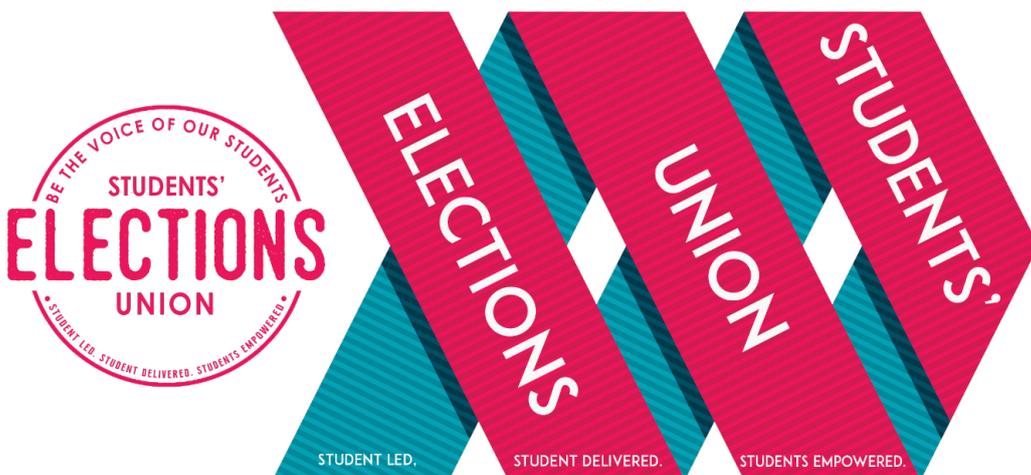


**ELECTIONS 2026**

# CANDIDATE MANIFESTOS

**PRESIDENT (STUDENT VOICE)**  
**PRESIDENT (STUDENT ENGAGEMENT)**  
**PART-TIME OFFICERS (x3)**



# ELECTIONS 2026



## THE CANDIDATES

The following list represents all posts and candidates standing in Winchester Students' Union Officer Elections 2026.

*R.O.N. or Re-open Nominations is a candidate in all elections and represents the constituents' desire to reopen nominations for further candidates.*

**There are 10 (7 not including R.O.N.) candidates standing for 5 positions.**

### **President (Student Voice) (x1 position available)**

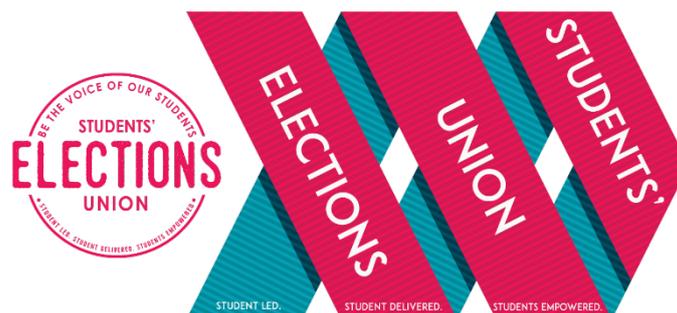
ELLIE WATERS  
OLIVIA WRIGHTSON  
R.O.N.

### **President (Student Engagement) (x1 position available)**

RYAN BECK  
ELODIE HYND  
R.O.N.

### **Part-Time Officer (x3 positions available)**

JACOB BAVIN  
THEO HAYES  
PATRICK STEPHENS  
R.O.N.



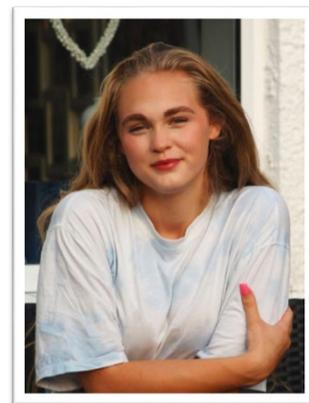
# ELLIE WATERS | PRESIDENT (STUDENT VOICE)

**Vote Ellie Waters for Student Union President, Student Voice, for a President who is passionate, present and dedicated to ensuring that your voice is not just heard but acted upon.**

