

**ELECTIONS 2020**

# **CANDIDATE MANIFESTOS**

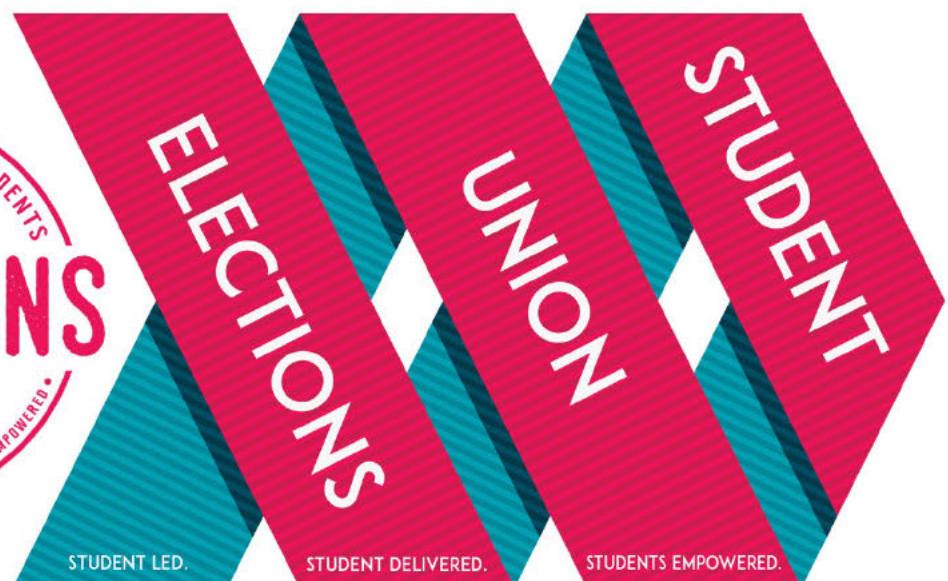
**PRESIDENT**

**VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION & WELFARE**

**VICE PRESIDENT, ACTIVITIES**

**STUDENT OFFICER x5**

**NUS CONFERENCE DELEGATE**



[WWW.WINCHESTERSTUDENTS.CO.UK/SUELECTIONS](http://WWW.WINCHESTERSTUDENTS.CO.UK/SUELECTIONS)

# ELECTIONS 2020



## THE CANDIDATES

The following list represents all posts and candidates standing in the Union Spring Elections 2020.

*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 22 (17 not inc. R.O.N.) candidates standing for 9 positions.

### **President** (full time/trustee):

MEGAN BALL  
MARIA FREITAS  
SAM JENKINS  
BETH STEPHENS  
R.O.N.

### **Vice President, Education & Welfare** (full time/trustee):

LUCY DIXON  
VICTORIA HURLEY  
R.O.N.

### **Vice President, Activities** (full time/trustee):

LILLY BEACALL  
SHIANNE BELL  
ELLEN O'DWYER  
R.O.N.

### **Student Officer** (part time, x5 posts available):

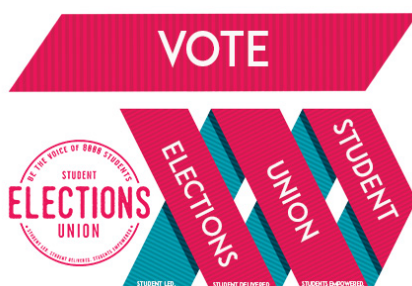
GWAZA IPHITHULE  
CHARIS MCCOBB  
JULIA MONG  
PRINCEWILL OBIH  
SILAS RUSSELL



R.O.N.

### **NUS National Conference Delegates** (31st March – 2nd April 2020 only):

SARAH BUCK  
R.O.N.



# MEGAN BALL (PRESIDENT)



**Vote Megan Ball to #KeepTheBallRolling and ensure that your student experience is the top priority for everyone.**

A Student Union that is accountable, transparent and working every day to make real change is the only type of Union you deserve. It has been an honour to be your President for the last 8 months, bringing these values to every decision I make – transforming the Student Union into one that works for you, OUR STUDENTS and OUR MEMBERS.

**But, we're not finished.** As your President, I have spent the last year not just talking to students but listening! And I've heard loud and clear about the real issues at Winchester. I want to be your President for another year to continue to make change, working to improve your life & your student experience

Vote **Megan Ball for SU President**, and let's make sure we **#KeepTheBallRolling**

## Support & Guide

- Secure funding for our Advice Centre and Welfare Zone. Ensuring ring-fenced spending so that we can help you when you need it most.
- Introduce separate Vice President, Welfare and Vice President, Education roles. Welfare and Education should be at the core of what we do.
- Pay the Real Living Wage (£9.30/hour) as a **minimum** for all our student staff. It is only right that we invest in our committed student staff from bopping to shopping.
- Collaborate with the University to introduce a 'Get Help' Button on the intranet, signposting all wellbeing advice in one easy-to-find place.
- Sexual Health Clinic drop-ins on campus, including free STI kits.

