



Manifestos For Vp Societies and Media

The following are the manifestos for the candidates running to be one of your full-time officers for the year 21/22. These officers will represent yourselves to the university and lead on campaigns to make student life better.

This officer role will champion the following areas of work but not limited to:

- To be the primary student representative for societies and recreational groups
- To be the primary liaison between the staff teams and societies on all representative matters.
- Ensure students interests and experiences are properly considered within the University's decision-making processes
- Be the lead liaison with University Facilities on issues affecting societies
- They shall be the lead officer responsibility for all Students' Union Media outlets

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Dom Casoria

Vice President Societies & Media Manifesto

It's election season again and that means you have a choice.

Let's keep that choice simple.

Vote for Dom Casoria and you are voting for immediate society affiliations, an individual accreditation scheme, overhauled Exec training, alumni playing at Roses, a Societies Awards ceremony and dedicated staff support for student media.

Sound good? Then keep reading...

1. Restarting affiliation applications:

The SU has halted society affiliations. With me as your VP Societies & Media, **affiliation applications will restart**. Societies are the backbone of Lancaster. We need to enhance and support their development, not ignore them until a more suitable time.

2. An accreditation scheme:

This scheme is simple and effective. We spend hours working hard on our Execs with nothing to show for it.

This will change that. You will be able to log the hours and work you complete with the SU, and request accreditation for portfolios and CVs when you leave. It already happens at other universities and should happen at ours. This will increase your employability during such difficult times ahead.

3. Overhauling Exec training:

Exec training is awful. You have to complete the same Moodle training every time you change Exec positions. **I will change the Moodle training, so it is logged and has a record** that you have completed it.

I will introduce new and better training through 'Society Training Days', just like the JCRs receive. Execs will receive the **best equality training** with focused sessions on antisemitism, anti-racism, gendered issues, ableism and LGBTQ+ issues.

We will teach you, and support you with, the basics of running a society. From running events, adapting to Covid or planning a society ball; **I'll be there**. I will make a template accessible to all to support Exec handovers.

And, I will give **student media a part in all of this**, plus additional technical training as required.

4. Alumni features at Roses:

It's not fair for coronavirus to take away a normal Roses from students who trained tirelessly for years. I'll work with the VP Sports to make sure **graduated students are able to be involved** and to hold an alternative Roses weekend for graduates.

5. Communication:

BUZZWORD ALERT! Yes, I know it's broad, but I just have to improve this. I've been on Execs for three years and communication has always been bad. It's time that changed. Execs need to be kept in the loop on **updates around Freshers' Fair, Refreshers' Fair** and the coronavirus guidelines. I'll do **monthly updates** and if you're still unsure, I'll make myself **visible and accessible** to all.

6. Societies Awards:

Societies deserve to be appreciated. I will hold a proper Societies Awards ceremony when coronavirus allows. It will be a night of celebration: for societies to receive nominations and get the recognition that they deserve from the SU. Throughout the year, I'll showcase the amazing things societies are doing which are getting overlooked.

7. Campaign for dedicated student media staff support:

Student media is neglected by the SU. After your point of call left, they weren't replaced and the repercussions of this are hitting hard. **Student media need a dedicated staff member again, which I'll campaign to get.**

8. Support:

Societies need more **focused support**. A 'one fits all' approach isn't working. Whether you're a die-hard politico, member of the Cheer squad or just really like gin; all societies are different, and our support should reflect that.

For academic societies, I'll work with departments to have a designated staff member for that department's society.

Societies need support in Exec elections during coronavirus and how they will navigate difficulties ahead. I'll offer it, by making sure societies that can't reaffiliate this year, can be **reaffiliated later on with an easier process**.

After meeting with the current Vice President, I am assured that I can deliver. There's a lot outlined, but the SU, and I, have a lot to do before societies and media get the attention they deserve.

I have been on three society Execs and held five positions across them – two as President. I have started my own society and I was Grizedale JCR President. We need someone who truly knows and experiences the issues – which I do.

Thank you,

#DomsTheOne

Vote Dom Casoria for VP Societies & Media

James Scowcroft

For a comprehensive list of all my policies, please click the following link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mlu_Y-Sk0GZEA5C2fdR_1fEyAehT311NfSh9uzJjoD8/edit?usp=sharing

SOCIETIES

This past year, it has become common knowledge that societies have been severely impacted because of COVID. New memberships have been sparse, and activities, if any have gone ahead, have suffered due to being online. This cannot continue next year, simply in the interest of society survival. In the event of a return to normality for the 21-22 academic year, I pledge to fix what COVID has broken for the hundreds of societies here at Lancaster, from extra-curricular to sports.

