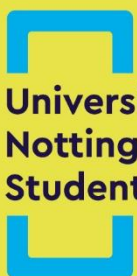


# Manifesto Document

Democratic Procedures Committee Member  
May 2020

There is a total of 9 candidates.  
There are 9 positions available.



University of  
Nottingham  
Students' Union

Representation  
Development



[su.nottingham.ac.uk](http://su.nottingham.ac.uk)

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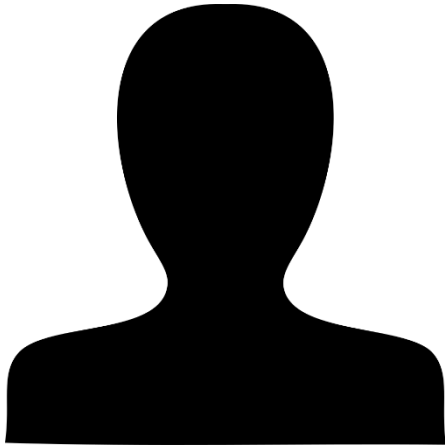
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# Kieran Lancaster

## Main Manifesto

As a 2nd year Politics student, I am fully aware democracy is essential to the SU running fairly, responsibly and effectively.

I will ensure that all motions, changes, and grievances with the SU Governing documents will be examined, discussed and concluded in a fair and effective way, in line with the requests of students from all over the University.

My goal is to make sure the Student Union runs in a way that's fair and equal for all students regardless of race, gender and socio economic background, ensuring that modifications to the student unions core governing documents do not alienate or discourage students from seeking change.

As one of many students that feel that the SU does not account for everyone and does not run as effectively as desired, electing me to this role is the first step in making real change and ensuring that OUR student union is for the STUDENTS.

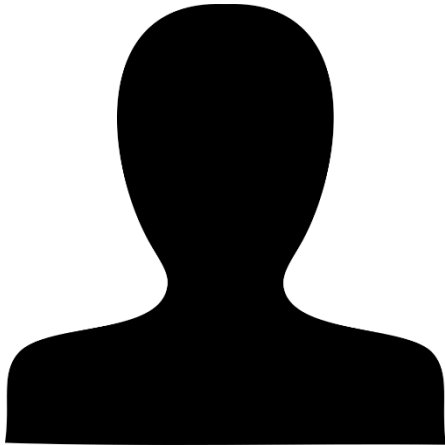
As a committee member, I will make sure there is 100% transparency and understanding for students, regarding SU procedure, rules and regulations. I will ensure this through quick and clear communication between the committee and students. I will ensure students are aware that the Student Union is FOR THE STUDENTS, and that our students know how to get involved and have their voices heard.

Democracy is a massive part of the freedom of students, if elected, I will ensure that student requests are addressed and concluded in the most effective way possible.

## What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?

I don't have experience in this role, but I am committed to students and feel students need a friendly and relatable voice on this committee. Being a Politics student, I study democracy in depth and the way it is processed and implemented. My passion for democracy, my general concern for students

and my ambition for positive change, will make me not only an effective member of the committee, but a good one as well.



# Mohammad AlJamal

## Main Manifesto

Hello, my name is Mohammad Al-Jamal. I am currently a second-year law student who has a plethora of experience in sustaining a committee and ensuring the sustenance of a democratic environment. In my first year, I received training from renowned law firms, and in 2015, sat with a circuit judge in my area's district. As a second-year student, I am the General Secretary of the Mooting Society, and the Campus Ambassador for Aspiring Solicitors. My promise to the student body is to fulfil my role within the Democratic Procedures Committee to the best of my ability and to bring forth new ideas that I believe the Democratic Procedures Committee can benefit from, in light of the recent events that have happened this year.

AN ACCELERATED CLAIMS PROCEDURE - Firstly, as a member of the Democratic Procedure committee, I will petition to bring in an accelerated claims procedure. This is inspired by my studies of the Civil Procedure Rules we have within the United Kingdom to administer justice. Claims that fall within criteria - such as its nature (confined whether to a body manifesting the SU and its bylaws, or to an external third-party contractor), its urgency (whether it is an ongoing issue or a one-off incident), and its impact (if the motion to change a bylaw has such change that discussing it at an earlier time would be beneficial) - with such system implemented, the Committee would not only be able to review claims that are motioned for but per my second suggestion, would also be able to resolve issues before a formal motion should arise.