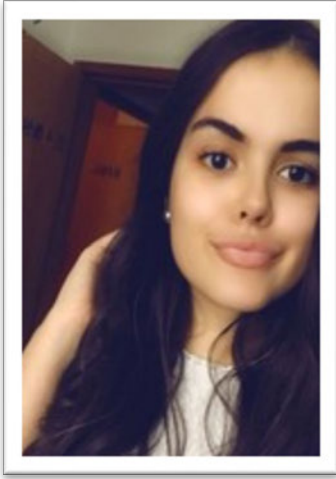
## Represent & Champion

- Launch a 'Student Recruiters scheme' - Students should be involved in every decision made at the University, including recruitment.
- Launch a 'WinCHARITY Day' twice a semester which focuses on and celebrates volunteering and charity work.
- 'Grill the Vice-Chancellor' giving students the opportunity to question our VC. It's time we held her to account.
- Implore the University shout about student success as much as the Union, celebrating real students in their institution
- Ensure a second Student Governor is put on the University's Board of Governors, ensuring real student representation is heard from the classroom to the boardroom.
- Introduce a 'Welcome to Winchester' scheme during enrolment. Guaranteeing every student gets the chance to speak to their SU in that critical first week.

## Equip & Provide

- Increase study space across campus, purchasing roll-away furniture that can be used in The Vault when unoccupied
- Introduce a 'Change Week' where students can submit ideas for change to an online leaderboard and other students can vote – helping us know what to work on.
- Maintain SU presence at the new West Downs Centre. Keep the (currently at threat) SU Shop, and acquire additional space for an Advice Centre Hub.
- Urge the University for an out of hours Park&Ride shuttle bus. With students unable to park on campus, and buses stopping at 8pm, students are often prevented from staying late for lectures, studying or attending societies/sports.
- Introduce a Daytime Freshers Wristband to create different socialising opportunities beyond the Vault.

# MARIA FREITAS (PRESIDENT)



I remember the first time I came to Winchester over a thousand days ago, I remember feeling like this was the place I truly belonged to, a home 1500 miles away from "home". The past three years in Winchester have given me plenty of opportunities I couldn't have dreamt of in my wildest dreams, I made friends for life, somehow managed to get a degree in my second language, and most importantly found myself through the chances I took never really knowing if I'd be fit for the role. Like being a **SMART Buddy**, mentoring people who'd been out of the education system for a decade prior to joining our University to get their degree. Or creating a **Support Scheme** within my course to help first and second years through their academic and personal life. Also, by helping recruit new students for the University by being both an **International Ambassador** and a **Course Rep**. And above all, through being a **Student Officer** for our Student Union the past two years.

This organisation has changed my life for the better in countless different ways and it would be the pleasure of a lifetime to become President and help improve the lives of our students! To achieve that, I have divided my campaign in three focuses: **Engage, Ensure, Enrich**.

## **Engage with the Winchester Community**

Winchester is the home I found miles away from everything I previously knew, and it pains me to see the divide between students and locals. With my Presidency I want to decrease this rift by introducing community give-back activities within societies and sports teams, as well as making the Student Union more involved with local events. Similarly, I want to improve communication between student body and Student Union keeping you guys aware of what we are doing.

## **Ensure the uphold of the Union's principles**

Democracy, Communication and Representation, the three guiding principles of the Student Union and values I intend to keep at the forefront of my mind as President. I aim to grow student involvement in Student Senate and Student Academic Council which allow students to get an inside view of the Union's and the University's governance. I also want to assure every student can get a meal despite any dietary requirements, for that I want to introduce more gluten-free and vegan options at the Student Union and West Downs shops and liaise with the University to have a halal option in the Food Hall. Furthermore, I want to work with Housing and the University to provide emergency on-campus accommodation for commuting students.

## **Enrich the overall Student experience**

The years spent at university are of extreme importance but sometimes tainted by unwanted stress which I want to fight. For that, I want to increase wellbeing support and expand the situations in which students can get access to extenuating circumstances, develop a policy to allow second submission of assignments to improve grades and hold the University accountable to ensure all students get the best education.

**Vote Maria for a President who'll fight for your future and help you get the best university experience possible.**



# SAM JENKINS (PRESIDENT)



**A vote for Sam Jenkins is a vote for Equality, Community, Value For Money and Accountability, so that students concerns are actioned, not just heard.**

I am a proven leader with a track record of making a difference. During the last three years I have served across the Student Union as a Society C hair, as Volunteering and Community Officer and as a Student Academic Rep. In these roles I tried to help other students and improve their experience. Now I want to make sure that all 8000+ students at the University of Winchester have the best student experience possible.

My manifesto is driven by the issues students have told me about. I will take a student-led approach to every challenge the SU faces, **listening to you and making sure your voice is actioned and not just heard.**

## I STAND FOR ACCOUNTABILITY:

### **Every Student Matters**

- No current student should feel abandoned by the University for any reason, regardless of their course, background or circumstances.

### **Every Lecturer Matters**

- I will put more pressure on the University to address casualisation and pay gaps so that strike action, which affects our students, is avoided in future.

### **Defend The Arts**

- I will campaign to protect Arts-based courses, societies and activities because they are valued by our students.

### **Tuition Fees**

- I will ensure the Student Union keeps on pushing for greater clarity about how the University spends its money.

## I STAND FOR VALUE FOR MONEY:

### **Keep Prices Down in SU Venues**

- I will conduct a wide ranging review of current prices, with the aim of decreasing prices as much as is practically possible in SU bars and shops.
- In addition I will try to decrease ticket prices on major events (e.g Summer Ball) whilst maintaining the high quality put into these occasions.

### **Increasing Your Choices So Everyone Can Have Fun**

- I will aim to increase the number of non-alcoholic drinks sold at evening events, to put less pressure on those students who do not like alcohol.

## I STAND FOR EQUALITY:

### **Expand Representational Networks**

- Ensuring that the many varieties of student backgrounds continue to be recognised.
- This will include setting up a new Representational Network to support students with neurodiversity (Autism, Dyslexia, ADHD, Dyspraxia, Tourettes etc)

## I STAND FOR COMMUNITY:

### **Continue the Volunteering and Community Champions Awards**

- I helped set this up to recognise the good students do outside campus through volunteering. This event will continue if I become President.

