

Full Time Officer Manifestos 2020:

The following Manifestos are presented in Role order and alphabetically by First Name.

President:

Candidate: George Nuttall:

I'm George, your Students' Union President. I studied History and Politics. I've been part of County JCR, a society exec, and played College Pool and Football.

Highlights I've achieved this year include:

- Helped to introduce a Zero-Waste section in Central
- [Cancelled the Apartheid sponsorship](#)
- Helped create the Union's Communications Strategy Group
- Introduced free Drug Testing Kits
- Changed the admissions offer for applicants so more first years can be on campus
- Lead the drive to get students to vote in the General Election
- Introduced promotion, relegation, and a Cup competition to College sport
- Secured additional funding for Roses

Check out the [Full Time Officer Facebook Page](#) and [@LUSUPresident](#) Instagram for more of my day to day.

Culture Change

Our Union is at crisis point. The culture of fear and intimidation that officers face from both within the Union and the University needs to end. As one of the Officers who helped lead the Save Our Sugarhouse campaign, this culture meant myself and others were afraid of publicly voicing our opinions. We need to address this toxic culture, that has been endemic for years, which brought us to this disaster and to avoid another potential sale of Sugarhouse.

I will change the committee structures underneath the Trustee Board so it can make strategic decisions, like on culture, that it needs to.

I will start a cultural change committee with both students and staff to tackle these problems, learning from successful Students' Unions.

If the board is unwilling to take responsibility for its failures I shall bring in a turnaround board to address the issues we face.

Student Numbers

The Universities unsustainable student growth has resulted in first years being moved off campus, students sitting in the isles of lecture theatres, and the library being at capacity.

I will continue to lobby the university to stop increasing the number of students they recruit at the expense of your student experience.

Communication

Students have consistently said they don't feel they see themselves in union communication. I've started to change this by featuring a different "Student Group" of the week.

If re-elected I will expand this into a Student Experience Week where we showcase our amazing volunteers, sports teams, societies, academic reps, JCRs and the work you do.

Officers need to have a more consistent and meaningful level of engagement with students where we discuss issues with you more regularly.

If you re-elect me I will institute a series of open 'Town Hall' events where students can come and speak to officers on the issues facing them and what we have done for you.

I will also create a Community Calendar where officers will plan which student group they're visiting every week.

Environmental Sustainability

Our planet is facing a climate crisis that requires urgent action from both the Union and the University.

I will work with our VP Welfare, Green Lancaster, and the Unions' Climate Emergency committee to examine what our Union's emissions are and how we can cut down, whether that's on travel, resources, or moving to being paperless.

If re-elected I shall also continue to lobby for the University to declare a climate emergency.

I will also push them to become paperless in both their administration and academic matters.

College Sport

I want to recreate the community atmosphere that College sport used to have and encourage more supporters to watch games.

I will take the work I've done on College Sport further by working with our VP Sports, the clubs, JCRs, and PG Board to properly advertise games in advance. I also want to look at working with food providers to bring food down to games which will draw a crowd.

Union Building

Our Union isn't visible and too few students know where we are and when they arrive don't feel welcome. This is because our Union space isn't adequate, other Unions in the country have their own independent building. This has space societies can use, student media suites, as well as social and study space.

If you re-elect me as your Union President I will continue lobbying for an independent Union building so that we have a proper student focused space on our campus that works for you.

The bottomline is: If a Students' Union isn't working for students, it's not working.

Our Students' Union isn't working.

I was told repeatedly Sugarhouse would be sold, that I should give up, and we couldn't Save Our Sugarhouse.

We saved our Sugarhouse, now let's Save our Students' Union
#SOSU #George2020 [@NuttsForLUSU](#)

Vice President Union Development:

Candidate: Atree Ghosh

Hi, I'm Atree and I'm running to be your next Vice President Union Development. I am a final year Accounting and Finance student, a former society president, the current Grizedale College President and former VP Socials and General Secretary, and the former lead campaigner for the Save Our Sugarhouse campaign. I believe I am the best candidate to continue developing the Students' Union; a dynamic force to ensure that our union is one that fights for the best interest of its members.

Lancaster University Students' Union currently faces an existential crisis and needs widespread change in several areas to better perform its core responsibilities. The role of VP Union Development gives me access to some of the tools to enable this.

How would I improve the commercial services of the Union?

- Now that the Sugarhouse is safe, and off-campus student numbers continue to grow, I would explore the opportunities for the expansion of facilities in the City Centre and greater utilisation of the Sugarhouse itself
- Evaluate the possible use of the Unions growing reserves into reinvesting in the Sugarhouse and updating its infrastructure
- Campaign for greater workers' rights for students employed by LUSU under zero-hour 12-week engagements with lack of redundancy
- Implement changes to LUSU Living policies to improve services from a welfare and security point of view
- Work to make the Purple card cheaper and a better offer against similar NUS offerings and free student discount services

How would I improve the Union in terms of democracy?

- Strengthen the system that holds the Students' Union to account, offering student media groups greater freedom, and review of the scrutiny panel system to improve accountability

- Implement a Lancaster100 – a set of student focus groups operating on a model like the Grizedale10 and Keele100 to improve overall student engagement
 - Increase engagement of students with committees and decision-making groups within the Students' Union (like Executive Committee, Student Experience Committee, etc.) by advertising them and making members accessible
 - Tackle a lack of engagement in student politics at the grassroots level by improving communication through campaigning
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- Review our affiliation with the NUS – does our relationship offer value to the majority of Lancaster students?

How would I improve the JCRs and PG Board experience?

