

OXFORD UNION SOCIETY
ELECTIONS OF JUNIOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
TRINITY TERM 2022

LONG MANIFESTOS OF CANDIDATES

Published by

Chris Collins (Returning Officer, Corpus Christi College)

OXFORD
MMXXII

The Poll will be held on Friday, 10th June 2022, between 9.30am and 8.30pm. Members may vote in the Goodman Library, and should bring their Membership Card.

The Returning Officer has ensured to the best of their ability that all claims made in Manifestos are true; they advise, however, that Members acquaint themselves with the commonly used terms below in order that they are not misled. Members may wish to consider other similar words used as holding the same meanings and draw inferences from the fact that a Candidate has been unable to make the most substantial kinds of claims

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Stronger Claims:

Raised / Secured - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for the production or negotiation of a contractual arrangement, to claim to have raised/secured funds or partnerships.

Brought - the Candidate must prove that a speaker visited the Society as a direct result of their confirmation.

Confirmed - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for a speaker accepting an invitation to visit on a mutually agreed date, or the Candidate has drawn up an as yet unsigned contract, following agreement from involved parties on its contents, which is set to be signed in due course.

Organised - the Candidate must prove their primary control of an event's inception and development. Where primary control is shared comparably with another Member, co-organised shall be used.

Responsible for / Led / Ran - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for the content of claim.

Arranged - the Candidate must prove a substantial degree of control of an event's development, but not the contribution to inception that any organised claim requires

Negotiating - the Candidate must prove primary responsibility for an ongoing negotiation, clear interest in response to their proposition, and further progress from this towards a confirmed claim since then.

Weaker Claims:

Assisted / Helped to – modifiers used where there is sufficient proof that a Candidate contributed substantively, but insufficient to prove that they have the necessary level of contribution or control for the stronger claim.

Interest from – where there is insufficient evidence for a stronger negotiating claim, but there has been clear interest received to their specific invitation or proposition.

Invited / Contacted – proof has been provided that the Candidate had primary responsibility for the invitation.

Supervised / Oversaw / Co-ordinated – proof has been provided for a lower level of involvement in an event or project suitable for these claims.

Facilitated / Worked – proof has been provided that a candidate contributed significantly to an event, usually but not necessarily the logistics or hospitality.

Weaker claims will be used often in Manifestos even by good Candidates: usually only Candidates for Office will be able regularly to make “stronger claims”. The distinction is nonetheless worth making.

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Please contact the Returning Officer with any queries about the Election: ro@oxford-union.org.

Large-type and accessible versions of Election Literature are available on request from the Returning Officer, via ro@oxford-union.org.

Candidates for Secretary’s Committee no longer submit Long Manifestos. Their Short Manifestos may be inspected in the relevant booklet for Short Manifestos.

Candidates for Standing Committee

Members of the Society's governing body, to assist the Officers and plan social events

Michaelmas Term 2022

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Sami ADNAN (Secretary's Committee, Reuben College)

#BeReal

EXPERIENCE

- FIRST committee member from Reuben College!
- Facilitated EDUCATION PANEL
- Facilitated *ALI ABDAAL!*
- Delivered **RAJ DEBATE** paper speech

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Contributor: WHO Community Engagement Guidelines
- Reuben College Fund **WINNER**

PLEDGES

- Japanese Sake Tasting
- Panel on the post-Brexit era

I endorse all #BeReal pledges

--

Spencer SHIA (Standing Committee, Exeter College)

#NEW

CONFIRMED MORE SPEAKERS, **ARRANGED** MORE EVENTS, **WORKED** MORE VAC DAYS (30!)...THAN ANY OTHER STANDING CANDIDATE

Accomplished:

- **CONFIRMED** 10+ speakers: **Tiananmen Organizer**, U.S Secretary of Defence, CNN Chief International Correspondent
- **ARRANGED** NATO Debate
- **ARRANGED** Roe v. Wade Panel, Interfaith Roundtable
- **INTEREST** from U.S Ex-Secretary of State, Supreme Court Justice, Ex-CIA Director

Dedicated:

- **WORKED** 30+ Vac days
- **WINNING PAPER SPEECH:** Prison Debate

Vision:

- Future of American Democracy Panel
- Larger Bar Menu
- Halloween Party

I endorse all #NEW pledges

--

Hannah EDWARDS (Secretary's Committee, Lincoln College)

#NEW

ONLY Standing Candidate to:

- **COMPETITIVELY DEBATE** and represent Oxford debating internationally!
- **PRODUCE** popular *Union TikTok content*
- **COACH** Beginners' Debating – *members' outreach!*
- **WIN** debating Cuppers

Dedicated:

- **ORGANISED** and **RAN** a **SOCIAL**: *War of Words*
- **WORKED** 6 events and more vacation days than required
- **ARRANGED** Ball Entertainment
- **CONFIRMED** multiple speakers: Alistair Brownlee!
- **HELPED ARRANGE** Stormzy debate
- Secretary of Secretary's Committee

Vision:

- **Jingle Bells Party!**
- Feminism *head-to-head*
- **Debating Games Night**

I endorse all #New pledges

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Rosalie CHAPMAN (Press & Sponsorship Officer, Hertford College)

#BeReal

ONLY STANDING COMMITTEE CANDIDATE TO SERVE ON **ACCESS COMMITTEE**

DEDICATED:

- Organised **access** Social: *ex-Socioeconomic Officer*
- Worked **11+** vac days
- Helped arrange **2** debates
- Invited **Australian Ex-PM**
- *Facilitated* Socials: 2 pub quiz, 2 **Union Balls**, Garden Party

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- **Vice President-elect** 93% Club
- **Secretary** OxSID
- **VP Crankstart** Council
- **Class Act Officer** (SU)
- Senior Consultant OSG

VISION:

- **Eco-friendly** Union
- **Social Mobility Panel**
- Careers Fair

CHAMPION CHAPMAN!

--

Tom ELLIOTT (Secretary's Committee, *New College*)

#Real

Pledges

- A Union where trust, accountability and transparency come first.
- Senior Committee Reform.
- **2am** Bar Closing.
- **Political Corruption Panel**.

Dedicated

- Worked 14.5 Vac Days, **MORE** *than any junior committee member this term!*
- **Confirmed 6 Speakers:** Cath Kidston, Levi Roots.
- **Confirmed, Arranged, Hosted** UK-USA Ambassador.
- **Facilitated 12 events:** AJ, The Beast, Ball.
- Gave **Paper Speech** in Borders Debate at **20 Minutes Notice!**
- Secretary: Union's Largest Committee.
- Ex-Elected Member of Finance Committee. Scrutinised £1m+ budget.

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Kwabena OSEI (Secretary's Committee, *Corpus Christi College*)

#BeReal

DEDICATED

- Recipient of the **ISLA Academic Gift 2020**
- ***Events Officer of Oxford Law Society***
- BAME Officer for OULC
- Corpus Christi College Subject Ambassador
- *Student Rep for Academic Committee for History and Politics*

- **Contributed to** Equality Objectives Working Group
- *Organised* inter-college BME formal dinner
- **Interest from 'The Apprentice' contestant!**

VISION

- *'Meet the Committee' Event at start of MT*
- Oxford Union Open Day for sixth-form students
- *Careers Fair with Sponsors*
- **Oxmas Gala!**

I endorse all #BeReal pledges.

--

Joe MURRAY (Secretary's Committee, *Pembroke College*)

Committed:

- **Interest from 3 speakers** (SNAPCHAT CO-FOUNDER & TOP DIPLOMAT)
- *First Speaker* in *Monarchy* Debate
- Norton Rose Fulbright **Scholar**
- *Class Act Rep* for Pembroke
- To be PUBLISHED in *Union Magazine*
- *Worked* the Royal Ball / **4** speaker events/ **1** panel/ **2** debates/ **1** pub quiz
- **Geordie**
- **Care-leaver's** ADVOCATE

Perspective:

- *TIERED membership* - more **affordable**
- **Ticketed events for non-members** to RAISE FUNDS and INCREASE AUDIENCES
- BAN 'binning' of speakers
- **2 for 1 cocktails** – UNION HAPPY HOUR
- *Northerner Social*

DON'T WORRY, VOTE MURRAY

--

Lukas SEIFERT (Secretary's Committee, *Christ Church*)