### **Look After Students Living Off Campus**

- I will work with the University to increase the level of protection given to students who are under private housing.

**VOTE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY**

**VOTE FOR VALUE FOR MONEY**

**VOTE FOR EQUALITY**

**VOTE FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**VOTE FOR AN INCLUSIVE AND FORWARD THINKING STUDENT UNION**

**VOTE SAM JENKINS FOR STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT!**

**#StandWithSam**

# BETH STEPHENS (PRESIDENT)



## Election Statement:

A vote for Beth Stephens is a vote for YOUR safety, YOUR education and YOUR experience.

## Manifesto:

Hello, my name is Beth Stephens and I am 3<sup>rd</sup> year Theology, Religion and Ethics student. I am running to be your next President because I am an honest, determined and approachable person who is ready to listen to you and improve YOUR university experience. I want to be able to represent the entire student body and allow YOUR voice to be heard. In my time at university I have become a StAR (Student Academic Rep) for my course as well as being deputy-chair of my course SSCL (Student Staff Liaison Committee). Since my second year I

have already been closely involved with the Student Union as I work with the venue team as a Bar Supervisor so you can always catch me at BOP. I am also a member of the Music Centre so spend a lot of my free time involved with their extracurricular activities, one of my key responsibilities being that I help run the Concert Band.

If elected these are the key areas I want to focus upon;

## **YOUR Safety:**

- Street lights – start a conversation with Winchester City Council in order to encourage the street lights to be turned back on to enforce the safety of students walking home late be it from BOP or jobs etc.
- Ask Angela – make students aware that the student union engages with this initiative and enforce staff training within the SU so students who require this service can trust in our staff.
- Safety Bus – encourage more people to volunteer in order to ensure it can run consistently throughout the academic year.

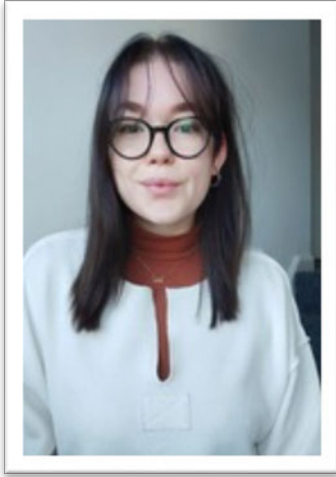
## **YOUR Education:**

- Resubmission – create a policy concerning resubmissions and in particular focus upon the impact that a 40% cap can have on students' wellbeing and their ability to produce work to the best of their ability.
- 40% Cap – alongside a resubmission policy look further into the university's 40% cap on resubmitted work for assignments and work towards this either being raised or introducing a staggered penalty depending on how late submissions are.

## **YOUR Experience:**

- Communication between faculties and the Student Union - improve the understanding and relationship with academic staff to make them aware of the issues students face.
- Accountability – hold the university accountable for the actions it takes when they affect students ie. strikes and restrictions on free printing
- Inclusivity – create a greater community feel for students in minority groups such as BAME, Community and Part time students etc. As well as this ensure that societies, as well as our sports teams, are being celebrated for their achievements and are as engaged with our university community.

## LUCY DIXON (VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION & WELFARE)



Voting for Lucy Dixon is a vote for a highly motivated and personable candidate who will empower and represent the **WHOLE** student body.

Hello! My name is Lucy, currently a third year Education Studies and Drama student and I am running for the sabbatical position of Vice President, Education and Welfare. This role has the responsibility to represent the students as learners, as well as focusing on, and ensuring, the wellbeing of every member of the Union. My intention to run is driven by a belief that I can truly represent every student with their education and welfare. Not only that, but I whole-heartedly support what the Student Union represents, this being: educational development, representation, social opportunities and welfare.

I consider myself to be significantly invested with the Student Union, as not only am I a Student Academic Rep (StAR) for my course, but I chaired the Feminist Society last year and am on the current committee for Judo. On top of this, I have also been one of your elected Student Officers for this academic year.

Students pay a large sum to attain a degree; it is only right that your Union holds the University accountable when you do not feel that you are either being represented or listened to. Nothing would give me a greater sense of achievement than for the student body to feel empowered and I feel confident that I will continue the work which ensures students feel that they are respected and heard.

If elected, I would focus on the following:

- **Education:**

- Continue to build upon and further the Self Certification policy (which is currently in progress), focusing on and reviewing the University conditions of the 40% cap on resubmissions.
- Encourage better communications from each faculty, so information to all students is consistent, coherent and equal. I would achieve this by having a consistent physical presence on campus – this will be achieved by going into lectures throughout the year. I would also want to liaise with who the students interact with the most – lecturers and program leaders – to ensure you are getting the most out of your education.

- **Welfare:**

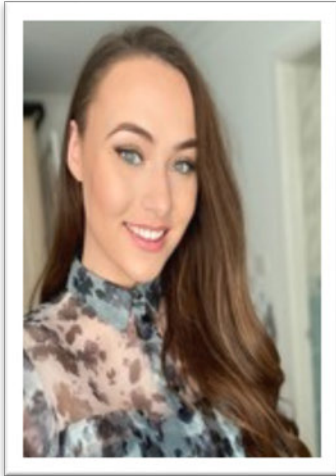
- Welfare is incredibly important for students and therefore crucial for them to know where to go if they need help. Often, Student Services are either too full or cannot fully solve a query. Therefore, I am aiming to expand and continue to advertise the advice centre, as it has proved useful and popular.
- Provide welfare events that focus on final year students and provide them support during their most stressful times of the year, and around the time they will be leaving – welfare for leaving students sometimes goes unnoticed, it's time this changed.
- Ensure that specific student demographics, who are not always represented, are catered for and make sure they feel their welfare needs are being met.