- Develop a college focused strategy for the University and Students' Union, increase collaboration with other collegiate universities, and participate in the Collegiate Way International Conference to make our college system the best it can be
- Further a model already operating Welcome Week where dedicated officers support JCRs/PG Board, and ensure this continues throughout the year across all major events
- Increase collaboration amongst colleges and update the JCR/PG Board committees to feed into a centralised plan
- Focus on improving flexibility of JCRs/PG Board funding and explore enrollment dependent budgets
- Address the difference in relationships amongst different JCRs/PG Board and relevant SCRs to unify student experience and create a level playing field
- Collaborate with JCRs/PG Board/PTOs to ensure events/social media are made entirely accessible and that required training is available
- Work with JCRs/PG Board to defend the college system and college spaces to ensure the student experience is not affected negatively by changes planned by the University

The Students' Union scored a dismal 38.7% on average in its key performance indicators from Student Voice surveys last year. The institution needs fundamental change that can be implemented through its commercial facilities, student leaders, and engagement with students through campaigns. It's time to start from scratch and get back to basics. We aren't a testbed that the University can use to push changes on to students. We're here for students, let's act like it.

#AG4UD

Candidate: Oliver Robinson

This election is about US, not the SU

- Democratic and Transparent SU

- Accountability for the SU and Editorial Freedom for student media
- An SU that fights for your interests, not each other
- Money in your pocket by negotiating bus passes down
- A Voice for our postgraduate and international students
- A Climate Emergency at Lancaster University

The SU isn't working

For the three years that I've been here, the elections have been little more than a popularity contest. And once elected, the SU had been dominated by squabbling from FTOs with too little power, whilst all **the real decisions are taken by unelected trustees or university managers**. The Vice-Chair of the Board said at the AGM last year that he had to take his decisions in the best interest of the charity. Well the charity is US. We are the point of the Students' Union, but **if it does not serve us, it doesn't deserve to exist**.

We clearly need change

Rather than having candidates run for office alone, we should expect teams of students to run on a **common policy platform**. This is why as you VP UD, I will institute democratic reforms that allows and encourages more **coherent electoral programmes to come forward**. Only when **the SU is united**, with the student body behind them will it be able to achieve anything for **the student body it's meant to represent**. And only when the Officer Team is given sufficient executive power within LUSU will they be able to achieve anything for the student body.

I've stood outside of the SU for 3 years and been met by intense resistance whenever I try to use my platform as your elected councillor to help make change happen, be that on the Protest Code, Bailrigg FM or the trans working group policy. **I'm tired of shouting from the sidelines, it's time to get stuck in.**

Power to the People

We had **the first quorate AGM** in 5 years in the wake of the Sugarhouse Scandal after it was revealed that the SU, **at the behest of University Management**, was seeking to sell off the Sugarhouse for yet more student accommodation. Were it not for leaks from the SU, we might not have known that the process was even ongoing. We students took advantage of this to not only to Save the Sugarhouse, but to pass motions on **housing, democratisation and climate change**.

The re-establishment of Union Council, as demanded by the AGM last year, like most of the other motions, has not even been started. If you elected me, I will hold **a constitutional convention** to sweep away the antiquated and opaque governance procedures so we can get stuff done.

And through that, we can:

- **Abolish all unelected positions** on the trustee board
- Give **real power to our JCRs** to manage their own spaces and **save the college bars** by putting them in the hands of our JCRs
- **Establish Union Council** as an open forum for **democratic decision making**
- Ensure the **independence of the union** from Uni Management

In the meantime, we should ensure that **our officers can be held to account**, and be able to find out precisely what projects they are working on, and what progress they have made on their projects. This can be a simple **quality of life change on our website**. As well as getting easy access to our officers' contact details, we can easily find out what they are doing, encouraging them **to deliver for us, and not themselves**.

The Real Issues

If the SU can become a functioning body, we can begin to fight for the bread and butter issues that matter most to students:

We can bring rents down by organising rent strikes.

We can renegotiate the cost of the 3-term bus pass.

We can ensure that iLancaster is a functioning and useful platform, not an irritant.

We can ensure that the University is a safe place for our Trans Students.

We can declare a climate emergency and ensure that the university does its part in ensuring carbon neutrality by 2030.

We can actually look at whether being tied into NUS procurement contracts is the best deal for students.

We can make sure our postgrads and their families have the spaces to live and develop into the next generation of great academics.

This is possible, but only if we have an engaged students' union willing to fight for the students.

Remember, this election is about US, not the SU.

Vote Oliver #1 for VPUD

Vice President Education:

Candidate: Bee Morgan

“How do you think students would feel if they knew what we're talking about right now?”

I'm Bee Morgan, running for re-election as your VP Education for 2020. I studied Natural Sciences, I'm Fylde college and was Lead Academic Rep within LEC. I've been Vice President for LECSoc and Art Society. You can also catch me with the Welsh society in my spare time.

The key issue I continue to make a strong stand for, is the wide-ranging adverse impacts of the University's unsustainable student number growth through my [Top 10 Uni - Top 10 Demands](#) campaign. I've been representing you on live streaming, 6-7pm teaching and sitting on lecture theatre floors, to staff and postgraduate students left so stretched and unhappy they have been pushed to strike.

