President:

Elected Officer: Oliver Robinson:

VOTE OLIVER ROBINSON #1 FOR PRESIDENT

*My Manifesto in Brief:*

• Our Education put first during as long as the COVID outbreak goes on

• Democratic and transparent SU

• Student Media Freedom to hold officers to account

• A Climate Emergency at Lancaster University

• Transparency and communication from an SU serving you

• Fight York for a 2021 Home Roses, which we will win

Hello there! I’m Oliver Robinson, Philosophy Student from Cartmel College. For the last 2 years I’ve had the privilege of representing you all on the City Council where I Chair the Personnel Committee. I’ve also been on 2 society execs, in Vice-Presidential, Campaigning and Chair positions. I’ve shouted from the side-lines for 3 years as both student and Councillor, fighting for Trans Rights, Bailrigg FM, the Climate Emergency, the Protest Code, Democratisation and more. But I’ve met only limited success from the outside. It would be an honour to fight for all these things as your President.

Find me on Facebook: fb.me/Oliver4President

Our Education Comes First

Lancaster University is at a turning point. With increasing student numbers, and a funding model predicated on unsustainable growth, we jeopardise our proud place in the league tables as we cram ever more students into overcrowded lecture theatres, labs and seminar rooms. The SU should be at the forefront of this fight to ensure that our degree is not devalued, and with COVID impacting future as well, I will fight to ensure that our degrees are worth the extortionate fees we pay. We should not pay ludicrous money for an online-only degree.

With COVID threatening to force us online for at least part of next year, I will ensure that the University is able to provide a full student experience. Students should be at the heart of decision-making, not exclude us entirely, leaving us in the dark. Students face an uncertain future – we don’t know what the next year will look like, and the Uni needs to make a decision with us so we can plan our lives.

Working with VP Education and VP Welfare will be a priority throughout the year to ensure that students are supported. Students are already struggling to do their degree already, and this cannot continue into next year. I will also work with the Tenants’ Union ACORN to ensure that our rights as renters are not undermined so all students have a place to call home.

We desperately need change

Rather than having candidates run for office alone, we should expect teams of students to run on a common policy platform. I will institute democratic reforms that allows and encourages more coherent electoral programmes to come forward. When the SU is united, with the student body behind them, we can achieve so much more.

However, the SU is a toxic environment for students and staff. It is unwelcoming, and our officers rarely run for a second term. I will stop the destructive cultural practises and behaviours incubated there spill out repeatedly and harm students at this university.

Power to the People

We had our first quorate AGM in 5 years after the revelation that the SU, at the bidding of university management, planned to sell the Sugarhouse for more student flats. We students used this opportunity to pass motions on the Sugarhouse, Climate Change, Democratisation and Housing. Together, we voted by a margin of 90% to have a majority of student-elected trustees in a referendum.

Nothing has been done on any of these issues.

We have a chance now, with the recruitment of a new CEO to set terms of what a student-run SU looks like. I will convene a constitutional convention as demanded by you that will sweep away the antiquated and opaque governance procedures.

I will also:

• Abolish unelected positions on the trustee board

• Empower JCRs to manage their own spaces and save college bars

• Establish Union Council as an open, democratic, decision-making forum

• Ensure the independence of the union from Uni Management

• Reassess whether NUS membership delivers value for money

The Big Issues

If the SU becomes a functioning body, we can fight for the issues that matter. This is possible, but only if we have a politically engaged students’ union that is willing to fight for their members. My ambition is not radical – it is simply that I want a functional SU.

There is so much more to say, so check out my full manifesto here: https://bit.ly/3gK3aV1

Remember, this election is about US, not the S.U.