- **Environment:**

- Ensure services within the Union (as well as the administration) are as sustainable as possible.
- Run workshops events: BOP Swap, recycling information, upcycling clothes etc.
- Work with the University to minimise the use of single use plastic where we can within the union.



# VICTORIA HURLEY (VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION & WELFARE)



***"Fighting for a Student Union that cares, supports and empowers students, Vote Vic for your Vice President, Education & Welfare."***

As your Vice President, Education & Welfare I have spent every day fighting for you and ensuring that your voice, education and well-being is at the centre of every decision made. Representing you has been a dream and I would love to be able to continue the fight, supporting and empowering our students to stand up for what is right.

Over the last 8 months, I have been driven to improve both the Education & Welfare Zones in the Union. However, the fight is not over. There are so many areas of which we need to improve and develop to ensure the best possible student experience.

## Education:

1. Run a 'prep for life after Uni' scheme.  
-Collaborate with external companies (Banks & Wellbeing practitioners etc) to ensure that we are doing the best possible job of preparing and enabling our students to leave University.
2. Assessment Choices.  
-Lobby and work with the University to establish academic systems so that all our students can excel in their assignments by having the choice over their studies.
3. Work with the StARs assistant to increase representation.  
-Establish a practical working relationship with the StARs assistant to deliver an improved, more efficient system for the Student Academic Representation scheme.
4. Ensure that there are accessible facilities for students in Study Areas.  
-Work with the Library, Student Services etc. to provide easy and accessible information for students in their study spaces e.g. study rooms in the library.
5. Dissertation wellbeing initiatives.  
- Having wellbeing & academic support easily accessible for students writing and handing in dissertations.

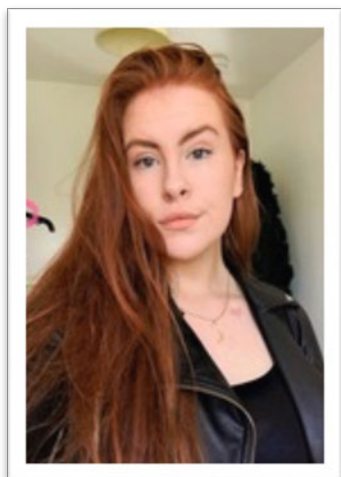
## Welfare:

1. Student Union event staff to have mental wellbeing training.  
-Building upon SU staff training that has been increased this year, by having event staff trained in mental welfare for students to ensure their safety.
2. STI health care from professionals around in Freshers Week.  
-Being educated and having this service is essential for all students, and by securing this will allow progression of this service throughout the year in future.
3. Sustainable alternatives to keep tackling Period Poverty.  
-One of my main focuses this year was tackling Period Poverty by offering free sanitary products to all students. I will develop this campaign by securing sustainable and plastic free alternatives to tackle this crisis.
4. Work and meet with Residential Assistants & Security to audit & monitor onsite accommodation  
-One of the areas this role covers is Housing Conditions and I believe that by working with the relevant departments around University to ensure the safety and appropriate living conditions for students.
5. Represent all by ensuring that lecture rooms are accessible for ALL students with physical and invisible disabilities.  
-Audit and develop the accessibility of all lecture rooms for the student body.

It's been a privilege to be your Vice President, Education & Welfare but over the next year I want to build a Student Union that you can be proud of and rely on whenever you need it.

#VoteVicForVP

# LILLY BEACALL (VICE PRESIDENT, ACTIVITIES)



A Vote for Lilly Beacall is a vote for a VP of Activities who is passionate about ensuring every student feels at home at Winchester.

My name is Lilly Beacall and I'm running for your Vice President of Activities for the academic year 2020-2021. I am currently Chair of Performing Arts Winchester, which is the biggest society on campus with over 200 active members. During my time at the University of Winchester, I have come to firmly believe that being part of a society or sports team is vital for your experience at Winchester. The sense of belonging and friendships made within societies and sports teams is something I feel is irreplaceable while at University.

I want to work on showcasing the bonds and friendships made in sports teams, societies and social networks as a way of promoting the teams, societies and social networks to new students, including how inclusive and welcoming they are by promoting prior Student Union campaigns that have been done previously such as This Girl Can and Rainbow Laces. This would also assist new students joining the university that are worried about making friends by encouraging them to join a new group and try something out. I would also like to work with each team, society and social network in publicising themselves over summer to potential new students in a bid to increase member intake.

Societies and Sports Teams would be encouraged to have a more active role in charity events and supporting each other when these events occur. I'd like to work with RAG to assist each team, society and social network in doing this and also encouraging each group to host at least one charity event in the academic year. I would also use the SU Social Medias as a platform to advertise the events.

I would also actively publicise sports fixings, society and social networks events across the SU Social Media Platforms to aim to advertise the amazing things the students do and try to increase audience/participation in these events. By advertising these events, it will encourage fellow students to attend thus increasing member intake as people can watch first-hand what each team, society and social network offer so it becomes an opportunity to advertise for potential members.