As your current Vice President Education, I am not afraid of the University and by re-running will stop them continuing to benefit from officers leaving every year. I have openly challenged the very organisation I work for too, and this has [ignited my passion to fight for you](#). I have campaigned fiercely to Save Our Sugarhouse, held a dysfunctional union senior

management team to account, and stood up to the university when they actively tried to silence me. #BEElieveInBEE #Jointhehive

Find my campaign on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) @BeeforVPEducation

Check my current Officer Instagram: @[LUSUEducation](#) or Twitter @[LUSUVPEducation](#)

Consistency

- Push for sustainable student number growth in the new University strategy and stop current adverse impacts - I've consistently challenged strongly on this through [my policy](#), future Open Day student-recruitment boycotts, and [Top 10](#) Campaign. This includes a timetable that stops at 6pm with Wednesday afternoons free
- Lectures recorded - I have the necessary connections and good headway in the University to get this implemented, electing a new officer would mean progress going back to square one
- Lobby for a 72-hour extension for when you have more than 3 assessments on the same day reducing strain on your mental health – After working with FASS Faculty Reps and getting this implemented there, I will push this to be University wide
- Lobby for feedback on work that is on time, useful and before your next deadline - After a [6% drop in NSS](#) results for feedback this is a priority. I will continue to tackle this systemic issue by highlighting inconsistencies within departments and setting cross faculty standards
- Make the university a fairer place - I'm implementing anonymous marking to remove unconscious bias, but I want to expand this to tackle wider problems in attainment for BME, international and BTEC students. I'll continue to make sure that your curriculum reflects the topic breadth and diverse culture in our community
- Fairer Postgraduate Admissions - I've worked on undergraduate contextual admissions so students from disadvantaged backgrounds can more easily attend university, I'll lobby for this to include postgraduates

Clarity

- Full online submission (or free printing) by 2021 through lobbying and a paper submission boycott - My successful campaigning means students have already spent £100,000 less this year on printing, saving roughly 70 kg of CO2
- Group projects fairly assessed - After gathering student feedback this year I will implement a policy including peer assessment, so you receive the grade you deserve
- Give fourth year Integrated Masters students equal rights as one year Masters - giving you access to postgraduate study spaces, specialist resources and better library loans
- Use online reading lists - allowing the library to track demand as numbers grow, ordering more when needed so you're never without core texts

Communication

- Continue my [strong relationship with UCU](#) to challenge the university, demanding fair compensation for impacted students - We've tackled the University's deliberate confusing messages and unfair policy of allowing uploaded slides to be examinable.

We have ensured that if slides are uploaded then staff will signify if this material is examinable, giving you the clarity you need

- Create a new permanent funding pot of nearly £4000 for Academic Reps empowering them to run educational campaigns and events and raise their profile. I am finalising a pilot for this year as part of my re-haul, and want to make this permanent and expand the future budget. By empowering reps your voice will go further
- Campaign for slides to be uploaded online at least 24 hours in advance giving you a choice of ways to learn, especially those with a disability
- Continue and implement my review of the Academic Tutor system - I will advocate for regular informal departmental catch ups allowing you to form a relationship

Candidate: Tanglewest Douglas

My name is Tanglewest and I want to be your next VP Education. I'm a third year Ecology and Conservation student, and am currently the Faculty of Science and Technology Undergraduate Academic Rep. As a faculty rep I have already been working hard to try and improve education within the university, focusing on **fair and useful marking**, on improving the **academic tutor system**, and on ensuring that students have been, and continue to receive proper support and reasonable **mitigation during the strikes**. In addition I am organising a complaint from over 100 LEC students about the negative impact the strikes have had on their degrees. I want to continue to work to improve the academic experience of all students at Lancaster University. I can build my experience coordinating with students and staff to create **meaningful, positive change**.

I want to improve everyone's academic experience by focusing on three key areas: access to the **resources** we need to thrive; increasing **transparency** within the university, so that you have more of a say; and bridging the gap between how we currently deal with academic problems and **welfare** problems.

RESOURCES:

I will be:

- Ensuring that there are enough copies of **core texts** to support growing student numbers, and ensure they are **available online** where possible.
- Ensuring that there are enough **computers and laptops** available in **quiet places** away from construction work, especially during the exam periods.
- Continuing to push for all lectures to be **recorded**.
- Making lecture slides available **24 hours in advance** of lectures.
- Making both **marks and feedback accessible online** by moving towards online marking. You should be able to access this information **whenever and wherever** you want.
- Pressing the university to provide help and training for staff so they are confident using **new technologies**, improving their ability to teach effectively and **engage with students**.
- Working to provide **postgraduate students** with the extra space and support they need to fulfill the multiple roles they take on.

WELFARE:

I will be:

- Working to **end 6-7 lectures**. They are unfair to students and staff.
- Trying to keep **Wednesday afternoons free** for sports societies.
- Helping **welfare and academic support** services to work together, for example by having tutors flag student with grades that drop significantly to welfare services, and improving access to the extra learning resources available for students with disabilities.
- Helping to **end the attainment gap** for students from a widening participation background, by providing integrated academic and welfare support.
- Helping students from **non A-level education backgrounds** to adjust to the university academic system quickly and easily.
- Making the **academic tutor system** a useful way of gaining not only academic advice, but also a place for **signposting** towards welfare services when necessary.

TRANSPARENCY

I will be:

- Using my two years of experience as an academic rep and one year as FST Rep to help to build the **Academic Rep system** further, making it a more effective way for students to communicate their opinions and **make change happen**.
- Increasing transparency around the use of **graded group work**, and the marking systems in place, so that all students achieve a **fair mark**.
- Actively engaging with students from all different backgrounds including **BME, LGBT+, Students with disabilities, International Students, and Mature students**, to make sure the academic system reflects the many **different experiences** we have.
- Working to get **more students involved** in the decision-making processes at all levels of the university whenever it might impact on their lives. Only you can know what improvements would be meaningful to you, so I want to help you **have your say**.

Most of all I will make sure that **your priorities** are considered at all times! Whether that be environmental sustainability, decolonizing campus, reducing academic stress from bunched assessments, or smaller class sizes, I will continue to **gather feedback** and keep your priorities at the heart of what I do.