I aim to use my connection with LUSU and knowledge of student media to create a significant marketing push for the societies that need it, increasing membership uptake and ensuring executive committees are filled ready for the handover period.

Freshers Fair and Refreshers Fair will also be dedicated to the rejuvenation of societies, with extra events on top of these to ensure no one misses their chance to advertise. I am aiming for Re/Freshers Fair to be *week-long* events with dedicated booking systems, for two reasons: increased social distancing, and giving all societies an equal chance to market themselves.

Furthermore, sports societies have experienced massive detriment as they, for the majority of the year, have not been able to meet up in person to play their sports, whether this be for just recreational purposes or practicing for Roses. As I will also be representing sports societies as well as others, I aim to work closely with the elected VP Sport to see how we can help sports societies and give them as fair a chance as everyone else to bounce back.

Whilst liberation groups are not classed as societies, I plan to keep them in the loop regarding what's going on in the Student's Union. This will be done through the distribution of society letters to forum executives and making sure they are aware of any opportunities that may arise such as working with LA1TV or Bailrigg FM on, for example, Black History Month.

STUDENT MEDIA

Just like with other societies, student media has also suffered a large detriment because of COVID, leaving all groups with severely impacted member numbers and unfilled exec positions. This is something I have seen first-hand as I am the current Co-Station Manager of LA1TV, a role which has not just provided deep insight into exactly how student media operates, but also given me the opportunity to work alongside the terrific incumbent VP Societies and Media, Shannon McCaul.

LA1TV has had to suspend all productions due to not being able to film anything in person, Take 2 Cinema were only able to go through a handful of screenings before closing down, Bailrigg FM had to broadcast from home without access to their studio, and SCAN have not been able to collaborate in person. All of this has severely impacted outreach, membership, and future-proofing due to the lack of a functioning member-base to handover to.

Student Media has also experienced budget cuts. Whilst they have taken this in their stride, I aim to get this money back to them. Money that could be used for more equipment, fixing equipment such as Take 2's projector, merchandise, socials for new members etc, bringing SCAN back to print etc.

Needless to say, student media needs help. And, just like I will be doing with the hundreds of other societies here at Lancaster, I will be helping them in every way I can. Increased advertisement on the screens around campus will be one of my focuses, as well as regular promotions on LUSU's social media.

Inclusivity in Student Media is also a contention I have seen in the three years I have been part of it, so this is a thing I'd like to take a look at too. Being a student with a disability myself, inclusivity is of the utmost importance to me and I aim to do my very best to bring this to prominence. I plan to do this through working with the elected PTOs, namely the Students with Disabilities Officer, BAME Officer, Womens+ Officer and LGBTQ+ Officer, in order to discuss how we would approach this and ultimately make Student Media a more inclusive place to be for students of all backgrounds.

Student Media is currently trialling a new method of enticing in new members through a joint membership (pay £5 for one society and get access to all of them), so this is something I plan to market further too.

Josh Wynn

Aims

- Provide **sufficient media training** to all societies and JCR execs
- **Increase the exposure** of all Society/Media groups on campus to display to the student body the amazing groups we have at this university
- Make sure every Society/Media groups **voices are heard** by the SU
- Give weekly updates to **you** so you can hold me accountable for my actions and know what is going on within the SU

Hi, I'm Josh Wynn you can usually find me in County games room playing pool with hat on or dancing the night away in sugar with 8 Vks in my hand (usually orange). I'm a 3rd year computer science student that has loved being a part of County Bar Sports for the last 3 years and have made some truly unforgettable memories being captain and making friends that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Being in this position I have seen first-hand how societies have broken down due to covid, not reaching their full potential and it has broken my heart to see. From not having a places to meet new people, to not having the welfare that many of our amazing societies offer to even not having something to look forward to each week has been really hard for me personally and many other students too. Luckily, I have been kept busy by County JCR where I have also been Media & Communications for the last year and a half and I am proud to say that we were there for students back in March when no one else really was, not even the University. We ran welfare social media campaigns which we posted every single day and hosted many, many events such as the County Quarantine quiz which had over 150+ people watching each week for over 15+ weeks, which I was an integral part of and created. I was hosting Bingos, pointless, family fortunes just to name a few. We were the light at the end, giving students hope, in these dark times **being there for you**.

That's what this role is all about, **me being here for you** which is why I am getting in contact with every single Society/Media group at this University to organise a meeting talk about any problems they have with their society currently, whether it's an issue with how the SU interacts with you to struggles they have had with running their society/media group in the current climate. If I haven't been in touch with your society or media group yet I urge to drop at j.wynn@lancaster.ac.uk and I am more than happy to sort out a meeting and have a chat.