Being in a society or sports team helps create the best memories of your time at Winchester, however many new student can be overwhelmed with freshers' week and freshers' fayre so the refreshers fayre is an important event that needs to be advertised more and display more teams and societies. Having a larger refreshers fair would also keep teams, societies and social network's membership consistent across the year, and allow members to sample for activities for themselves. This would also allow for the inclusion of international exchange students in sports teams, societies, and social networks as they are only here for a short time period.

# SHIANNE BELL (VICE PRESIDENT, ACTIVITIES)



Vote Shianne as your next Vice President of Activities; to increase student empowerment, recognition and equality.

My name is Shianne Bell, and I am currently studying a Sport Business and Marketing undergraduate degree here at Winchester University. Over the last 3 years of being a student here, I have been involved with the SU in many ways. I am currently the Captain of the Snowsports society, I work as part of the SU bar team and I have previously been a tour leader.

I am running for Vice President (VP) of Activities as I believe I will be able to contribute a lot through the role of VP. Throughout my time as a student, I have become very passionate about the value of the student voice and believe it is vital that students are able to have their say and get the recognition they deserve.

If elected as VP of Activities I will focus on improving 4 key aspects; generating strong sponsorship opportunities, increasing awareness of volunteering and project opportunities, increasing the recognition of all societies and to try and decrease the amount of contact hours given on Wednesday afternoons to increase the inclusivity of participation in extra-curricular activities. My manifesto broken down:

## **Generating strong sponsorship opportunities.**

- Assisting all societies to gain the sponsorships they want and need. This in turn will mean that there will be more funding into their society, allowing the society/sport to progress at a more advanced level. Allowing teams to train for as long as they need, using the correct facilities they need.

## **Increasing awareness of volunteering and project opportunities.**

- Student Union run projects and events need to be made more visible to students through social media and advertising. I also aim to introduce more varied and regular events at the student union, so that there is something for everyone.
- It is important to continue to encourage and support societies hosting their own events and volunteering projects in order to contribute to the student and local community.

## **Increasing the recognition of all societies.**

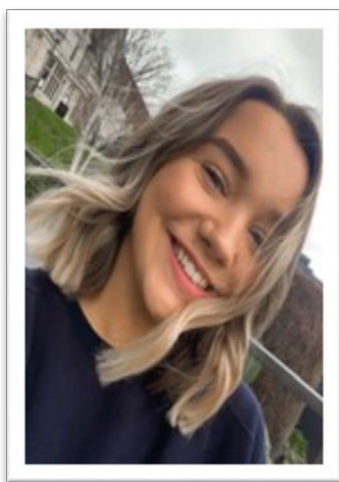
- The recognition societies get at University is very minimal for the amount they do. Through monthly achievement letters and awards, societies are able to promote themselves in a positive way, in turn increasing the number of people that will join.
- This is not only for sport societies, but it will raise the interest in; academic, art and music societies. This is something that needs to be addressed, as these are the societies that sometimes end up being overlooked for their great achievements. Introducing an event at the end of the year similar to Colours for those non-sporting societies will increase the recognition they deserve.

## **Decreasing the contact time for all student on Wednesday afternoons.**

- If elected I will try to decrease the number of contact hours put on Wednesday afternoons to allow for all students to participate in their extracurricular activities. This is a huge part of mental health and wellbeing. Allowing for students to socialise and exercise is an important aspect to maintain good health and wellbeing and I believe it should be something the University should consider.

**#VoteSBforVP**

# ELLEN O'DWYER (VICE PRESIDENT, ACTIVITIES)



***"Elect Ellen again to ensure the Activities Zone continues to flourish and is one that we can all be proud of #WeAreWinchester"***

This time last year I set out to you my vision for the Activities Zone. I wanted a Zone and Student Union that was more inclusive, wellbeing focused and one that didn't shy away from celebrating your success. I have loved watching this vision come to life.

Listening to and representing you, our student body, is essential to what makes a successful Zone and Student Union. If you re-elect me as your Vice President, Activities I promise to develop our current initiatives, continue to take on board the student voice and commit to delivering the below.

Fair **Funding** for our teams, societies, and representational student networks.

How can we expect our teams, societies and representational student networks to do all the amazing things they do if we don't ensure they are fully funded? As your VP I will ensure costs are never a barrier to participation by:

- Ensuring free use of facilities at the new Bar End Leisure Centre, and review the parking policy.
- Allowing teams, societies, and networks to bid for additional funding throughout the year.
- Developing a Team Winchester match kit fund.
- Introducing free 'Give It A Go' opportunities for all students.

Adequate **Training** and **Support** for students within the Activities Zone.

We want committees and students that are trained and who feel supported in running their teams, societies and networks, and to do this I will:

- Introduce training for those wishing to fundraise in student activity groups.
- Develop and introduce first aid, coaching, refereeing, and umpiring training opportunities.
- Increase employability preparation within extracurricular activities to help students in their journey after Winchester.
- Open Wellbeing Rep training to all committee positions and introduce mental health first aid for Wellbeing reps.

Opportunities to **Recognise**, **Celebrate**, and **Reward** our students.

As your VP I have seen first-hand the great work you all do and it is one of the things that has made me so proud to be your Vice President, Activities. However, I want to do even more by:

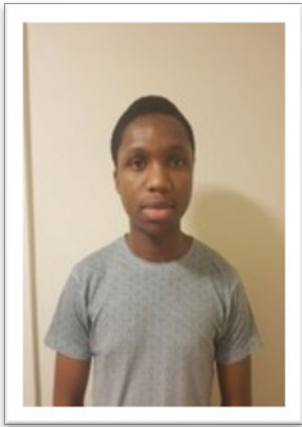
- Creating a tailored points and reward system for our societies and networks.
- Guaranteeing an even bigger Re-Freshers Fayre to allow more teams, societies and networks to showcase what they do.
- Continuing with our celebrating success initiatives (such as team/society/network of the week, RAG (Raising and Giving) event and Activities Champion of the month, postcards, society in the spotlight, and team takeovers).