Vice President Welfare:

Candidate: Amy Merchant

Vice President Welfare **Amy Merchant**

I'm Amy Merchant, and I'm running to be your next **Vice President Welfare**. I'm a third year English Literature student, former County College President, and the current LGBTQ+ Social Media Officer. Over the past two years I have been an AVD College Ambassador, a Campus Tour Guide, and even a Bonfire Events Marshall, which demonstrates my confidence and versatility.

I believe that this position needs someone who puts **student voice, community, and liberation** at the centre of their role. Throughout my time at university, these three aspects have been at the

heart of all of my positions, which is why I want to take it further and channel my passion for student welfare into this role. The key policies which this manifesto aims to address are: **housing, student wellbeing, and liberation.**

If elected I want to focus on;

Housing

The National Student Accommodation Survey 2020 showed that nationally, **28% of undergraduates start looking for a house before Christmas.** The rush to find housing can mean that students sign contracts with other students that they barely know, which can lead to further issues. The same survey showed that the number one issue for student renters was housemate related, with other prevalent issues being dangerous housing conditions, inappropriate landlord visits, and lack of water and heating. Another concern is that **only 1 in 3 students read their housing contracts** and know their rights. These factors can largely impact upon a student's experience and welfare; therefore, I aim to:

- Work with LUSU living alongside VP Union Development to ensure that their **housing contracts are not signed until after the Christmas break.** This gives students sufficient time to get to know each other and look around various properties before deciding on housing.
- Deliver **better signposting of university facilities that help to tackle tenancy issues,** such as the SU Advice Service.
- **Promote the 'Marks out of Tenancy' tool** so that students can fairly assess potential properties before signing contracts.

Wellbeing Campaign

The Annual Report 2018-2019 showed that only **27% of students felt that the Student's Union positively impacted their wellbeing.** University is an overwhelming transition for many, and the union could be doing much more for the wellbeing of students during this time. Whether someone is an international student or not, no one really know what to expect from life at Lancaster. With the help of student media, I want to introduce an **online video campaign** called '**How to Adult at Lancaster**', providing advice for students regardless of their stage of studying.

This campaign will cover the things we wish we knew when coming to Lancaster, such as:

- The facilities available: student kitchens, faith spaces, study spaces.
- The services available: Advice team, Employment and Recruitment Service, transportation etc.
- How to find suitable housing at Lancaster
- Independent living: time and financial management, work-life balance.
- Getting involved: the clubs and societies available at Lancaster.
- Preparing for life after Lancaster

This campaign will aim to prevent the small but daunting stresses of life as a student here at Lancaster University. The minute areas of student wellbeing must not be neglected, and the union must aim to provide students with the skills to thrive independently.

Community

The roles that I have taken on since being a student demonstrate that liberation and community are two areas that I am extremely passionate about. I want to ensure that this campus is not only a **safe space for everyone**, but is a place that **celebrates the diverse student body** here at Lancaster. I would achieve this by:

- **Publicising and supporting the campaigns and events** ran by the six part-time officers, particularly during **Black History Month** and **LGBTQ+ History Month**.
- Promote the existing petition in order to push the university into declaring a **climate emergency**.
- Explore options available in the circumstance that religious celebrations clash with exams e.g. working towards **making sure that no exams are held on specific days of celebration**.
- Bring back the **'Out in Sport' campaign** that celebrates **diversity and allyship within sports**. This project will break down the existing stereotypes and create a safe sporting environment for students.
- Greater consultation with PG Board to attain an insight into the current welfare issues that post-graduate students are facing.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. If you would like to find out how I plan to implement these policies, please read my extended manifesto via this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N-kxY2Rx420NlvOEXuJEoMs5i6tdabpxBmZQSOm4Y4I/edit?usp=sharing>

Vote Amy Merchant

#iAMYourwelfare

Vice President Societies & Media:

Candidate: Dom Casoria

Hey, I'm Dominic Casoria and I'm running to be your next Vice-President Societies and Media. I'm currently studying a politics degree, I am the Jewish Society's Vice President and former Campaigns Officer, Grizedale Community Inclusion Officer and former Socials and Events officer on the JCR and your National Union of Students (NUS) Delegate twice elected.

From day one of being at university, I have been involved with various societies and the SU. But, I cannot name the VP Activities from my first year even though I was on a society executive and JCR. And this year it's safe to say, it has been a complete mess for the union dealing with societies and student media with the absence of a VP Activities leaving societies in the dark. It's clear the past few years for both societies and media have failed, and this has given me the drive to put myself forward and make positive change. The union simply isn't working and it's time to change it.

My aims for the year ahead are:

SOCIETIES

Increased welfare

- Work with VP welfare for societies to have access to **better mental health support** and create a framework for this.
- Better **safeguarding training** for executives.
- Make freshers fair more **accessible**.
- Work with VP welfare, and societies for Black History month, LGBTQ+ History Month, Holocaust Memorial Day, International Women's Day and Earth Day to plan events and a media campaign.
- Work with the chaplaincy for religious space for all and good quality spaces.
- Explore ways that we can support disadvantaged students so that everyone can get involved in societies no matter **financial backgrounds**.
- Work alongside the liberation PTOs to **prioritise liberation** and support their campaigns such as the great pronoun campaign.
- Offer societies a spot to walk in Lancaster pride parade.

Increase transparency & support

- **Creation of a society's council**– This will give society's the chance to feedback to me, critique me, get direct support and increase transparency.
- Sorting out the **reaffiliation** process and providing support for executives during this time.
- Reach out to societies to attend their sessions.

Development and space

- **Accreditation scheme** for committee members to log hours for evidence from the SU for portfolios and CVs.
- Helping to sort the crisis in society space.
- Holding the university to account on their "Wednesday's Free" promise. This will increase student engagement with societies and see a positive effect on their mental health. Also, to campaign for **postgraduates** to have this policy.
- Offer more platforms for societies to showcase themselves and to engage the student body with their society.