I am running to be your Student Union President, Student Voice, because I am dedicated to ensuring a well-rounded university life for all. I want to be a reassuring and welcoming face for our new students as well as a passionate, accountable and persistent presence for those already studying with us. This is your student's union, and I would be honoured to be voted in to support you. Here is how I aim to achieve this:

## **Staying updated with current issues facing the student community**

- The cost-of-living crisis and the issues facing the student community is a priority for the current sitting president, and I intend to keep it as a main point of focus by continuing and improving initiatives, like the clothes drive and implementing new initiatives, like a food drive
- Providing the student body with information on living in a cost-effective way at university via our social media and newsletters – incoming President Diaries!
- Lead union-wide support campaigns to respond effectively to student concerns and priorities in the media and directly from our student body



## **Day-to-day running of the Students' Union**

- Working in partnership with the entire executive committee to ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the SU
- Collaborating with the StARs to ensure that your voice can be brought to the forefront of the discussions. It is your university experience, so we should tailor it to the best of our ability to suit your needs.
- Be a professional and communicative spokesperson for the SU on behalf of the student body wherever relevant
- Work with the Student Union President, Student Engagement to put in place drives and initiatives that benefit the entire student body
- Effectively and professionally handle budgeting requirements
- Celebrating YOU! I want to know about your successes so we can champion your achievements

## **Union Governance**

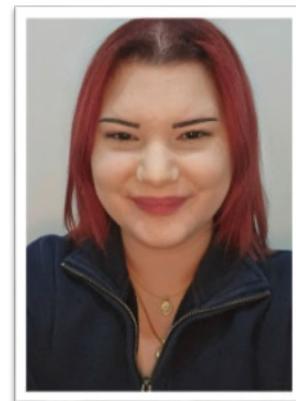
- Working with the university and the student body to ensure you are academically advocated for fairly
- Acting as Chair of the Union's Board of Trustees. This will ensure that effective strategies will be put in place directly related to Union and student success
- Liaise with the National Union of Students to ensure proper communication and effective support is maintained for our student body

I have much more to add to my term as President, Student Voice. Having worked in education for 5 years, I understand the importance of having the right support in place for students of all ages. I currently serve as Chair of Performing Arts Winchester (the largest society at the university!), heading an 18-person team to ensure the success of our society and its members. I also work closely with university staff and the SU, so I feel I have exactly the right skills for a successful term as Student Union President, Student Voice. Vote Ellie Waters for Students' Union President, Student Voice for a successful 26/27!

# OLIVIA WRIGHTSON | PRESIDENT (STUDENT VOICE)

Hi, I'm **Olivia (she/her)**, and I'm running to be your **President (Student Voice)**

During my time at University, I have made it my goal to represent **YOU!** I have spent two years being **YOUR Student Officer**, chaired both the **Commuting Students Network and Access**, been a **StAR for Law**, and **co-chaired the Disability & Equality Interest Group**. Through this I have sat on multiple committees, and been the only current student in rooms where decisions were made, but **student feedback did NOT always translate into meaningful change**.



## STUDENT VOICE STARTS WITH YOU

- Student voice has often been treated as a tick box, rather than influence. I would change this by:
  - Getting **YOU into the rooms where decisions** that impact your student experience are being made.
  - Strengthening how you can share **your voice so feedback leads to clear visible outcomes**.
  - **Requiring transparent responses from the University and Students' Union** so you can see how decisions are made and why.
  - Ensure **policies are assessed based on their real impact on YOU**, so decisions reflect you, not assumptions.
- I will listen to **YOU**, and let **YOUR VOICE** lead.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE SHOULD REFLECT YOUR REALITY

- Student life doesn't always fit into outdated systems, and it shouldn't have to. I will modernise the student experience by:
  - Bringing **back self-certification** or expanding the current EC policy to cover what was lost.
  - Ensuring all courses have **block timetabling** and opportunities to **join online** when needed.
  - Advocate for all **policies to be more inclusive**, so they **do not negatively impact underrepresented groups**, such as the attendance policy.
  - **Improve the SU and University websites** so that information can be found more easily, especially in regards to academic policies.
- If the system doesn't work for **YOU**, I will change it so it **DOES**.