A positive **Impact** on **student experience** and the local **community**.

Our students can make a difference and I want to lead a Zone that is proud of the impact it can have on the student experience and within the local community. Together we can:

- Develop on campaigns that make a difference, not just raise awareness (e.g. Boys Do Cry, Rainbow Laces, This Girl Can).
- Reward students for volunteering.
- Rebrand RAG and introduce a permanent fundraising total on display.

# GWAZA IPHITHULE (STUDENT OFFICER)



Making sure that everyone is represented, creating an all-inclusive Student Union, making Winchester University a better place to study and seeing every student living their best life is what brings joy to my heart.  
#YOLO

My name is Iphithule Mabhena (Gwaza) a second year student studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

Voting for me will be in your interest because for the past year I have been listening to your needs and I am ready to step up and deliver. First and foremost I will have to look into having an all inclusive genre of music at BOP. I will also make sure that every Wednesday Cyber Italia will be opened for at least an hour after Bob finishes.

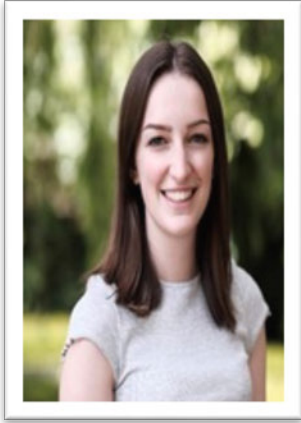
Eradicating racism that so many of us do not think exists in our campus. I want to create spaces for BAME, making sure that their voices are recognised in our campus and I hope such spaces become platforms for mobilising change.

Having events for students to empathise with others and share their experiences.

#YOLO



# CHARIS MCCOBB (STUDENT OFFICER)



## Election Statement:

A vote for Charis McCobb is a vote for a louder student academic voice and more effective student support.

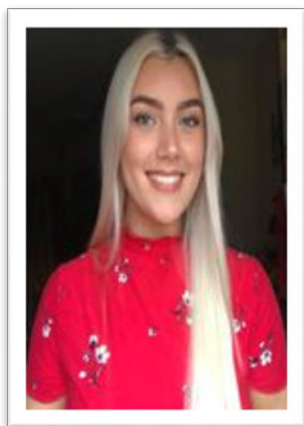
## Manifesto:

This last year, I have had the privilege of being elected a Deputy Chair Student Academic Representative (StAR). This has allowed me to gain a fuller understanding of the inner workings of the Student Union in relation to academic representation. The steps that have already been made towards a more effective academic student voice is incredible, but I believe there is still more that can be done. From experience, I am aware that many students feel unable to share feedback about their course for fear of reprisals. If I am elected, I would strive to encourage students to speak up through working alongside the Vice-President of Education and Welfare to run workshops. These workshops would teach students how to give effective opinions and feedback to their respective StARs. This would enable improvements to the work of StARs as more students would be willing to give opinions. Therefore, there would be more student-led changes to courses. Being a StAR can be a difficult but rewarding position, and I believe that the Student Union should do everything they can to support them and the work they do. Part of this includes working to help other students understand how they can best help their StARs. If I am elected, I would help StARs to communicate with their coursemates, in order to make the work they do clearer.

Another issue that is close to my heart is student welfare and wellbeing. Many students have spoken to me about their difficulties with mental health, and what they think the Student Union could do to better support them. I am aware that the Student Union already do so much for us as students, and it would be impossible to not recognise that. This year, the Student Union have introduced the Advice Centre, which is a massive step in the right direction. If I am elected I would advocate for student drop-in sessions to be organised alongside the Advice Centre. When possible, these drop-in sessions would be attended by professionals from organisations that specialise in mental health. Student Services can often be so busy that they do not have time to see all students. This change would allow for more opportunities for students to talk about any mental health difficulties. I know that for some students, the Student Recharge Days are one of the highlights of their semesters, and it is such a benefit to be able to recharge. However, I believe that more could be done throughout the rest of the year. Having a couple of days dedicated to recharging is incredible, but by spreading a couple of recharge events throughout the rest of the term, students wouldn't need to rely on one day. These events would be similar to the recharge days, but just a single event in order to allow students a small break.

If you want an advocate for student voice and student welfare, then a vote for me is a step in the right direction.

## JULIA MONG (STUDENT OFFICER)



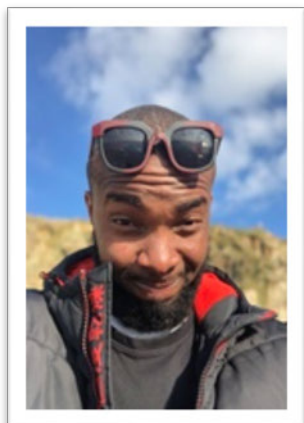
Hi, my name is Julia Mong, a first year Anthropology and Archaeology student, and I'm running for the position of Student officer for Winchester Student Union. The Student Union is a big part of making your time as a student as fulfilling and comfortable as possible, and I wish to support our unions belief in democracy, communication and representation for all students. I am part of the union as a Student Academic Rep (StAR) for my course, and additionally the chair of my SSLC. Through this, and earlier work experience, I have grown to become a confident, outspoken and approachable person, and I am passionate about using my voice to speak up for those who, for any reason, can't or won't use their own.