#NEW

Dedicated:

- **WORKED** 21+ Vac days
- **FACILITATED 23 Events**, more than any other standing candidate!
- Ex-Secretary of Secretary's Committee
- Assistant Editor of Union Debate magazine

Accomplished:

- **CONFIRMED** Bear Grylls!
- **OVERSAW** whiskey tasting
- **DELIVERED** Pop Culture Paper Speech
- **RESPONSIBLE FOR** entertainment on Garden Party Committee
- *Sponsorship interest from law firm*

Vision:

- Union speakers address **mental health** *compilation video*: **INTERVIEWED** Stephen Fry
- **Mental health** panel
- Database to enhance sponsorship strategy
- Poetry night

I endorse all #NEW pledges.

--

Rosie JACOBS (Secretary's Committee, *St Anne's College*)

#NEW

Dedicated:

- **WORKED** 11 Vac Days
- **FACILITATED** Union Ball!

Accomplished:

- **CONFIRMED** 4 speakers
- Helped **CONFIRM** **ANTHONY JOSHUA!**
- **HELPED ARRANGE** Politicisation of Rap Debate
- **DELIVERED** Winning Paper Speech in Politicisation of Rap Debate
- **FACILITATED** 12 events

Vision:

- 'Girls' Night In' at the Union
- Empowering *Language in Rap* Panel
- **World Cup** Opening Watch Party
- **INTEREST FROM:** Major Record Label CEOs, BBC Radio DJ

I endorse all #NEW pledges.

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Candidates for Secretary

With responsibility for the term's social events and for minuting Standing Committee Meetings

Michaelmas Term 2022

--

Matthew DICK (Standing Committee, Magdalen College)

#NEW

Worked **MORE Vac Days**, confirmed **OVER THREE TIMES MORE speakers**, organised **MORE socials**, organised **MORE panels**, worked **MORE events**, served on **MORE Ball Committees**, fulfilled **MORE pledges**, helped arrange **MORE debates**, minuted **MORE committee meetings** than ANY OTHER Secretary Candidate

From watching the first debate of my first term, I felt lucky to find the Oxford Union. Being involved on committee has allowed me to debate in the chamber against celebrities such as Stephen Fry and Megan Barton-Hanson on topics that I feel strongly about, to organise panels on Holocaust Remembrance and Prison Reform, and to make friends with people who care about shaping these conversations as much as I do.

I believe that Union socials, which should promote an opportunity for members' self-expression, at times are failing to do so. I want to run for Secretary to change this situation. Having worked more vac days, worked more events and organised more socials than any other candidate, I am the right candidate to see reforms through and inspire the Junior committee by leading from the front. I have seen the sacrifices that committee members make and strive to reward them better.

I pledge to establish an Access Review for the Ball, install discounted non-drinking Ball tickets, and form a working group on tackling sexual assault at Union socials.

I hope that these measures will enable me to run the following events in a way which makes them more inclusive and allows members to get what they deserve out of the Union:

- Broadway Ball
- World Cup Viewing Parties
- Ceilidhs and Ballroom dancing in the Chamber
- Snooker Tournament!

I have served on the ball committee this term, organised and arranged socials like the Champions League Final Viewing Party and May Day Gala, and championed issues like discounted non-drinking Ball tickets in finance committee meetings. I am incredibly excited to be running for a position that will allow me to lead these elements of the society and create a #NEW Union.

I endorse all #NEW pledges

--

Alex GARCIA (Standing Committee, Balliol College)

Since year 6, I have been involved in organisations which resemble the Oxford Union from School Student Council to MUN. I was even interviewed as a student panelist at an event at the United Nations. I grew up in the US, but became aware of the Union, its history and its ideas when I was still in high school.

After arriving here in Michaelmas this academic year, I unexpectedly found myself wrapped up in an election for the Secretary's Committee. To my own surprise, I won and was thrust into this amazing organisation. I do not regret this for one moment. I have written questions for amazing speakers, passed a rules change for a committee I am passionate about, created and led exciting events, and begun to leave my own mark on this amazing society.