I am currently running Live streaming training for all JCR execs and would love to roll this out to all societies and including more media training that is currently only offered to JCRs to all Societies & Media groups to allow them to reach their full potential in this covid climate. An example of this I am currently helping drama students live stream their final performances. I would like to increase exposure of society/media groups as currently you only really hear about societies during freshers week and potentially refreshers, but the truth is you can join societies any time of the year. So, I want to create a way to frequently showcase different societies whether that's showcasing societies on SU socials, to getting Bailrigg FM played in places throughout campus. This is to increase exposure of our amazing

society/media groups that Lancaster have to offer, showcasing to students great places to make new friends. I want to make sure no society/media groups issues are missed by the SU and to do this I would like to setup a board of all the heads of exec that would meet 3 times a term where they can raise any issues to me and the rest SU that need resolving. Doing this as well as societies coming directly to me with their issues should mean that no issue goes missed within the SU and **all voices from every society/media groups are heard**. I also want to give you weekly updates of what I have been up to in the SU so you can hold me and the university accountable for the position I have been elected for.

If you want to know more information check or need to ask any question, please check out my campaign pages or drop me an email as I'm here for you.

Email: j.wynn@lancaster.ac.uk

Insta: @josh.13w

Sruthi Chilukoti

Hi, I'm **Sruthi Chilukoti** and I'm running to be your next **VP Societies and Media**. I'm a previous Media and Cultural Studies undergraduate who's now completing a master's in Information Technology, Management and Organisational Change. I was a loyal member of County College, now having moved on to Graduate College, and was the captain of our bar sports team, current writer for SCAN, active member of the netball society, and an Executive for Bailrigg FM for the last three years. As such, I have the knowledge and experience to make our societies and media the best they can be!

My campaign centres around three main concepts:

REBUILD. RELIEVE. REPRESENT.

In this, I intend to focus upon **mental health and wellbeing support** within our societies and media; reinvigorating traditional **membership and Executive** recruitment so support is offered beyond Freshers Fair; implementing **policies around handover documents** for transitioning into the new year; **digital membership** options and **training in digital literacy**; and facilitating **greater transparency and communication** between students and their Union through **redesigning the Union website**.

We need a VP who is prepared for every eventuality – someone who is hoping for the best in student life returning to normal, whilst recognising the damage the COVID-19 pandemic has and can still cause to our societies and media. I know I am that person, so please **Vote Sruthi for VP Societies and Media!**

Find my campaign on Instagram and Facebook @VoteSRU4VPSocietiesAndMedia and TikTok @sruthichilukoti

#SruthiForTheTruthi

REBUILD:

- Introduce a "Society Spotlight"
- Every week, on all SU social media platforms, a society will be featured so as to increase promotion.
- Alongside receiving promotion on their own socials and at Fresher's Fair, this scheme allows societies to continue to recruit members throughout the academic year, secure further funding through membership, and continue to operate.

- With an academic year heavily impacted by COVID-19 and social distancing measures, this scheme will reinstall confidence within societies concerning their survival and functioning.

RELIEVE:

- Establish Wellbeing Representatives
- For students, societies can act as a respite for mental health and wellbeing – offering escapism and creating a distinct divide between the personal and the academic.
- Therefore, societies need a trained representative who can signpost mental health and wellbeing support within the university.
- I will work on this initiative alongside the VP Welfare – offering training and guidance – so that society members are empowered to inform students in need of the mental health and wellbeing services the university offers.
- Introduce digital membership and a digital literacy framework
- COVID-19 has changed the way we interact with societies and demonstrated the potential of digital membership – an option which would greatly benefit students with disabilities, for example, who may not be able to attend in person.
- Here, I will educate societies (where applicable) on how to operate both online AND in-person – offering training and creating digital literacy toolkits on how to host digitally so as to create a more inclusive and accessible experience of society membership.
- This digital initiative further prepares and educates societies on what to do if they unexpectedly have to move online, as they did this past year.
- Create policies around handover documents
- I want to make the transition of societies into a new academic year less stressful through creating policies around how to conduct handovers.
- Through making sure handover documents are both completed and done so in an effective manner, transitions into the new year should be easier, sustainable and less stressful for new Executives.

REPRESENT:

- Redesign the Student's Union website
- The Student's Union website is currently not a place for students. It lacks accessibility, and key information – which intends to promote transparency – is spread across multiple social media platforms which not all students have access to.
- We need to redesign the website so it offers greater structure – putting all key information and updates in one place, whilst using the site as a platform to increase student engagement through highlighting their own campaigns and events.
- In securing transparency and accountability, students should be able to easily see what their FTO and PTO officers are working on – outlining their projects and any progress they are making.
- In achieving this, student confidence in their SU and representing officers should increase – creating an SU which not only works for its students but works with them.