If elected, I would aim to:

- **Make every student voice heard.** Winchester has a very diverse student body. My goal would be for any and all students to feel as though their voice matters, whether they be part-time, international (like myself), BAME, LGBTQ+, mature, commuting or disabled. One example of this would include promoting voting in Student Union elections to help choose their representatives, and furthermore secure proper training for elected officers. I would also encourage students to become StARs, give positive and negative feedback to their StARs, keep an open dialogue with the union and simply get involved through sports/societies/networks.
- **Further develop support systems within the university.** University can be both fun and exciting but can also be overwhelming and a potential shock to the system. In 2017, I was in that position; I moved to Winchester from Norway to start university yet ended up not being ready for the commitment and change. This led to me terminating my studies and moving back. At the time, I didn't know where to go/who to speak to – or even if there was any support/advice available to students. I want to ensure students know where to go for advice, whether that be assisting termination of studies, counselling or academic struggles – it is important that students feel comfortable being at University. I wish to have the information readily available to the students that may need it through pamphlets, possible group meetings, and also working closely with other parts of the university to ensure support in all aspects of our students' studies.
- **Bring the university's focus of sustainability to the students' lifestyles.** While Winchester university is doing their part in sustainability awareness and focus on environmental issues, I think we need to apply the aspect of sustainability to our students. In the flurry of university life, it can be easy to forget about your own personal health and promoting a healthy lifestyle that will sustain the students throughout all three years of study is essential in keeping them engaged and motivated. Focusing on healthy habits when it comes to food/cooking, sleep and staying active is important to feel and perform your absolute best, and this is something we need to communicate to and educate our students on.

A vote for Julia Mong is a vote for a passionate, positive and confident candidate, who is ready to speak up for all students.

# PRINCEWILL OBIH (STUDENT OFFICER)



I'm Princewill Obih, first-year student of criminology aim to leave my name as a footprint in the heart of every student at the University of Winchester whereby assisting them in all little way I can to make their stay at the uni a success and fun. I am determined, committed and will always endeavour to get the best results possible during my stay. Will ensure that all campuses are represented equally. I will visit all campuses in order to assemble the points of view of all student parties.

To increase more student feedback in order to provide a service more tailored to what students want, through drop-in sessions, suggestion boxes, email surveys and face-to-face contact.

To increase Postgraduate, International, Mature and LGBT student participation and awareness. To do so I will improve communications between those student bodies and the union.

## Why Vote For Me

I already have a wealth of experience of working for the union, and I have your interests at heart. With your voices behind me, I can use the knowledge I have gained from the workings of the RSU to best represent and implement your ideas. So if you like what I hope to achieve, I would be most appreciative of your support!aim to be a student officer who will have a positive influence and positive representation of students in order to maintain and strengthen the voice of the student.' have ideas that, if elected, I will endeavour to achieve. I have condensed these ideas into four succinct areas:

### EQUALITY

Equality of all students(LGTB), student with disabilities, to fight against discrimination

### ACCOUNTABILITY

To make myself more accountable to students by allowing opportunities to question and contribute to matters that affect YOU

### STRENGTH

To be a strong representative who represents student interests at high-level meetings

To maintain and strengthen the student voice by working with other student officers

### INNOVATION

to improved good Form of representation with the heart of the student at hand

# SILAS RUSSELL (STUDENT OFFICER)



*Vote for Silas Russell to champion your academic rights and inclusivity, deliver support to those with part-time jobs and mental health issues, and represent commuters.*

**My name is Silas Russell and I am running for the election of Student Officer.**

## ABOUT ME:

- I am a second-year Global History and Politics student.
- I have been passionately representing my student cohort for nearly two years as a StAR (Student Academic Representative).
- I am elected Head of Current Affairs and committee member of the Sound Radio society.

## MY PROPOSALS:

### CHAMPIONING YOUR VOICE:

The Student Union is all about empowering you by representing your educational rights and welfare needs.

I propose to:

- **Hold senior management to account** and champion your **academic rights**: if issues raised by StARs are impossible to resolve at SSLC meetings, I will encourage students to contact me so that these issues can be **represented** at a higher level at **Student Academic Council** meetings.
- Advocate engagement with the Student Senate: I will publish **handouts** and **posters** to encourage voting at elections. The more students **engage** with the SU, the **stronger** its voice becomes.
- Be **available to meet**: each fortnight, I will make myself **available** to listen to your questions, queries and ideas.
- Utilise social media: I will frequently encourage student input through **polls** and **surveys**.

### SUPPORT FOR THOSE WITH PART-TIME JOBS:

I, like many others, have needed a part-time job to cover living costs. While it is great experience, the increased workload can become difficult to manage for some.

I therefore propose to:

- Create **time management** resources that would be free to collect from the SU Offices to help people reach their potential. I aspire for **workshops** to be organised with **professionals** to give **specialist guidance** and **financial advice** to help **reduce anxiety** and incurred stress from busy schedules.
- Publish **advice** around campus and social media to give people support.
- **Increase representation** and **awareness** at higher levels, so that students coping with heavy workloads are recognised.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND INCLUSIVITY:**

As someone who has been affected by mental health issues, I am devoted to continuing the SU's great work. It is also essential that the SU helps students feel involved in a community.

I therefore propose:

- An introduction of a scheme similar to '**Chatty Café**' to help reduce loneliness and social isolation.
- Raised levels of mental health **advice** to give **direction** to students affected.
- Greater promotion of Refreshers Fayre to give more people the more **opportunities** to get involved in **societies**.