Union communication

- Making sure channels of communication are much better.
- Increase and upgrade dialogue between LUSU and societies.

refreshers fair applications were extremely stressful due to the SU's communication. Moreover, the SU changing societies emails without telling them was extremely unhelpful. So, it needs to be fixed and prioritised.

Media

Representation

- Fight for a **media representative on the SU executive**.
- Keep Bailrigg licence.
- **Creation of a media exec panel** to support student media.
- Stand up for student media and stop LUSU threatening them. I will make sure I fight student medias corner and stop them being ignored.

Engagement

- **Keep SCAN in print**
- Guest speakers in media field and creating **opportunities** for media students like LUMS do for their students.
- More support for media students.

Development

- **Student media going towards Lancaster award**.
- Launch of Take 2, active support and awareness.

Deciding to run for VP was a big decision as I will have to take a year out of my studies for it. However, I am truly dedicated to making positive change over the next year and this has driven me to apply in my second year. I know and you know students deserve better than what we have had, so let's deliver better!

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto! If you have any questions just please drop me a message.

And don't forget to vote Dom #1 for VP Societies and Media!

Candidate: Elaine Lewis

Manifesto for Vice President of Societies and Media

My name is Elaine Lewis and I'm running to be your next Vice President of Societies and Media. I am passionate about making your student experience as best as possible. During my time here at university, I have been heavily involved in student activities on campus as well as volunteering outside of campus.

In my first year, I was the VP of Welfare for Fylde College which gave me leadership and problem-solving experience. In my second and third year, I worked as part of Hip-hop society exec. This role provided me an insight into common issues most students have running societies from conflict resolution to problem-solving. I also started working for the student's union as a member of the Societies team which has given me a lot of knowledge on how societies operate on campus. These experiences have shaped my student experience and have helped me become an effective team leader and problem solver.

If elected as VP of Societies and Media I aim to:

- **Increase visibility of societies especially during freshers and refreshers week:**

Most societies struggle to maintain interest throughout the year. I want to be able to work with college JCR's and help create a resource or event to help promote societies and their activities. Also, use the big screen to highlight new societies daily.

- **Find off-campus venues and negotiate deals with venues at affordable prices:**

A new problem that's consistently occurring is the lack of campus space available. It's time a suitable alternative is found to meet the demand that is currently not being met.

- **Help bridge the gap between societies and media groups:**

To maintain student interest, collaborations between media groups and societies would shine a spotlight on newer groups and give certain student groups a chance to promote more cultural and diverse events.

- **Put in support systems for society exec conflict resolution:**

Being part of an exec is a difficult job and conflict resolution/ problem solving is a major part of any exec's work. I want to provide weekly drop in hours, to assist societies with any major issues or with any new ideas they may want to do.

- **Help provide more comprehensive training to execs working in media groups:**

I want to collaborate with media groups and help provide professional training, so students using the equipment are well informed and trained.

- **Create networking events to help societies develop/maintain relationships with each other:**

Although we have hundreds of student groups on campus, many societies struggle to make connections with other societies. With the help of more networking events, I am aiming to bridge the gap between societies to help them network and create contacts that can be useful when creating or running their own events.

- **Increase transparency between the FTO's and students:**

I want to build honest and transparent relationships with students by informing students of the activities I am doing during the term.

- **I will be looking to reorient or support LUSU policies that help match resources to student needs.**

Since this is a new role there has been a lot of uncertainty about what this role is exactly. I plan to make this role, a role that supports all student societies. With the growing number of societies on campus, societies are more in need of support and resources. Funding is a major issue and I plan on supporting policies that help students get more resources.

Overall, I believe that student experience is vital and provides a much-needed stress reliever for all students. I believe that I am the best candidate for the job as I am not only experienced, I am truly am passionate and am willing to work hard to help the students of this university.

Candidate: Emily Stannard

Hi, my name is Em and I'm running to be your new Vice-President for Societies and Media! I am a third year History Student from County College. In the last year I have held five exec positions across four different societies, and in my second year I founded a new society. Having experience of leading a society has given me an awareness of areas that could be improved. I have also completed work experience in a film and photography studios in Wimbledon. This gave me interesting insight into how advertisement shoots work behind the scenes, which has sparked an interest that I would love to bring to the Media side of this role.

There were some concerns expressed by the students that the creation this role would mean that one area may be neglected. I will divide my attention equally, and I intend to make sure that budgets for the media community (Bailrigg FM, LA1:TV, Take2 and Scan) and the societies remains the same, though I wish to reassess the finances within these groups. I have thought of policies that will help both societies and media and I think it is healthier to encourage collaboration and communication rather than treating them as two different entities.

I shall continue liaising with external contributors, departments and the colleges to ensure that both groups reach their full potential. My overall goal is to make involvement less daunting to new students, and to help the societies and media run more smoothly and collaboratively. My specific goals that will contribute to this are shown below:

Use My Role to Build a Personal Relationship with Societies and Media

I would like to improve communication between both groups and their FTO. This year at the re-freshers' fair Victoria walked round and spoke to every society which showed that they have a representative that cares about them. This is the attitude that I will carry through to my role. From my experience, affiliation and re-affiliation can be stressful, I believe that having more opportunities to chat to someone will make a difference, especially for first-time exec members.

I will organize a Wellness Event each term for executive members of all societies, including sports and media. This would be a short, simple event during the day with tea and cakes and some relaxing activities. This could also be extended to JCR members because these students work hard to look after others and need to be cared for too!

