

Candidate Question Time - NUS Delegate & School Rep

Kate Roberts 03:03

Hi everyone, welcome to our first night of Candidate Question Time. My name is Kate Roberts your current President. My pronouns are she/her, and I will be hosting tonight and across the week.

Kate Roberts 03:14

I'm joined by Phill Dowler, our Democracy Coordinator, he will be supporting me on the tech tonight.

Kate Roberts 03:19

We're currently live on zoom and Facebook and we'll be recording this evening to be uploaded to YouTube.

Kate Roberts 03:25

Tonight we're going to hear from candidates running for the positions of NUS delegate and school reps.

Kate Roberts 03:30

There will be short breaks between each of the roles to allow time to change over our candidates. But first we're just going to take a moment to run through how the evening will work.

Kate Roberts 03:40

In each segment, candidates will take it in turns to start off with an opening statement. Once each candidate has made their statement we'll move on to questions. Questions were pre submitted by students over the last few weeks and each question will be asked to all candidates of that role and candidates will have a set period of time to respond. Time will start once candidate starts speaking and will be indicated on screen via a traffic light system viewable to candidates. If candidates continue to speak beyond reason after the time has ended, the candidate will be muted.

Kate Roberts 04:12

Now with that I would like to welcome candidates for the role of n us delegates. We are joined today by Milo Dack, Maciej Pawlik and Henn Warwick. I would also like to note that Toby Bates is also standing for this role, but unfortunately couldn't be here tonight.

Kate Roberts 04:35

So thank you so much for joining us. We're going to move right into the opening statements in alphabetical order by surname. So you have a minute and a half to make your opening statement, and time will begin once you start. So we're going to be starting with Milo Dack as we're going in alphabetical order. So Milo as soon as you're ready, you can start with your opening statement.

Milo Dack 05:00

Hello, everyone, my name is Milo Dack, and I am going to be one of your NUS delegates in this year's conference. The NUS have been spearheading a campaign this last 12 months called, Students Deserve Better. And it's about looking at what students need and how they've been let down by the institutions that should be educating them, universities, the colleges, the higher education institutions. And one fundamental aspect of this has been mental health support, because we go through a pandemic, unprecedented situation, to disruption to our education, to our learning, and we haven't really had that support that we need. And if you know anything about me, you'll know that I've been spearheading Mentality, which is Royal Holloway's own mental health society. And through that, I've been advocating with the Students Union and the university to have better mental health awareness, resources and support for students suffering with their mental health. But this conversation can't just come at a one university level amongst the other institutions like across the UK, it needs to come at a national level. And that's why I'm standing for NUS because students do deserve better. They really deserve better mental health support. And this must come from national voice, which only happens at NUS. And so I really hope that you'll support me as I want us to make real change a real difference and make mental health a priority for the NUS. And Royal Holloway and the nation. Thank you.

Kate Roberts 06:34

Thank you so much my name, we're going to move on to our next candidate. So Maciej Pawlik over to you.

Maciej Pawlik 06:44

Hey guys, my name is Maciej . And I want to be an NUS delegate because things need to change. I have ran Pokemon society, I have been involved in volunteering and in various student engagement projects. I've cried with students, and I have partied with students. And I've loved every moment of it. But things are not how they should be. And that's not students fault. I'm standing on a platform of pro sustainability and pro financial aid for students, and anti harassment and anti senior management salaries. To check out my campaign, go to Green_MP on Instagram, and enjoy my funny videos. If you elect me as an NUS delegate, you will elect a hurricane to the NUS conference. I'm a Polish guy, I'm stubborn, and I'm not going to stop until the job is done. Elect me as an NUS delegate, vote Maciej and Maciej yourself. Thank you.

Kate Roberts 07:44

Thank you so much. We're going to move on to our last candidate this evening, which is Henn Warwick.

Henn Warwick 07:54

Hi everyone, my name is Henn and I'm running for the role of NUS delegate because I want to represent the best interests of all Royal Holloway students at a national level. I am the current Vice President of Wellbeing and Diversity but before taking on this role, I studied law and was a committee member of the Law Society and the cheerleading club. As a student I worked for the Halls Life team as a Halls Life Assistant, and as well as the disability and dyslexia team service as a student support worker who supported students registered with DDS to transition into university life. So on to my Manifesto, which is broken into four key areas, COVID-19 recovery, mental health, transgender and gender nonconforming support and decolonization. Worldwide, we have spent a long time fighting and

