

Hi All! My name is Zoe, and I’m a PhD student in English. As someone who has been a student at the University since 2012, I have seen the University and SU grow from strength to strength, and I am keen to help where I can in the development and growth of the Student’s Union, to provide an excellent, thriving community for myself and you.

Since 2013, I have been involved in the SU, as a Course Rep, Faculty Rep, and a Non-Portfolio Councillor – having acted in this role for the last year. I currently act as the Chair of Student Council – a role I have been elected into for the last couple of years. I therefore have a demonstrable interest in student politics and have a proven track record of acting in a responsible and democratic way.

Whilst being on the Student Council as Chair has been rewarding and exciting, I would now like to apply my skills in the role of Postgraduate Student Trustee. I am reliable, organised and supportive of my peers, which is why I think I would be excellent in this role. I am also aware that in this role, I would need to help safeguard the good name, culture and ethos of the Union, and again, am well placed to do this, as I have a fantastic understanding about what the SU does well, and what could be improved.

As a Student Trustee, if there are actions or events that negatively impact the student experience, I want to ensure that these are accounted for.

Furthermore, I wanted to ensure that students are supported and encouraged in their roles - even as PhD student I can still remember how nervous I was when I first started at Student Council in my second year of my BA!

Lastly, I am aware that as a Student Trustee, my first responsibility is putting my fellow students above my own opinions, or indeed, what might be better for the SU, and I believe my manifesto points below exemplify this.

My manifesto points are as follows:

1. Ensure that papers brought to the Board of Trustees are handled appropriately to ensure that students' best interests are considered

2. To ensure the actions of the SU uphold its values to be caring, inspiring, united, student owned, respectful, bold and relevant.

3. To help foster a supportive environment at Trustee level to ensure student members feel supported and can ask for advice where needed.

Areas of Interest:

1. Supporting fellow students and board members by being accessible and responsive to any questions/ problems that are presented to me.

2. To be a ‘problem solver’ – I feel I have done my best where I am presented with a problem and am able to help or solve it.

3. To increase awareness of the SU, and the benefits of being engaged with it within the Postgraduate community.

Thank you for taking my manifesto into consideration

Zoe