Increase Support and Awareness for New and Struggling Societies

I want to work on a collaboration where the Students' Union helps promote an event organized by a society that would like more visibility within the student population, for example: 'Lancaster University Students' Union Presents: Defying Dementia Student Society.' These events would be free or extremely cheap and available to all students, not just society members.

Re-assessing funds given to societies is greatly needed this year. As a brand new society, Gin applied but did not get any funding. Defying Dementia was not given appropriate information so also received nothing. I think it would be fair to assess every societies' needs and reallocate the available funds.

Increase Awareness of Student Media Throughout The University

Introducing Media tiles onto the iLancaster app has been great addition, I would like to further contribute to the awareness by encouraging social spaces to play SU Media at appropriate times and have available copies of Scan. I plan to have more movie screenings in Alexandra Square during the summer to give students a chance to destress.

I will continue work with the Media to increase awareness of what the Students' Union is doing, perhaps introducing FTO and PTO segments into their schedules to make sure that students are aware of both LU Media and the Student's Union.

Providing that licensing agreements and the Students' Union allows it, I want to introduce society adverts into LU Media, this would increase awareness of societies, but could also be turned into a profitable enterprise for the Media groups that participate.

Networking Event For All Exec Members

This would be an informal event that allows exec members from all SU affiliated societies (including Media and Sports) to network with each other. This is an opportunity to stimulate society friendships, and allow members to get involved with something new if their societies collaborate. At this event I will organize talks that will help exec members balance running a society with academic studies, and to reduce stress and other impacts on mental health.

Candidate: Shannon McCaul

I'm Shannon McCaul and I am running to be your VP Societies and Media.

I'm a final year Advertising and Marketing Management student from Furness College, President of Lancaster University Dance Society, Furness Women's Darts Captain and Furness JCR Media and Comms. I also work as a member of the solutions team at the Students Union, on the welcome desk.

I'm heavily involved with society life at Lancaster and have a keen interest in Student Media, I'm passionate and enthusiastic towards improving student experience, I believe that such an important aspect of this is through involvement with societies, student groups and student media. This is what is driving me to be your new VP Societies and Media. I want to make a positive change to students, both involved and those wanting to get involved.

With this role being new for this year, It is a great opportunity to start fresh, bring in new ideas, listen and take on board what you want to see develop. I would love to have the opportunity to work with you all, to make the best VP Societies and Media, possible.

I have three key visions that I wish to bring to the role:

Visibility - One of my key ideas is to improve visibility, visibility of not only the Union and what we do but also the visibility of all societies and student media, to get further reach across the University.

Collaboration - Another key aspect to my campaign is collaboration, this is something I'm going to hold with me throughout everything I do, I have a few ideas that I would love to bring to the role

Training - I believe that executive members of both societies and student media groups deserve to have as much training as JCR members receive

Please follow my Google Doc link to see my outlined ideas and plans on how to bring these key themes into the union through VP Societies and Media:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1aA4Jzql3DlBlSShElUiiOzh2upxJ-5jwgFhcops5Fo/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for taking time to read my manifesto, I am really passionate about using this new role to be the voice for change in Society and Student Media representation. If you like my ideas and can see me as your next VP Societies and Media, please vote Shannon McCaul #1 Societies and Media, and spread the word... #AllForMcCaul

Candidate: Taylor Donoughue-Smith

I'm Taylor, a third year English Literature and Politics student, and I'm running to be your new Vice President Societies and Media. In my time at Lancaster, I've been the Music Editor of SCAN (and before that the Deputy Music Editor), as well as the general secretary of the Liberal Democrats on campus. Getting involved has really enhanced my time here and I would relish the opportunity to help our 200+ societies and Student Media continue to prosper. Having had experience in both running a society and in student media, I understand what's needed for both to be a success and I am well placed to make sure that both are given the representation and support that they need.

FTO Reform:

- It's vital that in the restructured VP Societies and Media role, the right balance is struck to ensure both groups prosper.
- As someone who has experience in both Societies and Student Media, I am able to give both groups the representation they deserve; I already have strong experience working as a society executive member and as the Music Editor of SCAN.
- With officer roles under review for 2021/22, I will work with the rest of the Full Time Officers, as well as our societies, student media and sport, to find a sustainable settlement for the future.

Societies:

- I will work to reform the Societies Committee, so that its function is clearer and so that it can look at more proactive ways of assisting societies.
- I will work to facilitate more regular inter-society interaction so that there are further opportunities for societies to collaborate and learn from each other.
- I will look at ways to simplify the booking and holding of events during the day for society executives.
- I will ensure new societies are trained on Union Cloud.
- I will aim to introduce unconscious bias training (UBT) for societies by working with liberation groups.
- I will look to provide more structured support for getting societies off the ground and give further support for societies looking to start campaigns on campus.
- I will aim to release information for societies on the Fresher's and Refresher's fair further in advance to ensure societies can effectively plan.
- I will work to create a Society Awards scheme so that the great work that our societies do are recognised.

Student Media:

- As a member of the Editorial Committee of SCAN, I have first-hand experience of how student media works. This places me in a great position to support the four student media teams (SCAN, Bailrigg FM, LA1TV and Take 2 Cinema) throughout the year.
- I will seek to allow greater editorial independence for student media – allowing them to get on with the job.
- Communication and listening is absolutely vital to the success of student media - I will hold regular meetings with student media heads to better understand problems and concerns.
- I will work with the four outlets and the University to better advertise student media and the advantages of getting involved.
- I will look to work with liberation groups and student media heads to ensure greater diversity in participation and coverage in student media.

Thanks for reading; I hope I can count on your vote! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Vice President Sports:

Candidate: Carl Smith

Hello, my name is Carl Smith and I am running to be your VP Sports.