crashing down on the virus and it's now time to move our thinking forward to a non lockdown world. The NUS Students Deserve Better campaign forced the government to hear the voices of students who had previously been ignored. I hope to see more financial support available to students who have suffered financial difficulties and hardship. Mental health - whether a student has an existing mental health problem or has just started to find things difficult, the pandemic has put a huge extra strain on individuals. Mental health and wellbeing support for students is non negotiable. And this issue is for sure not isolated to Royal Holloway. I have a very great and detailed understanding of how the support mechanisms within universities function and want students to have better access to mental health support, and I will vote in favour of funding more allocation for mental health. Transgender and gender nonconforming support - through my work as the VP Wellbeing and Diversity I have seen firsthand the lack of understanding with regard to the LGBT+ community but notably to trans and gender nonconforming students. I feel this is a nationwide issue that requires centralised work coming from the inside out. Students should not be expected to educate those around them and be subjected to micro aggressions such as dead naming while studying for a university degree. These issues need to be raised and addressed nationally to ensure that LGBT plus students are able to enjoy a positive university experience. And finally decolonization. The COVID-19 crisis has been created by the same system that created a colonised and racist world. The BAME attainment gap means that 20% of students are.

Henn Warwick 10:15

Sorry do I have to stop?

Kate Roberts 10:16

Yeah, sorry, Henn. You're out of time.

Kate Roberts 10:17

Thank you. So thank you so much for all of your opening statements, everyone. We're now going to move on to questions where you'll have two to answer, so you have a minute and a half to answer each question. The first question is, what is the number one topic facing students in higher education at this time, which you would like to talk about at conference? For this question, we're going to start with Henn. If you're ready Henn, the time we'll start when you start speaking.

Henn Warwick 10:17

Sorry!

Henn Warwick 10:49

Thanks Kate, I think the top issue that I would like to raise that conference is surrounding mental health and the lack of resources that are allocated to mental health. And for example, the funding that is given from the government to universities to support students. So I would personally like to see mental health as a top priority.

Kate Roberts 11:09

Thanks, Henn. And next, we're going to hear from Maciej.

Maciej Pawlik 11:16

I think the number one issue that I want to raise at the conference, is the way that students are treated by the government, and what resources were actually given to manage difficult situations like this, you know, COVID, has been a difficult situation for all of us. And something that it has highlighted is that there is very little support for students, I find it a disgrace that students have been treated like scapegoats during this pandemic, and there needs to be justice for them. So if I'm elected as NUS delegate, I will go there to the conference and raise that issue. And if they say no and they say that this isn't as important as other issues, then I want to question the relevance of the NUS. Because at the end of the day, students are suffering and things need to be done to prevent this in the future.

Kate Roberts 12:07

Thank you so much. And now we're going to move on to Milo.

Milo Dack 12:12

Echoing Henn Warwick. I also agree that mental health is one of the top priorities for NUS because mental health impacts every student at any point, you don't always have to have a certain racial or upbringing economic upbringing, it can affect anyone at any point. And ultimately, it's just, it's probably isn't talked about enough, the stigma still remains and students go through their suffering. And I believe that, the NUS have the power and the resource and influence to make a real difference to students who are suffering and universities who don't, or can't have the resources available for students. And so yeah, that's what I really want to make NUS aware of and make it conversation.

Kate Roberts 12:56

Fantastic. Thank you, everyone. So moving on to our second and final question, again, you have a minute and a half to respond. How would you ensure you represent Royal Holloway students at national level. So first, we're going to hear from Milo.

Milo Dack 13:15

If elected, what I do is I would reach out to different student groups and different academic societies and different schools. And I want to sit down with all the students to see what issues impact them the most and particularly onset of mental health, and how they want to see mental health support and resources changed at University. Obviously this is the ticket I've been running on, and this is what I'm passionate about. And I'm sure there are other students who feel the same way. And I'm really hoping that I will represent students best by giving them the voice and seeing what changes they particularly want to see at the university level and national level.

Kate Roberts 13:54

Thank you, Milo, we're now going to move on to Maciej.

Maciej Pawlik 14:00

Something that I would do is I would do everything in my power to work with everyone at NUS and in the Students' Union at Royal Holloway to quash harassment at university. Because at the end of the day, the reason why student view are not heard, is because some people feel that they are, they're not comfortable coming out with how they feel because there are individuals at the university who don't

treat others appropriately, we have a very slow disciplinary proceeding. And at the end of the day, nothing is going to change until a bad behaviour is, you know, taken away. So that's what I want to do. I want to be transparent with students, I want to say to students, you know, this is what's going on with the NUS This is what's going on at university, let's change that. And until that change happens, certain people will not feel comfortable, you know, talking about their views. So that's what I wanted to do.

Kate Roberts 14:51

thank you and we will now move on to our last candidate Henn.

Henn Warwick 14:58

in terms of how I would amplifying raised voices, I would firstly reach out to all student leaders such as the academic rep system, the student collective conveners, and of course clubs and societies. And this way I would be able to understand the overall opinion of the student body and find out what they want lobbied for, essentially. And I think the main and most important thing that I would do is listen, and then raise the voices that I hear.