I feel passionately that I am ready to do much more. I believe my experience both before and on the Union's committee makes me the most qualified person for the role of secretary. I have managed more events, attended more meetings of the finance committee, and passed more budgets than any other secretary candidate. I am also an events photographer and I have worked previously in the restaurant industry. I am excited at the prospect of having more say in the fantastic event this society puts on. Among my many ideas are a Halloween themed ball, an Oktoberfest social, and given my background and interest in Latin American history, a panel on pan american cooperation.

The Union has recently made huge strides towards inclusivity and diversity. I want to continue these existing trends and firmly believe that I am in the best position to do so out of all secretary candidates.

QUALIFIED

- Can *write in cursive* lol
- Freelance **Events Photographer!**
- Started a business at 15!

DEDICATED

- **Restructured** and *formalised* a committee through RULES CHANGE
- Added a THIRD *pub quiz* by popular demand
- Joined committee IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VAC to begin work after a resignation

VISION

- HALLOWEEN ball
- *Oktoberfest social*
- **Pan-American Cooperation PANEL**

I support all the pledges of **#BeReal**

Candidates for Treasurer

with responsibility for the raising of sponsorship and for buildings maintenance

Hilary Term 2023

--

Sharon CHAU (Ex-Chair of Consultative Committee, *University College*)

#NEW

WORKED MORE VAC DAYS, MORE COMMITTEE TERMS, CONFIRMED MORE SPEAKERS, FACILITATED MORE FUNDRAISING THAN ANY OTHER TREASURER CANDIDATE

DEDICATED:

- **SERVED** 5 terms on Committee
- **WORKED** Required Vac Days
- **FACILITATED EVERY SPEAKER EVENT HT22**

ACCOMPLISHED:

- **DELIVERED** *winning speech* - **Porn** debate!
- **FACILITATED** £431,000+ Membership Drive
- **RAN** *Women's Debating Workshop*
- **COACHED** Oxford Debate Squads
- **HELPED ARRANGE** Chinese Wine-Tasting

VISION:

- **Anti-spiking** measures
- **Tiered access membership**
- **SEX & PORN** Panel
- *China & East Asia* debate
- **Discounts** - PRET, Knoops
- Courtyard ***Street Food Festival***
- **ESL** Debating Workshop

I've always loved debating, which drew me to the Union when I first came to Oxford. Speaking Cantonese at home and school, debating in my second language was initially daunting - it was great coaches and YouTube Union debates which allowed me the honour as Captain of the Hong Kong national debating team. However, I was acutely aware of the sexism in debating: at school, I ran a women's-only debating competition, and here at the Union, I run Women's Debating/Public Speaking workshops. In running for Treasurer, a position which has been traditionally male, I hope to ensure that there isn't a patriarchal culture.

Having worked at the Union for five terms, as seccie, Press Officer, Director of Press, and Chair of the Consultative Committee, I've spent countless days in the Union buildings and experienced firsthand the behind-the-scenes work for all our events. As CCC, I was in charge of contacting all speakers; Zizek's call during my tute, because he didn't know how to use Zoom, was definitely a highlight. Another memorable moment was helping arrange the Chinese wine-tasting event, talking about Chinese culture and politics with the guest, and having leftover wine after a night of serving. I

also loved speaking in Opposition in the Pornography debate and was applauded for shutting down a rowdy POI.

I hope these experiences allow me to serve as your Treasurer, allowing me to fulfill my vision of a more inclusive Union. I believe women should be seen and heard.

I endorse all #NEW Pledges.

--

Israr KHAN (Standing Committee, Regent's Park College)

#BeReal

DEDICATED:

- **Confirmed a Prime Minister, Multi Millionaire, and Supreme Court Justice.**
- Led the initiative of organising a **War Crime Panel**
- Run a Summer Programme of around **100 Students**
- **Delegate to the Finance Committee**
- **Delivered 2 winning Paper Speech**

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Brought **Rules Change for Members Paper Speeches**
- Passed Standing Order for **Investment Working Group for Union's Finances**
- **Pro-bono** legal worker
- **Organised Union Graduate social**
- **Co-organised Union International social**
- **Ex-President** of Student Parliament
- **Vice-President** Regents MCR; **Ex-Vice-President** Pak-Soc

PLEDGES:

