms will be two years, understanding the commitment, hardship, and nauseating publicity obligations that come with the job.

The terms won't be the end of fixing the problem of sabb effectiveness, but they'll be a start to restoring the credibility of York's most prevalent student voices.

## JONATHAN WELLINGTON - NO

It's very easy to complain and suggest reform for the YUSU system without fully thinking through the consequences. We all naturally want sabb to be able to achieve more during their terms, but extending terms to mandatory two-year periods is problematic and not a thought through idea. The reasons against it are endless. Accountability would inevitably reduce drastically alongside the appeal of the role.

Interest in sabb positions are in decline with only 14 running this year as opposed to 24 last year. A situation where a candidate runs unopposed, scrapes in against a RON vote and then is in a huge position of power for two years is one of particular concern.

Even Steph Hayle, whose success is the most convincing argument for two-year terms has said that they shouldn't be extended because the one year system allows people that burn out an

'out'. I am positive that under a two-year term system it would not be long until we saw one of the sabb dropping out halfway through their term. Just the thought of a one sabb by-election is enough to cause a YUSU logistical headache and an even bigger headache for the remaining sabb.

Not only do the people change within the year but the needs of a university also change. For example, this year an important issue for the Activities Officer is the future of York's clubs and the future of the Union's relationship with York Parties. This was not as much of an important issue last year and if such change happened during a two-year term, the student population would not have the option to adapt their preferences to a better suited candidate.

Instead, pressure would be placed on the sabbatical officer to change their manifesto

to something they might not be suited to do.

Another issue is that the opportunity to run for a position would be incredibly limited based on what year you happened to start in. The opportunity to run for sabb is open to second years but the majority of applicants are still final years and two-year terms would make running in your second year even less appealing. If you were a second year and were elected

for a two-year term, everyone who you studied with in your first two years would've already graduated when you returned to your studies. You'd be sharing seminars with people you welcomed to the University as a sabb during their freshers week.

Extending terms will not restore sabb credibility but will reduce it by removing accountability and decreasing already feigning interest in holding the roles.



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