### **A VOICE FOR COMMUTERS:**

As a commuter myself and considering there are so many of us at university, we deserve our voices to be heard.

- I will liaise with the Travel Team with the intention of giving commuters the best support with **improved travel options**.
- I will campaign for **consistent Reading Weeks** on dual-subject courses.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- I will post monthly **updates** on social media and will make myself **available** to meet fortnightly. You deserve to know what I and the SU are doing for you.

**If you would like to meet or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me! [s.russell.18@unimail.winchester.ac.uk](mailto:s.russell.18@unimail.winchester.ac.uk)**

**I hope I can count on your vote 😊**

**Silas Russell**



# (STUDENT OFFICER)

Election statement:

A vote for [REDACTED] is a vote for **change!**

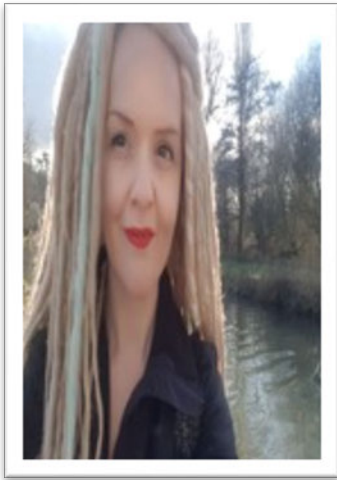
Manifesto

Hi, I'm [REDACTED] and I'm a second year Media and Communications student. I love Winchester, and nothing would thrill me more than to be your next Student Officer. Our SU is the heart of the university, and does so many amazing things, but stuff can always be improved! Here are reasons you should vote for me to become your next Student Officer:

- **Student discounts on bus routes**, the prices of the buses in Winchester are extremely high, and with us all being on a student budget, I would endeavour to start a conversation with the bus companies about starting student discount on travel and propose a bus route from the university. Save our thighs from walking up all those hills!
- **Free STI and drug testing kits**. Our SU this academic year has started giving out free tampons, pregnancy tests and condoms, why not expand that to make sure the students are being safe from harmful drugs and STIs?
- **The environment**, we have taken steps as a university to help the environment, but can we do more? I propose a water refill scheme, fill your water bottle 20 times from the Terrace bar, collect stamps and get a free soft drink! There's no excuse for plastic water bottles anymore.
- **Milk, bread and fruit available in the SU shop**, a lot of students would like to use the shop more frequently, but as they don't do these basics, students are going elsewhere.
- **Conversation started with the SU shop** about possibly bringing prices down on certain items, making it more affordable will increase how many people use it which equals happy students! They're doing great work with deals currently, but more could be done with individual and healthier items.
- **Improving the diversity and acknowledgment of societies**, making them as big as sport. Great steps have been taken with Society of the Week and the Volunteering Awards, but more could be done. Sports have Winton, societies should have an event as well!

I am a hard worker and have got heavily involved with the university since first year. I am a Student Representative for my course, and also a Student Ambassador. I have also been a part of the award winning Sound Radio society and studied abroad last semester in America. I will always give everything my best shot and I'm a real team player. A crazy fact about me is that Snape (Alan Rickman) used to be my neighbour! **A vote for me is a vote for change!**

# SARAH BUCK (NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE)



**Vote Sarah Buck as a delegate to represent Winchester at the NUS National Conference. Prioritising social justice, the climate crisis, equal representation and mental health.**

Hello there, I am Sarah Buck, a third-year Animal Welfare and Society student, volunteer and activist, passionate about social justice for all. I hope to represent our values as Winchester students as one of the two NUS conference delegates at the national forum in Liverpool this year. Although we are a small university, our voices must be heard as part of the student movement for change. We have the power to influence and make huge changes to our society during this time of political transition by *organising* and utilising democratic spaces effectively. If elected as your delegate, I pledge to be a confident voice demanding pragmatic and effective action which is representative of our student community.

## **Experience**

As your former Ethical and Environmental Officer (2018-19), I have a good understanding of how both the Student Union, University and the NUS work. In addition, I have served as a member of the student academic council (2018/19/20), as an academic representative and committee member for several student liberation steering groups. Privately I am engaged in activism and campaigning for climate, animal rights and other justice movements.

## **My priorities if voted to represent you as an NUS delegate:**

### **1. Immediate action for climate change.**

As the people who will inherit this planet, we call for action for climate change before it is too late. We need to form a united national student movement to guide our society to show the government and the world that action is needed now to safeguard the future of all life. The climate crisis is foundational for all other struggles, and I pledge to vote for urgent action to embed sustainable practice into everything that we do.

### **2. Representation of underrepresented groups and ensuring that higher education is more affordable and accessible to all.**

We need to reshape our democratic and educational spaces to be truly student-led, inclusive, accessible and participatory; to be a model for others to learn from and help shape the democracy we want to see in our society. We must continue to increase access to education and close the attainment gap for those who come from underrepresented groups whilst striving to reduce the financial costs of entering higher education.

### **3. Increased focus on mental health support in higher education.**

As students, we all feel an immense pressure to attain and succeed. With 1 in 4 of us experiencing a mental health problem each year, it is becoming clear that the higher education system does not effectively support students during their studies. Mental health awareness, support and education is fundamental in tackling the mental health crisis and should be a top priority for the NUS.

I believe that Winchester needs strong political representation at the NUS Conference during this transition period to prioritise the campaigns which are foundational to our values of social justice and compassion.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto. Please feel free to contact me with any questions via email at [S.Buck.17](mailto:S.Buck.17)