- Diversify the Union's finances
- Function the the Investment Working Group

Khan't go wrong with Israr

Candidates for Librarian

with responsibility for the Library and for arranging individual speaker addresses

Hilary Term 2023

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Mekaeel MALIK (Pembroke College)

#BeReal

Served Positions:

- **Academics affairs officer MBA, SBS**
- **Chief Operating Officer, Weaverbird Group**
- **Associate, JP Morgan**
- **BEng Engineering, *Warwick University***

Pledges:

- **Greater ACCESS for members to guest speakers**
- **Debate training weekends**
- **Paperless events**

I endorse all #BeReal pledges

--

Disha HEGDE (Standing Committee, St John's College)

#NEW

ATTENDED MORE LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PASSED MORE STANDING ORDER CHANGES, PASSED MORE BOOK LISTS THAN ANY OTHER LIBRARIAN CANDIDATE

Serving as the **only** female Elected Member of Standing Committee, I've seen both the power of the Union to platform important conversations and its failure to protect the women that serve it. Thus, I want to set up a women's safety and wellbeing working group. Next year is the **sixtieth anniversary** of women becoming members of the Oxford Union. While we've come some way, my two terms on committee have proven to me that we still have an **incredibly long way to go**. I aspire to make the Union's reporting mechanisms around sexual violence and bullying more **accessible** and introduce compulsory sexual violence and anti-bullying training.

I believe I'm best placed to do this: as **co-chair** of the Women*s Campaign for this university, **trustee** of a leading young people's mental health charity, **treasurer** of my college's FEMsoc, and a **campaigner** against child marriage - which took me to the Houses of Parliament to challenge MPs on the UK government's role in tackling this.

Inspired by period poverty activist, Amika George, who I confirmed last term, I **passed** a long overdue standing order change that requires the Union to provide free sanitary products in all of its bathrooms. Recently, I **passed a budget** to ensure this provision is actually met. This is what the Union should be about: hosting speakers and discussions that actively have impact. Whether providing an opportunity for us to question and hold leaders to account, or inspiring us to make changes - which is what I did when confirming Ai Weiwei and Stansted activist Ben Smoke.

As the **only** Librarian-Elect candidate to be a member of Library Committee, I championed improvements in the cultural diversity of the Society's collections. I was able to make a floor speech on the Colonial Repatriation Debate in front of Stephen Fry, but as a South Asian member of this Society, **I believe we must take active steps in dismantling the Union's colonial legacy,** starting with reviewing the pictures displayed in the Morris room.

Candidates for President

with overall responsibility for the Society and for arranging its debates

Hilary Term 2023

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Anvee BHUTANI (Secretary, Magdalen College)

#BeReal

CHAired MORE UNION COMMITTEES, WORKED MORE VAC DAYS this term, CONVENEED MORE DEBATING REGIONAL ROUNDS, ORGANISED MORE SOCIALS, SPEARHEADING MORE PARTNERSHIPS, FACILITATED MORE FUNDRAISING - THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE!

ONLY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TO HAVE:

- DELIVERED ON ALL PLEDGES
- FULFILLED OFFICER VACATION DAY REQUIREMENTS
- ORGANISED A BALL AND GARDEN PARTY
- SERVED ON ACCESS COMMITTEE

DEDICATED

- FACILITATED ALL SOCIALS THIS TERM: DRAG SHOW, WORLD FOOD FESTIVAL, 3 PUB QUIZZES, 2 WHISKY TASTING, TEA TASTING, CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WATCHPARTY
- INTERVIEWED NOAM CHOMSKY, PETER SINGER AC, TIANANMEN SQUARE ACTIVIST
- CONFIRMED BLM CO-FOUNDER, JEB BUSH, STEVE AOKI
- FACILITATED £700k+ in membership drives
- Worked TWO Access Events - LGBTQ+, Graduates
- ORGANISED FIRST FASHION SHOW IN UNION'S HISTORY
- Introduced COMMITTEE SOCIAL ACTION - partnership with Turl Street Homelessness Action!

