

AGM Report for The President

Name:

Oliver Robinson

Role:

President & Chair of the Trustee Board

Progress on Manifesto Pledges:

The primary aim of my 2020 manifesto was the fundamental restructuring of the Students' Union to be a truly membership led organisation. I pledged to introduce elections for trustees and to re-establish Union Council. As long as University Council gives its approval on the (Friday) 7th of May, we will be moving to the new governance after the (Monday) 10th of May. It's possible that the implementation period may be slightly longer than that. I have failed to bring in slates for Council elections, and I have failed to bring elections forward for External Trustees, but Board is now fully behind the proposal that sits on the table.

Whilst I was not an integral part of the climate emergency declaration, the University has now declared a Climate Emergency, aiming for carbon neutrality by 2035. Whilst this is not the 2030 target I had hoped for, it's far more ambitious than many other universities have been. The University has also been setting out clear targets for carbon neutrality internally, though the SU believes that they should be doing more to communicate this intention to students. Internally we will also be moving the climate emergency to the Union Development brief to make some space in the slightly incongruent Welfare brief and to fill the gap left by the abolition of Executive Committee.

The student media teams have not been as well served as I would hope, but I know that they are going through a period of tricky transition. I will be redirecting efforts that would have gone towards the achievement of my manifesto pledge to ensure that Student Media's transition into a single organisation is as smooth as possible.

Other Projects I Have Been Working On:

I have been mostly occupied with non-manifesto commitments this year. Even though the Governance and Democracy review has been very time consuming, I have spent a great deal of time taking forward casework, campaigning with Amy Merchant, VP Welfare, on Mental Health, supporting the Rent strike and acting as company director for our Corporate Services. As the budget squeeze continues, questions of finance are likely to take up even larger parts of my time through the next 6 months at least, and quite probably into the entirety of my remaining 14 months.

Priorities for the remainder of the year:

In my remaining time this year, I will be laying the groundwork for the new Officers, Councillors and Trustees that we will have joining us soon. The Governance will no longer be viewed as a static document, but as a living document that can be updated as appropriate, and it's probable that Council and the new Board may want to make adjustments as we get used to operating in the new structures.

Officer Budget Expenditure:

In line with the general fiscal restraint and limited opportunities for activity, I have spent almost none of my £1000 budget for the year, other than £15 on the officer uniform

