Vice President Union Development:

Elected Officer: 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

• 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**