Sport has shaped my life here in Lancaster over my past 4 years of university and it is my belief that sports teams and clubs play an enormous part in what makes life in Lancaster so appealing. I'd like to simply make that offer of sport more attractive and more accessible to everyone.

My Experience

- I have been on the executive committee for 3 years for the Swimming & Water Polo Club. During my 3 years on the exec, I have been lucky enough to influence real change through working with and having meetings with both the Students' Union and the Sports Centre.
- I have been able to achieve training hours which suit a university work life balance to support better mental health and to improve performance of our teams/squads.
- I have been able to set up a link with an external water polo club to allow our water polo teams to increase training hours and to our reach into the wider community.
- I have set up a charity competition with Leeds Uni Swimming & Water Polo.
- I have set up and run Swimming & Water Polo's 1st ever charity swim which raised over £750.
- I have been involved in the setting up of our development teams/squads to increase participation in both sports.

During my time involved in sport, I believe I have learnt a great deal in what needs to change in sport here at Lancaster. If elected my policies for change would be:

Sport participation & Welfare

- **Welfare training for executive committees to support mental health** – A lot of candidates in the past have spoken about improving mental health in sport without any real plan on how this would be undertaken. I would ensure all executive committees have an officer dedicated to welfare. This doesn't mean exec's will be forced to create a new position; however, it would become an exec members responsibility to be responsible for welfare. This would include relevant training being given to the welfare officer from the students' union. The progression of this

would involve more than one exec member receiving welfare training from the students' union.

- **Continue support for the All In project** – The All In project is currently only funded for 6 months. The project is designed to help sports teams remove all barriers to participation and the continuation of this project for over 6 months would help to ensure the progress of removing all barriers to sport where possible.
- **Active Lancaster** - This is currently run for six different sports. I would like to where possible open this up to a larger number of sports to increase participation in those sports which may lead to someone joining a sports team/club allowing them to have a more permanent home for sport.

College Sport

- **Continue to open more sports to college sports where possible** – With the addition of college rugby to the college sport set up I believe there is an opportunity to grow this to other sports where there is significant interest to increase participation in sport.
- **Affiliation for college sports** – Currently all college sports are unaffiliated with the University and hence receive no funding for training purposes and hence have to pay for these facilities and have to compete with external use of these facilities. Affiliation would help to secure these vital facilities for college use.
- **College leagues** – The current league set up means that in a league each team only plays each other once. I believe a BUCS style league where each team is played twice should be run to allow for more matches and which will hopefully only enhance the college sport experience and offer.
- **Better communication between the sports centre and college teams** – The communication between college sports and the sports centre needs to be improved. This would allow for better organisation of college training and matches.
- **Facilities for college sports** – With the loss of the netball courts to the new engineering building a suitable alternative needs to be found to rehouse college netball without having an impact on participation and it is my belief that should situations such as this arise in the future they should be given more thought.

Sport support

Secure more funding for sport – In 2019 £88,000 was secured for roses development funding. The Edward Robert Cour...

Please click the following link to view my full manifesto:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lmpdnVH5deCxyfLr49_dzOPGNSev2nS1_aXKJiFAJ0/edit?usp=sharing

Candidate: Ethan Lopez

**** THIS IS A SHORT VERSION OF MY MANIFESTO, IT CAN BE FOUND IN FULL ON www.bit.ly/Lopez4LUSU ****

About me

Hi! I'm Ethan Lopez and I'm running to be your first VP: Sports. I'm a third year Mechanical Engineering student, captain of both Men's Darts and Football B's for Pendle College and a player for

Pendle's A's Pool team. I have also been a JCR Sports Officer for Pendle, having organised many successful events such as Pendle Cup and Warriors. I have been involved in Roses the last 2 years, one as a steward and another as a player of the university darts team. I was President of Pendle College for the year of 2019 too.

Through these experiences I have acquired numerous invaluable skills that can be applied to ensure that sport becomes a focal point in the Students' Union. I believe that sport and exercise are brilliant channels to release stress and find a healthy lifestyle, and that's why I want to work towards increasing the inclusivity, community feeling, and sporting experience offered by the SU.

Inclusivity

Most sports clubs require a membership to be able to play in competitive matches, train or even attend socials. These memberships propose financial barriers that reduce the range of students that can participate. There are many ways in which these issues can be tackled, and I plan on working towards three key points in order to make sport at Lancaster equally available for everyone:

- **Guidance on Sponsorships** – I plan on working together with the SU staff in order to provide college and university sports teams the best financial support available to them by aiming to offer new execs guidance on sponsorships.
- **Active Lancaster** – I plan on improving the Active Lancaster programme to allow more students to take part, as well as promoting it through more media outlets to reach a wider audience.
- **Carter Shield One Day Events** – I plan on making the Carter Shield One Day events more frequent, as well as giving YOU the choice of sports played on these days. As these events are free and during weekends, anyone can join.

Community

Here at Lancaster University we have something that many universities don't have, a collegiate system. This is a great pathway to give students a better chance at performing at a high level of competition through the inter-collegiate leagues, as teams get frequent matches and training sessions without necessarily having to play at university level. The Carter Shield championship is the competition that involves all college leagues, as well as the One Day events that occur from time to time. Some of my ideas to improve it, as well as the ones already mentioned in this manifesto, include:

- **More Accessible Information** – Teaming up with iLancaster to create a "Carter Shield" tile that has all the information about the collegiate leagues.
- **College Sport Committee** – Working closer with JCR Sports Officers and college team captains by keeping in frequent contact. This can be done by setting up a committee that meets regularly in order to make sure that any issues that arise are taken care of as soon as possible.
- **Bigger Social Media Impact** – More regular use of the Facebook page and the addition of an Instagram account in order to reach a wider audience.

