



Manifestos For Union Development

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 work on many areas but not limited to:

- Act as delegate lead for NUS conference.
- Act as lead student representative for unions commercial services, JCR's and PG Board officers.
- Oversee union democratic processes, and maintain unions governing documents.
- Act as lead officer responsible for finances.
- Act as lead officer in relation to the SU's commercial services.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

Andrew Williams

#AndyforUD

Hello! I'm Andrew (or Andy), my pronouns are he/him, and I'm a third-year History and Politics student running for VP Union Development. I've been on the front lines of student activism and journalism in my time at Lancaster, from the Save our Sugarhouse campaign, to taking part in two rent strikes. If you want to read more about me and my campaign, visit my website: www.sites.google.com/view/andyforud.

Manifesto

Lancaster students deserve better. In last year's National Student Survey, Lancaster Students' Union was ranked as the second-worst in the country. Support for the SU is at rock bottom.

We deserve an SU that we can trust to stand up for us, that is receptive of criticism, and inclusive of all. All students should have the chance to create, develop, and implement policy changes. As it stands, decision-making is centralised in the hands of the few, which is not healthy for a member-led union. Only when it becomes a union for all students – from first-years to international students, part-time students to postgrads – can it really be regarded as a students' union.

My guiding principle in enacting these policies will be to make the SU an accessible union. It will never truly be a member-led organisation if it is not accessible to its members, particularly those with disabilities or affected by a language barrier. It should also be a more welcoming place for estranged students, students with caring responsibilities, and part-time students.

A democratic union

The SU's democratic deficit is enormous, and if any student is to trust the institution, they must first have a say in how it is run.

- Bring forward a bye-law re-establishing Union Council, a proper democratic forum where all JCRs and liberation groups are represented

- Initiate termly general meetings for all students, so they can feedback policy ideas and criticism
- Review the SU's election rules and processes, in light of 2020's RON vote disqualification fiasco
- Put the lead NUS delegate and University Council student rep positions out for election
- Overhaul committee procedure so that every officer feels confident contributing and the full potential of virtual meetings is realised
- Explore availability of remuneration for volunteer officer roles, and fix set budgets for part-time and liberation officers

A collegiate union

The college system, JCRs and PG Board are fundamental parts of Lancaster University and the SU which I want to protect.

- Defend the freedom of speech of JCR and PG Board officers and review this year's 80% JCR budget cut
- Consider allowing current third-years to purchase future Extrav tickets to offset the impact of Covid on their entertainment while at university
- Create a useful and comprehensive calendar of events on the SU website
- Establish an ideas bank to pool JCR experience and expertise in delivering remote socials during Covid

A transparent union

The SU must be transparent to be accountable and must be accountable before it can ever improve.

- Introduce comprehensive transparency rules for agendas, papers, and minutes of SU committees
- Establish a Budgets Committee and publish officer expenses per 2019 AGM policy, giving students a chance to scrutinise and decide how their money is spent
- Examine the SU's complaints procedure and data protection policy so that students can be confident their concerns are being heard and that their personal data is safe
- Inaugurate a Research Library containing previous reports and investigations by the SU which can be held in a single place, accessible to all
- Audit all existing bye-laws to eliminate contradictions, discrepancies, and out-of-date references
- Ensure the SU website is redesigned with a focus on readability and navigation

A conscious union

The SU must be conscious of the impact its commercial services have, how they can be a force for good, and how it can involve students in running them.

- Advocate for all SU staff to be paid a living wage
- Negotiate an agreement to secure subsidised trade union membership for interested staff and create a forum to work with campus trade unions
- Develop and publish a commercial services decarbonisation strategy to ensure the SU becomes net carbon neutral by 2030, including the supply chains and operations of Central, The Sugarhouse, and LUSU Living
- Protect the Sugarhouse that students voted to keep in 2019, working to keep it commercially viable during Covid, and also ensuring a fair and democratic debate about its renaming

If you like what you've read, visit my website: www.sites.google/view/andyforud and remember to vote Andrew Williams #1 for VP Union Development!

India Ellis

Hello! I'm India, a third year Theatre student and proud-as-punch County resident, and I would absolutely love to be your next VP Union Development.

There are a few things I think make a great VP UD: a deep understanding of the workings of the SU, a motivated desire to push progression in an assured direction, and the guts to be the voice in the room for 16,500 students. I can tick all of these boxes and be the person to make Lancaster SU all about YOU. Yes, you.

When it comes to our SU, I've seen it all. I'm currently serving my third consecutive term on County JCR as the VP Democracy & Finance, previously holding the roles of President and Women's Welfare Officer. I've sat on PresComm, DemComm, Welfare Assembly, Executive Committee, one and a half Extrav Committees, and was a member of the first ever cohort of Presidents to tackle moving JCR Exec work online and to plan and run an online Welcome Week. Somewhere in the midst of all that, I've also spent 2 years pulling the strings behind the scenes of all your best and worst nights out, working as a Sugarhouse Team Leader.

I'd love to say that my relationship with the SU has been a healthy and nurturing one, however the fact that this is not the case is mostly the reason that I'm standing for this role. Time and time again during my years at Lancaster, the Students' Union has demonstrated a distinct lack of focus on empowering and prioritising the voices of its students. If elected, I will strive to ensure that student voices are at the forefront of the SU's work and actions, always. This is your SU, you have the chance to make it about YOU.