## PROTECT WHAT WORKS. IMPROVE WHAT DOESN'T

- We must protect the services that **YOU** value, while improving what can be better. If elected, I will:
  - **Protect the services YOU value most** during financially challenging times, ensuring your experience is not compromised.
  - Deliver and strengthen my **Heating Campaign and Safe Taxi Scheme**, with full implementation by November 2026.
  - Revamp the StAR scheme by **improving training, strengthening ongoing support**, and ensuring students know who their StAR is, so **student voice leads to meaningful change**.
  - Continue **celebrating student achievements** by reintroducing StAR of the Week and expanding **recognition of successes both inside and outside the University**.
  - **Strengthen SU presence** at West Downs and Medecroft, ensuring students there are **equally represented and supported**.
- I will listen to **YOU**, protect what works for **YOU**, and **IMPROVE** what needs to change.

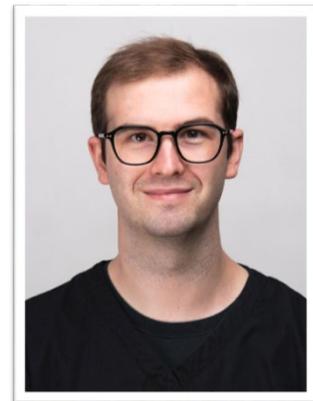
Over the past two years, I have seen **Student Voice be an afterthought**. I am **ready to change** that. If elected, Student Voice **will not sit on the sidelines**, it will sit at the **center of every decision made**. Student voice will **no longer be symbolic; it will shape the decisions** which impact **YOU!**

# RYAN BECK | PRESIDENT (STUDENT ENGAGEMENT)

## Ryan for President of Student Engagement!

I'm Ryan, a 3rd Year Computer Science student, and I'm running to be your new President of Student Engagement! Working as Activities Assistant for the past two years has given me the **privilege** of helping your Sports Teams, Societies, and Representational Networks thrive.

It's not always been easy. I've seen the challenges you face with stretched budgets, outdated systems, and a lack of tailored support. That's where my experience comes in. **I'm not running to learn the systems; I'm running to improve them.**



As your **President**, I **WILL** ensure you get a *real* return on your time here:

## Empowering Activities to Thrive:

- **Improving Processes:** Running an Activity Group shouldn't be exhausting. I will streamline SU processes and access to resources so committees can **focus on their members**.
- **Smarter Funding:** Our financial situation isn't the best, but instead of battling for limited SU funding, I'll negotiate access to **wider University resources**, putting those saved funds directly back into **celebrating** our activity groups.
- **Widening Participation:** I will actively secure new funding pathways, ensuring **every student**, regardless of financial background, has the opportunity to **take part** in extracurriculars.

## Wellbeing Through Belonging:

- **Championing EDI:** Embedding **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion** into everything we do, so you feel **safe** and **proud** to belong.
- **An Everyday Culture:** Mental health shouldn't just be a crisis safety net. I will expand peer-to-peer **support networks**, so wellbeing is built into our daily campus culture.
- **Proactive Accessibility:** **STOP** guessing what you need. I will consult you before changing SU spaces, ensuring inclusion and accessibility guide all our decisions.

## Quality Student-Led Events, No Guesswork:

- **Higher Impact Events:** Let's focus on high-quality, **student-led** events you actually enjoy. I want to hear what we can be doing more of.
- **True Inclusivity:** Wednesday nights will stay huge, but I will ensure commuters, carers, and non-drinkers get their own vibrant community through **tailored day events**.

## Respecting Your Time & Commute:

- **Working Together with Accountability:** I will hold the University accountable for **permanent, condensed timetables**. Ensuring commuting students have the time to stay on campus and **participate** in societies, sports, and SU events without travelling hours for a single session.

## But that's not all...

We also need **greener, sustainable practices**, better representation on **housing and community matters**, and **communications** that you want to engage with. But most importantly: **I WORK FOR YOU!** This role is about **YOU**, I'm here to improve your experience and drive meaningful change.