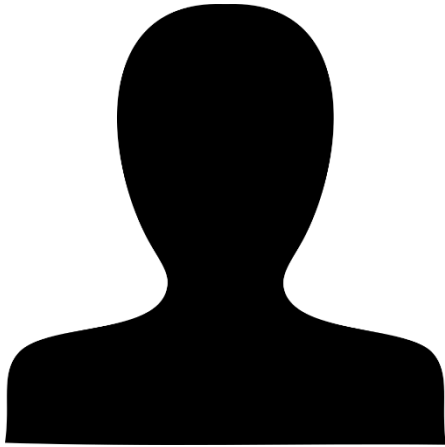
WE ARE HERE - Secondly, it is rather unfortunate for me to utter this, for we all know what has happened in the past few months regarding the motion to remove presidency and the inception of the Union Development Officer, following an executive decision. With respect to the DPC Chair, and all officers associated, what has been demonstrated is a total failure of communication. I petition to create an extricate chain of communication, with a review every month, between the organic bodies of the DPC, Elections Committee, and upon the suggestions of the Extraordinary Scrutiny Panel. This will also entail a campaign of awareness, advertising to our student-base our presence - that if any policy or bylaw is to be disputed against, then the DPC will take action and review the motion.

PRESENCE - Thirdly, as a matter of convenience, and to restore the confidence of our students within the democratic system of our governing principles - which had and shall always be free from an erring nature - we should move forwards to establish a presence within a University building.

Perhaps an office, with a box for suggestions of reform, or a room, such as an office for a titular society, would do us wonders. Our system of declaring motions through PDFs had proved systematically flawed - reviewing the submissions can prove to us that only those capable or experienced in a governmental-SU body petition for movements. Realistically, the DPC should be receiving more claims - and certainly not only exclusively from third and post-graduate students. Establishing an office presence would allow for motions to be filed by consultation. Inquiries would be received on day-to-day basis in order to fill up the agenda of the DPC. Though simplified PDFs have done amazingly well to better the submission of claims, the DPC should focus more on informal claims, for identifying the bylaws we must reform could be a secondary issue, while identifying the problem may be the primary. Insisting on students reviewing the bylaws, though generally advisable for understanding our organic body, might discourage many. Therefore, I petition to a system of simplified tolerance to claims revolving the general performance of democracy - undemocratic procedures should not be reported with the assistance of difficult identification of points of law, but through a flagging of the issue, for the DPC to deal, and investigate accordingly.

## **What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?**

I have a wide experience in scrutinising issues regarding bylaws, and contracts. I have trained intensively at a renowned international law firm - Baker McKenzie - and was responsible for regulating the compliance of contracts with legislative protocols, and ensuring bylaws of companies are compatible with mortgage agreements. I have much experience with the SU - being an Events Coordinator of Ancaster Hall in 2018/19, and General Secretary of the Mooting Society, along with my role as a Co-Chair of the Diversity Council. The DPC requires much dedication, and being involved in the SU so much already, I believe that it is time for my step forward. I also have witnessed the events that 2020 had for us in terms of the DPC, and the views of all officers involved. I have talked with Jacob Collier about issues with the DPC, and was able to identify weaknesses which I aimed to resolve in my manifesto. My dedication will also entail much time commitment to the DPC - my suggestions will certainly lead to an increase in reviews and motions - and this will require more meetings and commitment, and that commitment I will guarantee. Furthermore, I was able to talk with members of the previous 2018-2019 SU, such as Athena Postos who was the Chair of the Societies Council, and to learn invaluable information regarding the structure of the SU, and how we should make it more accessible.



## **Joanne Rees**

### **Main Manifesto**

If elected into this role I would like to ensure that motions submitted by students or officers that want to change, clarify or update the Students' Union's governing documents are done with the best interests of the student body. I will vote carefully on changes proposed to ensure that any modifications benefit all, and work to better the SU and make it more accessible to all.

### **What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?**

I have had a lot of experience working within the guidelines set out by the SU during my role as President of Swing Dance Society. As someone who reads through the guidance documents, has edited constitutions and enjoys learning more about how the SU runs - I have enthusiasm as well as experience for this role.