Vote for student leaders who are empowered to work for YOU

- Realignment of JCR Execs to work as effective sub-committees of Union Council and as representatives of their college student body, to ensure students can directly influence motions tabled at Union Council
- Developing EDI training and working closely with the entire officer team to make this compulsory for ALL UNIVERSITY STUDENT OFFICERS/REPS, to enable them to be leaders for ALL their students
- Bring back SEG (Socials and Events Group) and reconnect Socials Officers with the SU, to support the planning and hosting of events that are actually worth going to, pandemic or not

Vote for a democracy which is genuinely steered by YOU

- Pushing for a quorate AGM in 2021/22, to amplify the student voice in a way which the 2019 AGM achieved with astounding success
- Introduction of Scrutiny Time, meeting with student leaders bi-termly and giving an opportunity for them to voice their priorities and direct our work
- Introduction of Opinion Polling on a College and SU wide level, and designing of new training for JCR Executives in effective opinion polling, to escalate the influence and volume which student voices have within the SU
- Continuation of unfinished meaningful conversations from 20/21 such as no confidence in the VC and renaming Sugarhouse, to ensure that the ball is not dropped in the handover from one officer team to the next

Vote for an SU which prioritises the Climate Emergency approved by YOU

- Placing increased pressure on the University staff to increase the allocated funding given to Green Lancaster, to maintain the Eco Hub in being fit for purpose so that we can safely and effectively work towards our goal of Carbon Neutrality by 2030
- Teaming up with Green Lancaster and the Climate Emergency Working Group to establish an Climate Emergency Audit Committee, meeting regularly with University and SU staff to set specific targets and review progress towards Carbon Neutrality

Vote for commercial services which are fit for YOU

- Launching an investigation into the abysmal treatment of student staff by ERS and the SU during COVID-19, and having serious conversations with the necessary people about how we can better protect our students in their part-time work at university

- Opening conversation with past and present tenants of LUSU Living to gauge where we can do better in providing positive renting experiences for our students, and using these conversations to push for change and improvement

Voting India #1 for VP Union Development is voting for a year of an SU which has every single individual within it at the heart of everything it does. On March 3rd to 5th, vote for me to prioritise YOU. It's your SU, so make it personal.

#Makeltpersonal

Sam Payne

Hello! I'm Sam Payne (He/Him), candidate to be your next Vice President Union Development. With experience of actively making change on campus, as well as a raft of new ideas, I believe I am the best candidate to continue advocating for the issues that matter to you and developing the Students' Union.

A third year Geography Student (human, not physical – sorry physical geographers), I am the current Bowland JCR Exec. President and the Founder/Project Lead of Refillar – a campus social enterprise. You'll often find me running round looking for coffee or off on a hike.

Great strides have been made towards reforming and developing the Students' Union over the last year. However, as we now have a path out of lockdown, further changes are required to build a better Students' Union.

I want Lancaster University and the Students' Union to be safely leading the way in reopening as restrictions across the country are eased. This means I'd push the University and Students' Union to do all they can within the realms of the law and public safety to bring back social interaction on all scales as soon as possible. I will push to bring back the student life we all desire, whether that's by getting the Sugarhouse open ASAP, guaranteeing societies have a safe and supportive environment to operate in, or lobbying to ensure there is no further detriment following 18 months of learning disruption.

Firstly, I want to ensure Welcome Week this year is truly a Welcome Week for all, not only allowing new arrivals to enjoy Lancaster, but also allow second, third, fourth years and postgrads to make the most of their liberties once more.

Further policy highlights are included below:

Sustainability

- Further to the work of Green Lancaster and Edible Campus, introducing more local produce to the Central Supermarket. Not only reducing the carbon miles of food, but also fostering partnerships and greater community connections.
- Introduction of a closed-loop, reusable take-away container scheme, similar to other global universities, cutting down the volume of plastic waste.

- Greater incentivisation of reusable cups and bottles, and working with the University to entirely phase out single use plastic.
- Lobby the University to honour its declaration of a climate emergency and divest from fossil fuels and unethical corporations.
- Further relationships with on and off-campus organisations to increase campus biodiversity, such as becoming a ‘hedgehog approved’ campus.

Effective

- Review the relationship between JCRs/PG Board, the Students’ Union and students to ensure all work in a clear and cohesive fashion, giving them a revitalised purpose in student life.
- Review the use of Students’ Union space – it seems daft to have access to a city-centre building (the Sugarhouse), but only use it three nights a week??!
- Implement clearer methods of communication, working from JCRs/PG Board to ensure every voice can be heard and is represented.
- Bring back free entry to the Students’ Union club on your birthday, and queue jumping for your mates.

Transparent

- Build on the success of ‘Minutes Made Easier’ in Bowland College, and publish a simple breakdown of meeting outcomes, so you know what we are doing.
- Clearly breakdown and communicate issues that affect the student population. It’s often very difficult to understand what different policies actually mean in practice.
- Introduce clearer and easier methods to hold the FTOs, PTOs and JCR/PG Board to account, such as through a student assembly.

What to do now?

Voting opens on Wednesday, engage with me on Facebook and Instagram to find out more about what I’d do in my year in office. Find my full manifesto with policies at www.linktr.ee/samforVPUD,

A clear roadmap out of lockdown now exists – now is the time to build a better Students’ Union, and prove our status as a top UK university.

Ready. SET. Go.

#ReadySETGo

#NoPayneNoGain

Instagram: @SamforVPUD

Facebook: Sam for Vice President Union Development