ACCOMPLISHED

- Co-RAISED £50k+ for COVID-19 Relief
- Arranged **LARGE + AFFORDABLE Cultural Ball** (HinduSoc Diwali Ball)
- Work reported in **Guardian, Times, Independent**

VISION

- Give ACCESS COMMITTEE a VOTING REPRESENTATIVE on the GOVERNING BODY
- **LONG TERM FINANCIAL INVESTMENT**

I've been debating since the age of 15. Living across the pond in America, I stumbled upon the Oxford Union on YouTube channel when trying to prepare arguments for a tournament and since then have watched nearly every debate. The debate I frequently return to is 'This House Regrets the Partition of India' because my personal family history is interwoven into the narratives retold in that debate. My grandparents were Partition refugees who made the arduous journey across the border amidst the utmost religious violence in the region. Hearing these oral histories retold in such a

historic debating chamber and having that reported on across Indian newspapers showed me the ability the Union has to platform conversations that have a deep impact on people's lives.

The fate of the Union rests on its leadership and I'd like to see the Union platform more contemporary revolutionaries. My first term on Oxford Union committee was in TT20 where, at the height of the global Black Lives Matter movement, I confirmed BLM co-founder Opal Tometi to come speak at the Union. Since then I have confirmed speakers in a variety of fields from politicians like Jeb Bush to musicians like Steve Aoki.

I also care deeply about members getting more value for money. I have worked two membership drives which raised over £700k for the Union, supported a proposal to create an Investment Strategy Working Group and champion the removal of nomination fees for election to improve access to Union leadership positions.

The Union needs better leadership and it needs it now.

Let's work together to #BeReal the members at the Union.

--

Charlie MACKINTOSH (Librarian, New College)

#NEW

CONFIRMED MORE SPEAKERS, WORKED MORE VAC DAYS, ORGANISED MORE DEBATES, ORGANISED MORE PANELS, COMPETITIVELY DEBATED MORE, INTERVIEWED MORE SPEAKERS, & SERVED MORE TERMS ON GOVERNING BODY THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

I do not think that it is an exaggeration to say that the Union has defined my time at Oxford. I've served on committees for five of my six terms in Oxford, sat on the governing body for three terms, spent countless hours in meetings and over 75 vacation days working. As such, I've had the following realisations:

First, I love it. It's a place where I've forged important relationships and had unforgettable experiences, from organising a panel on Ukraine and arranging a sponsored Wine & Cheese night to confirming Slavoj Žižek.

Secondly, it's not perfect. It has flaws that need to be addressed through long-term planning.

Thirdly, this year, we should properly celebrate the Union's past 200 years.

2023 marks the bicentenary of the Oxford Union, 60 years of women members, 115 years since the first woman addressed the chamber, and 90 years since the famous 'King and Country' Debate. Each occasion provide us with a chance to look forwards, as well as back:

The Bicentenary reconnects us with generations of members. This term, I provided public representation of the changing nature of the Union, through securing displays of the last decade of Committee photographs, and arranged two alumni Members' Debates to offer new opportunities to alumni. I would use the bicentenary to fundraise for change, like the overdue installation of a lift.

The anniversaries of the admission of women and Millicent Fawcett's address remind us that the Society has progressed. There remain plenty of issues to challenge. This term, we hosted Peter Singer and the interviewer asked no questions about his belief that we should euthanise disabled

fœtuses. This is not good enough. Watching over 25 speakers that I confirmed, including ex-Prime Ministers, three Olympians, an ex-Foreign Secretary, a billionaire, and a philosopher, not be sufficiently challenged has been disappointing. I pledge Members' question submissions to hold speakers to account.

Finally, the 'King and Country' Debate reminds us of the original aim of the Society: debating. I've strived to make the Union a space for meaningful debate by organising a debate on Scotland and arranging two members-only debates, arranging debates on Repatriation and Class, and helped arrange a debate on US Leadership. Members' debates should be termly, we should produce an online 'guide to debating' and establish debating scholarships for underprivileged members.

Next year confronts these anniversaries. It demonstrates the rich history of the Union and the need to celebrate it with a Bicentenary Commemoration Ball. But it also demonstrates the need to provide better services to the members: good speakers interviewed with excellent questions; contested debates with impassioned student involvement; and long-term approaches to change that works at a cultural, not political, level. Vote for such a future. Vote to celebrate the Union and vote to create a #NEW Union.

I endorse all #NEW pledges.