## Hamza Nouman

### Main Manifesto

1. Operate at a grass root level to understand the underlying concerns of our community. I will make myself accessible to hear any major or minor concerns of the Students' Union through vibrant in person and social media presence. I will push for resolutions of issues and escalate whenever necessary. I strive to create an environment where everyone feels that progress will be made and they will be heard.
  2. Increased Transparency & Accountability of the DPC. Whenever the SU community deems my vote or stance on an issue to be "controversial", I will volunteer to present myself in front of the Scrutiny Panel, whenever requested, to explain the rationale and thinking behind my vote. To widen the level of accountability, I will make myself available to the student community as well in the form of Union Committee sessions or book rooms for a Q/A, etc.
  3. Uphold the core values of the SU; Inclusion, Collaboration & Empowerment. Emphasize to the SU & the SU societies to keep these values at heart while planning to update or change the bylaws/constitution of a society or the SU, as I will be doing so while voting on proposals.
  4. Promote the Democratic Procedures Committee and its essential role in the Student Union.
  5. Bring experienced leadership that has the ability to deliver meaningful change and progress.
- Currently, I am the Treasurer of Rutland Hall and 1st Year Economics Course Rep. As a Course Rep, given the challenging transition from the sixth form to university level mathematics, I have pushed to set up a mathematics network to provide help to students outside lectures in the form of online videos, exam advice from past students, and a vibrant mathematical community, etc. Due to the unfortunate circumstances, currently, this platform is also being used to deliver tutorials and hold live question/answer sessions. In addition, I have lobbied for the change in lecture capture policy and Economics course hoodies during the Department LCFs, etc. These changes have been the fruition of rigorous discussions with the Economics department, amplifying my negotiation and legislative skills. As the Treasurer, from completing an event's form to claiming expenses, I am well familiar with the SU's functions, requirements, and code of conduct. During these roles, I have learned some key lessons such as empathy, commitment, empowerment, vision, and purpose, accountability and transparency. Undoubtedly, while such experiences are not a prerequisite for the



Democratic Procedures Committee, I am certain that my leadership roles will aid me.  
6. Lobby for employment or some form of payment for the SU part-time officers

## **What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?**

The Democratic Procedures Committee plays an instrumental role in shaping and governing the Students' Union. Given the profound influence of the Democratic Procedures Committee, I believe that the committee requires someone, like me, who has the desire and passion to make a difference and the ability, and the conviction to reach and hear the concerns of all segments of our community. Failure by definition means being unable to achieve a goal, aim or objective. However, failure can also incorporate the element of "learning" and if failure leads to learning then failure is rendered into an experience for the future. The process of learning is accentuated if someone is there to guide you through the failure. My philosophy is to act in a paternal role in our community in order to make meaningful progress and change. During my previous leadership experiences, I have made contact with people at the grass-root level, understanding the small intricacies that are tampering with their education and daily lives. My experiences have strengthened my conviction that the driving force behind progress is the knowledge at "ground zero". This is the platform I am running on, a hands-on approach that focuses on grass root levels to understand the underlying concerns of our community.



## Ira Noordermeer

### Main Manifesto

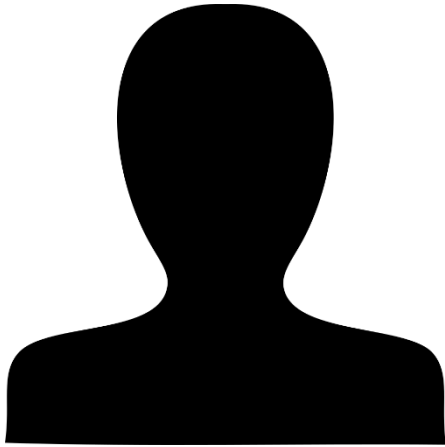
Hi, I'm Ira and I'm a first year English student. I want to be part of the Democratic Procedures Committee, because I want to help students make the change they want to see. The SU is such a big organisation that it might seem a bit daunting to, say, create a society and write its constitution or to add something to its bye-laws. That's why I want to be one of the people to help students with big ideas make them a reality. Nothing is as frustrating as having gone through a lot of trouble to make something happen and then seeing it happen in a way that's a lot different than what you were aiming for. This Committee will play a big part in making sure that no one needs to go through that, and so I want to help them. It's one thing to have the idea, but wording it in a way that unambiguously communicates what that idea is about can be quite hard, after all.