**Join In. Stand Out. Belong.**

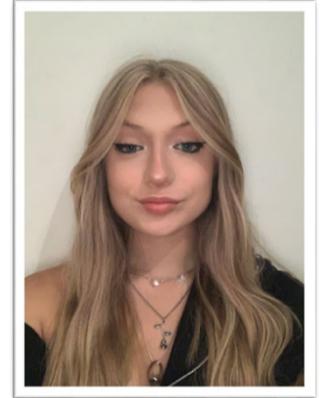
**Vote @RBforSE for President (Student Engagement)!**

Vote online 9pm Monday 9th March - 3pm Friday 13th March 2026 at [www.winchesterstudents.co.uk/vote](http://www.winchesterstudents.co.uk/vote)

# ELODIE HYND | PRESIDENT (STUDENT ENGAGEMENT)

Hi, I'm Elodie Hynd, and I am in my third year studying Forensic Investigative Psychology.

In my own societies I have been roles of inclusivity representative, social secretary and captain. This has taught me clear communication skills, confidence and dealing with pressure



What I want to ensure is happening in the student union:

- Societies being a welcome, safe and fun environment
- Accessibility of societies – I will continue the participation fund and make sure it can help as many as possible
- Ensure clear and constant communication between the student body and the student union through increasing awareness of Suggestions and staying connected with committee members of societies and networks
- Commuting students – having socials to have a strong network and support when commuting goes wrong – communication between them and professors or the university, ensure they are aware of who to contact in these situations
- To continue celebrating success scheme to give societies and individuals a spotlight for their hard work
- Ensure all students have accessible support for mental health and academic support and are aware of their resources
- Continue the celebration of our diverse student body – having social media take overs from different communities and networks in the student body.
- Making sure that campus is accessible to all students, for example, making sure automatic door buttons are functional
- Students will have access to sip smart equipment such as cup covers and bottle stoppers to ensure that everyone is safe in nightlife. I will also work towards keeping our student nights as affordable as possible

I want to make what YOU want from YOUR SU happen.

I'm a very friendly, talkative, and outgoing person that cares about our student experience and wants to make it the best it can be. I hope you will consider voting for me for your new President (Student Engagement).

# JACOB BAVIN | PART-TIME OFFICER

**Hey everyone! I'm back, better than ever, and ready to represent you for another year! Re-elect Jacob Bavin for Part-Time Officer who empowers students' voices, promotes inclusivity and new opportunities so you can have the best university experience!**

I promise to give my utmost effort, ensuring reliable, meaningful support that empowers you to reach your full potential at Winchester and thrive in every aspect of your student experience.

I'm a second-year Primary Education student who's thrown myself into university life - as a STAR, Senior Student Ambassador, Course Champion, and a Part-Time Officer. These roles have helped me understand how our University and Union works and, importantly, how to better connect with you. I want every student to feel heard, welcomed, and confident approaching the SU. I'm committed to open communication and bringing fresh, creative ideas to improve our education, welfare, activities, and day-to-day student experience - so together, we can make Winchester the best place to be!



If re-elected, I'll continue driving my current campaigns while launching new initiatives, including...

**Existing Campaigns:** I'll continue championing and expanding my EDI-focused campaigns, including Union & U! and Our Winchester Community. These initiatives give students regular chances to share feedback on commuting, placements, assignments, and inclusive practice. They are supported by wellbeing resources, strong campus engagement, and a growing, recognisable campaign identity.

**Enhanced Communication and Visibility from Officers:** I'll revitalise our current website and social media to be more engaging, student-centred, and transparent. You'll clearly see campaigns, share your views, and shape our direction. Officers will post regular, authentic updates for stronger representation and a more connected community, with all Officers able to participate in Open Forums.

**SU Activities and Wellbeing Expenses:** Winchester is costly, so I'll continue strong cost-of-living and heating campaigns built by current and previous officers. I'll expand affordable food options, promote the freebie bin, and ensure societies remain accessible for everyone. I will also create regular opportunities for societies to meet Officers and introduce consistent check-ins from the Executive Committee.

**Student Safety:** I will keep advocating for night-time safety, ensuring students feel confident at SU events. I aim to produce a clear, accessible video guide outlining what to expect on a night out, including ID checks, welfare and security support, front-of-house roles, and key safety and financial information.

**Commuting Students:** As a commuting student myself, I understand the benefits and challenges. I will continue advocating for commuters, working to make university life easier, more accessible, and more supportive.