Experience

Sport at Lancaster University creates memories that will stay with you for life. Our sporting agenda is a remarkable one, and everyone that is part of a sports team here knows how much it impacts their day-to-day life. I plan on working on a few ideas in order to make sporting events unforgettable at Lancaster:

- **Better Inter-Collegiate Competitions** – Having organised a very successful Warriors event in 2018 and having seen many popular sporting events since, I am in a great position to be able to guide JCR Sports Officers towards more enjoyable, more inclusive competitions.
- **Roses** – Our biggest annual competition plays a huge role in how students remember their time at University. It is an event FOR the students, yet right now there is a lot being done behind closed doors that students don't have any say in. I aim to give YOU a louder voice when organising Roses so that you get to be a part of important decisions.
- **Guidance on Better Socials** – I plan to introduce better training on how to carry out a social event that is both inclusive and fun, allowing all members to take part and enjoy themselves.

Candidate: Nathan Lingham

I'm Nathan a 3rd year Economics and Politics student. I will try to keep this concise as I'm sure there have been lots of manifestos to read and I feel my key points are crucial to my campaigns success.

My plan as Vice President of Sports includes achieving 4 main objects:

Supportive Sports:

Introduce a greater focus on the effects of sport on mental health and the ways in which we should support each other within University sports teams.

Funding the Future:

Build on transparency between the Students Union and all sports teams surrounding funding and how it is allocated.

Open Opportunities:

Increase opportunities for students to get involved with sports at University, College and Recreational levels by building on the successes of 'Just Play'.

Paint York Red:

Push for a greater spectator presence at away Roses by organising additional more frequent transport as well as bringing the trophy back to Lancaster with us!

Over my time here at Lancaster I have been involved in sports development decisions and have closely worked with the Head of Sport to help improve the student experience. Being the Club Captain of Boat Club for the past year has allowed me to develop a strong set of interpersonal and professional skills which will aid me in the role of VP of Sports. These are attributes that I feel could be scaled up across all sports within my role and gives me an opportunity to give back to the sporting environment at Lancaster that has played such a huge part in my University life.

Please feel free to get in touch via Facebook, Instagram or anytime around campus if you would like to discuss my ambitions and campaign.

See you at hustings

Nathan

Candidate: Paul McCarthy

Hi everyone, I'm Paul McCarthy and I'm running to be LUSU's VP Sports officer for the next year. I'm a 3rd year economics student, but my time at Lancaster has been about much more than purely studying for my degree, and sport has been a fundamental part of this. Over the last 3 years I have been Lonsdale's sports rep on the JCR, a part of Lonsdale's football and Bar Sports teams (including this year's dominoes captain which is unquestionably the most prestigious sporting role one could acquire), and a Vice Captain and Exec member of the University Cricket team. Holding these positions has given me great understanding of the unique qualities the college system brings to the sport side of Lancaster, as well as experience amongst the university sides competing in BUCS and representing us at the elite level. In this manifesto I will outline my goals and focuses were I to be elected as our VP Sports, how I'd look to achieve these goals, and the benefits a flourishing and wholesome sporting system can have to the general lives of Lancaster students.

Goal 1: Increase participation in LUSU organised College Sports events such as Carter Shield.

How? Clear and advanced communication with College sports reps who are in charge of getting teams together for each Carter Shield event. Whereas previously it's been left to JCR members to organise the running of each competition, I'd happily take on this responsibility. Advanced notice of when a tournament will be and what sport it will be in will then be sent to each college communications team for them to advertise on all social media platforms (as well as all LUSU pages) to reach as many people as possible.

Why would this benefit? Participating in sport improves physical, social and mental welfare, so even on a non-competitive level if there are more people taking part it would lead to endless advantages. It is also an opportunity for Uni sports teams to recruit potential players they may have missed at the start of the year, so could also provide competitive advantages.

Goal 2: Increase communications between College and Uni Sports Execs

How? At minimum termly meetings together with college sports reps and members of University Sports execs.

Why? I've been on both, currently there's no intercommunication whatsoever. A college sports rep will be the typical point of reference when a fresher wants to take up a sport, so if they know who's on the Uni Exec of a team, they'll know who to refer potential recruits to. Also, the relationship could work in the opposite way, if someone trials for a Uni team but doesn't make it, being referred to a college rep could provide more opportunities to partake at college level instead.

Goal 3: Focus on Mental Health within sports teams

How? Get at least one member of each team to undertake a course such as 'Look After Your Mate', and make a Wellbeing Officer mandatory for Execs. I'd also recommend emulating Rugby's welfare sessions, and help other sports teams set these up.

Why? Mental Health is a fundamental part of student life, and struggling with it can completely ruin the university experience. Anything that can be done to get people talking more, combating issues they're facing and speaking honestly with one another in a trusting environment, should be done.

Goal 4: Win an away Roses

How? Admittedly, this is the ambition I'd have least influence in achieving (although my 20 not out for the Cricket 3's last year will be talked about for decades to come), but, alongside York and the Roses committee, I'd work tooth and nail to put on another incredible event for what is unquestionably my highlight of the year. Also organising Founders with Bowland last year gives me some experience in this field (although on a much smaller event in scale).

Goal 5: Increase transparency in the SU

How? Weekly multimedia updates in what I'm doing in my role. Regular meetings with College and Uni teams where I'd look to find out their targets, and see how I could help in achieving them, and multiple Q and A sessions with students to find out what they want from their VP Sports.

Thanks for reading my manifesto, I've got plenty more to say so if you see me campaigning feel free to hit me up, and if what I've said sounds good to you then I'd be very grateful if you voted for me.