I'm really excited to help with all this if I get the chance. I want to be part of positive changes within the SU and all of the societies and student groups it supports. What better way to do this than as part of the Committee? Due to the skills I have developed in previous roles, I feel that I could really bring something to it. I have been course rep this year and I've also been part of the Student Experience Fund that's been set up by the school of English. This Fund funds ideas that can have a positive impact on the student experience of one or more English students. Through both of these channels I have seen many initiatives that students have come up with and it's left me wanting to do more to get ideas like those into the system. As an active member of the Nottingham New Theatre, I have also seen what initiatives can bring societies on a smaller scale. Furthermore, as someone whose native language isn't English, I spend my days thinking of translations and synonyms in order to get my thoughts across to everyone I talk to. This should come in handy when making sure that motions are clear and unambiguous.

In conclusion: Please vote for me and help me help you to make change.

## **What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?**

As course rep, Student Experience Fund panel member and member of a few societies, I have developed skills like time management, communication and self motivation. I'm always busy, so organisation is key. I talk to all kinds of people every day. This means I know how to speak (or write) in a clear way. I also know how to be a team player and discuss my thoughts, because these are important skills in meetings when other course reps and I are trying to explain certain feelings we've heard students express. Additionally, I'm quite thorough when checking the minutes of course rep meetings, for example. Therefore, reading motions and making sure they're clear and unambiguous isn't that far off what I'm already doing. I'm keen to learn more about ideas students have for the SU, societies and student groups and excited to help them with those. Consequently, I'm motivated to actually do the work that this position will bring. Furthermore, I'm used to thinking in translations and synonyms as a non-native English speaker. I think that should add a different and possibly helpful perspective on these motions, as they should be clear for everyone, so for non-native speakers as well.



## **Jessica Vassena**

### **Main Manifesto**

I am running to be part of the democratic procedures committee as I would like to become more involved and more knowledgeable with the decision making at the university. The Students' Union has a huge impact on student life in general through all the services they run and support and so I would like to have the opportunity to review the governing documents of the Students' Union. I would like to ensure that all documents such as bye laws are written clearly to ensure everyone understands the documents fully and prevent any misinterpretations. I would also like to promote the transparency of democratic procedures.

### **What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?**

I believe I am suitable for the role as I am already engaged in a vast range of student activities at the University and through this have shown my ability to work well in a team, both at work, in sport and in an academic environment. Through my engagement with the Students' Union I have gained an insight into the services offered as well as the campaigns running as well as a general knowledge on how to Students' Union functions and so I believe that I have a good foundation to work with. Furthermore, from being part of the Widening Participation Advisory Panel at the university I have the capability to represent the general student opinion objectively. This role has also given me experience in analyzing both qualitative and quantitative research and providing feedback on the findings. As a history undergraduate I am well written and have great communication skills as well as having a strong capability in research. Studying history has also enhanced my research skills and thus I am able to research efficiently, finding key information within large passages quickly. I am also keen to learn more about the democratic procedures at the university as I believe it is important to know how the university I attend runs. I am an enthusiastic and hard working person who is able to problem solve quickly to overcome difficult situations. I believe that my previous work experience as well as my extracurricular activities and interests make me a suitable candidate.



# Arielle Torres

## Main Manifesto

Dear Reader,

Thank you for taking the time to read this very sentence, just starting is a display of true courage and commitment! To make your life easier I have formatted my manifesto simply and logically to ensure the keys points are easy to pick out from the supporting text. My intention is to display my aptitude for working with formal documents, such as society constitutions and processes, by creating a similar document here.

Below is an outline of my background, experiences and intentions that I feel are relevant for the role of Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) member.

### 1. Background:

1.1. Completed an MEng in Mechanical Engineering at UoN (2015 - 2019).

1.2. Studying a PhD in Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing) at UoN (2019 - Present).

### 2. Relevant experiences:

2.1. Being President of a UoN Society (OPAD\*) for two consecutive years (2017-19) strengthened my ability to lead and communicate clearly whilst maintaining a high level of organisation and commitment to my peers.

2.1.1. Lead my committee to success by making OPAD an official SU Society in June 2019 so have up-to-date understanding of SU procedures/guidelines for Societies.

2.1.2. Worked hard to shape the structure of the society, recruit members and help members develop assistive device for a range of impairments since inception in 2016.

2.1.3. Regularly organised and delivered weekly design and development sessions for all ongoing projects throughout the academic year.

2.1.4. Contributed to the developments of Society documents/procedures including society's 1st Constitution, Health & Safety procedures and Project Development Timeline.