Ultimately, Winchester Students' Union plays a vital role in every student's university journey, and I am eager to help make that experience even better. If you are looking for a Part-Time Officer who is approachable, open-minded, flexible, passionate, and an effective team player, I hope to be that candidate for you.

**A vote for me is a vote for someone who's driven, dedicated, and always ready to work hard on your behalf. I can't wait to continue working with you to create a vibrant and supportive university experience for everyone!**

## THEO HAYES | PART-TIME OFFICER

- AI Policy - make sure the university is not being hypocritical/running a double standard when it comes to their AI usage policy and make sure lecturers, admin and leadership are held to the same standards and expectations we students are when it comes to AI usage.
- Data security - ensure transparency of who the union and the university partner with when it comes to websites, databases or any other product where student data is handled, this is so students can view and research who these companies are, who they have links/partnerships with and what they might do with our data. This is so the student voice can be heard louder so they can have a say in who we should partner with in these fields
- Inclusivity - have a SU spearheaded open door policy to hear concerns from students about inclusivity within the uni whether that be racial, gender, sexuality, disability, etc inclusivity and see if we can help make changes for the better
- Digital suggestion box - add a suggestion portal to the website where students can submit suggestions for the SU (vault events, changes for SU shops/terrace, competitions, events, etc) which will be put on a notice board like page (after being moderated) where other students can vote for them so the SU knows how popular certain ideas are and can then prioritise what to consider
- identify any surpluses in the budget and work out a new beneficial scheme to use it for (most likely use suggestions for this too)
- offer more help and advice for students wanting to start their own club/society
- focus on taking critique and responses from students following major SU led/spearheaded events and use them to improve how we might do them in the future or make the changes for any future events
- Student Union app for event updates, shops/terrace news, notice board, as well as a mobile platform for the content that is on the website, and prioritise the idea of contracting this idea to students within the university rather than some third party developers



## PATRICK STEPHENS | PART-TIME OFFICER

My name is Patrick Stephens, and I am standing to be one of your next Part Time Officers because I believe every student at Winchester deserves a university experience that is inclusive, empowering, and genuinely supportive. University should be more than lectures and deadlines — it should be a place where students grow socially, personally, and practically. My campaign is built around three key priorities: strengthening societies, creating inclusive social alternatives, and promoting essential life skills.



First, I will focus on society development. Societies are one of the most powerful ways students build friendships, improve mental wellbeing, and find like-minded communities — especially when settling into university life away from home. However, too many students with great ideas face unnecessary barriers when trying to start a new society. I will campaign to reduce the current threshold from 15 members (a committee plus 10 members) to 8 members (a committee plus 3 members). This change would make it significantly easier to launch new and unique societies, giving students more opportunities to socialise in Winchester rather than feeling they need to travel elsewhere. I will also work to reduce unnecessary administrative red tape in both starting and joining societies. Societies should feel supported, not restricted.

Second, I want to introduce stronger alternatives to traditional nightlife events. While BOP is a valued part of student culture and should absolutely continue, it does not represent everyone's idea of socialising. Many students — including those who do not drink or who simply prefer a different atmosphere — can feel excluded. University social life should not be one-size-fits-all. I will advocate for regular alternative events such as game nights, relaxed social evenings, and interactive activities in spaces like The Vault or other suitable venues. These events would create inclusive environments where students can socialise, build friendships, and feel part of campus life without pressure to drink. Everyone deserves a space where they feel comfortable.

Third, I am passionate about improving life skills support. University is often the first time students live independently, yet many arrive without basic practical knowledge. I will push to introduce initiatives such as "Freshers Foods" — workshops designed to teach simple cooking skills, budgeting basics, and other essential life skills. Promoting healthy living and independence not only supports wellbeing but helps students feel more confident and capable throughout their studies and beyond.

At the heart of my campaign is inclusion, accessibility, and practical action. I believe the Students' Union should actively shape student life by listening carefully and acting decisively. My goal is not to replace what works, but to build on it — expanding opportunities so that every student can find their place at Winchester.

I care deeply about creating a campus culture where students feel connected, supported, and equipped for life beyond university. If elected, I will work to ensure that societies thrive, social spaces are inclusive, and students graduate not only with degrees, but with confidence and real-world skills.

Make Winchester Yours.