2.1.5. Chaired biweekly committee meetings during term-time, ensuring minutes and actions were completed and easily accessible.

2.2. As a PG Engineering Society committee member, I can appreciate the importance of inclusivity for all our members, which include both researchers and masters' students.

2.3. Have been successful in obtaining Development Funding from the SU for inclusive and engaging activities.

2.4. Contributed to the organisation of several events for our members including Gala Ball, Chicken Wings Challenge and Boardgames Night.

2.5. Involvement in multiple Sports Clubs and activities at UoN has developed a fundamental understanding of how communication, hard work and respect for your teammates/peers leads to success.

2.5.1. Participated in BUCS competitions for Rowing, Volleyball and Basketball.

2.5.2. Participated regularly in Squash Engage sessions and the Squash IMS League.

2.5.3. Volunteered in March 2019 to ensure BUCS Big Wednesday was a success for the University.

2.6. Paid employment throughout studies at UoN has strengthened my professionalism and attention to detail as well as my ability to stay organised and focused on my responsibilities.

2.6.1. Produced official court orders and judgements issued by barristers at Wandsworth County Court during a summer internship so am accustomed to working with formal court documents and wording.

2.6.2. Wrote role-specific processes for a local sports travel company so am familiar with how to format and word processes so they are easy to understand.

2.6.3. Have displayed my ability to take on roles of responsibility and communicate clearly to both prospective and current students, staff members and academics from a range of faculties through my experiences as an Open-Day Ambassador, Part-Time Receptionist at DRSV and Module Demonstrator for UG/PGT students.

### 3. Intentions:

3.1. Intend to take a holistic approach to all DPC discussions, ensuring I apply the intrinsic understanding and knowledge I have of the University as a whole and the Student Union, including the Societies and Sports Clubs.

3.2. I intend to take with me to DPC discussions my appreciation for the importance of maintaining an inclusive environment for all members involved in SU groups or activities.

3.3. I intend to utilise the relationships and connections that I have developed across a wide range of University departments over the last 5 years to aid in the development of SU Societies and student groups.

If you've made it this far, please bear with as I deliver one final, take-home message. As a result of my wide-ranging involvement and experiences as both an UG student and PG researcher at the University of Nottingham, I feel well-equipped for contributing to the important discussions surrounding the development of our SU student groups whilst keeping the good intentions and will of the students at heart. I strongly feel I could make positive contributions to Student Union documents, including processes, constitutions and procedures, during the 2020-21 academic year. Therefore, please take the time to vote for me in as your Democratic Procedures Committee member if you feel my skills and experiences suit the role.

\* Open-source Assistive Devices (OPAD) Society

## **What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?**

Please find below a summary of why I feel my skills and experiences qualify me for the role of a Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) member.

1. Have been an active student member of the University for five years where I have obtained a well-rounded University experience and, thus, a in-depth understanding of the University and its students.

1.1. Been involved in 4 sports clubs, 4 societies, 3 committees and several university-run events during my time as a student at UoN.

2. Able to take on a several responsibilities and commitments whilst maintaining the high level of organisation and hard work required to succeed in each of them.

2.1. Completed my MEng degree in Mechanical Engineering (4 yrs.) whilst participating in BUCS competitions (4 yrs.), running a society (2 yrs.) and working part-time (3 yrs.).

3. Have previous experience dealing with formal documents, such as courts orders/judgements and company processes, so have a fundamental understanding of how the document should be structured and worded.

3.1. Produced official court orders and judgements issued by barristers at Wandsworth County Court during a summer internship so am accustomed to working with formal court documents and wording.

3.2. Wrote role-specific processes for a local sports travel company so am familiar with how to format and word processes so they are easy to understand by anyone.

Ultimately, I will work hard within the DPC and ensure the job is done well using the experiences and skills I have obtained as a strong foundation for further development.



## **Adwait Ashok Khandelwal**

### **Main Manifesto**

I am standing for this position as I want you to have a great experience, and to show that your opinions count and I want to make your voices heard. I'm really enthusiastic about making this happen. I will ensure proper discussion and voting on matters submitted by students to the body and responsibly update the governing documents. I want the students to be proud of their university; it's only a short time and should be the best.

### **What do you think qualifies you for your chosen role?**

I have been a part of various student bodies in my 2 years at university, and I believe, I can use this experience to work for the students and help them.





## **Aaron Osher**

**No manifesto submitted**