Kate Roberts 15:27

Thank you. And thank you everyone for your answers. So that actually wraps up this section of the evening for the role of NUS delegates. So thank you to all of the candidates for joining us this evening. We're now going to have a short interlude while we prepare for the next section, where we will hear from candidates for the school rep positions.

15:46

[Interlude]

Kate Roberts 17:13

Welcome back to the next session of Candidate Question Time, I would like to welcome candidates for the role of school rep for the School of Business and Management. We are joined by Katie Phillips. And I would also like to note that Toby Bates is also standing for this role. But as I mentioned earlier, unfortunately couldn't be here this evening.

Kate Roberts 17:35

As before, we'll start with opening statements in alphabetical order, although there's only one candidate, before moving into rounds of questions. With that, we will move into the questions and you'll have, oh sorry. With that, we'll move into the opening statement. And you'll have a minute and a half. And we're going to start with Katie.

Katie Phillips 17:53

Hey, everyone. So my name is Katie. And for those of you that don't know me, I am in the management school. I'm often found in the library, sort of a cup of coffee, mulling over business notes. My experience, I sit on the board of directors for a sports organisation. So I'm pretty prone to sitting in meetings and negotiating my way of what I'd like to put into change. I have been a project lead manager before. So again, I'm really known for negotiating with different people from different hierarchies across different internationally, nationally, we're putting things in place. I'm really passionate

for helping students. I'm often found helping students with exam prep, essays, assignments, anything like that. And I really want to see some change across the business school for the better. Good. Thanks, Kate.

Kate Roberts 18:40

Thank you very much for your opening statement. We're now going to move on to questions where you will have two to answer you will have two minutes to answer each question. Your first question is, what was the biggest challenge facing students in your school over the last year? And what would you do in the role to combat that?

Katie Phillips 19:01

The biggest challenge we've definitely faced this year is organisation it's been a really uncertain time for everybody, both lecturers, students, even the departments right down to the Students' Union. And the biggest thing we have struggled with is organisation. Across the board on Moodle, it's been really hard for students to find information, such as when exams are, assignments, what's in them, even just finding out from week to week, what's meant to be in each, like prep workshop prep. So that is something that I'm really keen to work on and work with lecturers to provide a standard system where it's really easy for students just to be able to find where exams, assignments and just each workshop practice for it also helps lecturers in terms of reducing the amount of emails they're getting from students that can't find info.

Kate Roberts 19:48

Fantastic. Thank you so much, Katie. So moving on to our second question. Again, you have two minutes to respond. In your school what one change over the last year has benefited students the most, that you'd like to see kept for the future of education.

Katie Phillips 20:04

Most definitely communication and communication between students and lecturers in the business school has drastically improved over the last year. with massive thanks to Toby for his hard work with that, I'd really like to see that improved, because at the end of the day, if the lecturers don't understand what the students need and require, then how are they meant to help adapt that for our future and obviously to go hand in hand together. So communication is a strong point that was part of one of my manifestos where student voices should be heard. And they have been heard, but they need to continue to be heard. And I'm really keen to keep pushing that. So thank you once again, obviously to Toby before his previous work with that.

Kate Roberts 20:41

Brilliant, thank you so much for your answers. So that wraps up this section of the evening for the role of School rep for the school of Business and Management. So thank you for joining us tonight.

Kate Roberts 20:50

We're now going to have another short interlude while we prepare for the next section, where we will hear from candidates for the school rep position for the school of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences.

21:18

[Interlude]

Kate Roberts 21:49

Welcome back to the next section of candidate question time, I would like to welcome candidates for the role of school rep for the Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences. We are joined by Joshua Yewman. As before, we will start with opening statements before moving into rounds of questions. With that, we will now move into your opening statement. You have a minute and a half and the time will begin once you start.

Kate Roberts 22:37

Joshua, I'm really sorry, but we can't hear you. And I don't think it's because you're not on mute. So I'm not sure what's going on with your technical issues there.

Kate Roberts 22:52

No, it's okay. Do you want to go and try and work out how to fix that and we'll move on to the next school rep position and hopefully come back to you later if that gets sorted. So thank you so much. We'll just put the interlude thing back up again while we get the next candidates ready. Thank you, Joshua.

23:13

[Interlude]

Kate Roberts 24:29

Welcome back to the next section of candidate question time. We're going to move on to candidates for the role of school rep for the school of Humanities, while we wait to see if Joshua can fix his technical difficulties. If the school reps are able to join the call, that would be fantastic.

Kate Roberts 25:02

So we're supposed to be joined by Ananya. Krishna and Katie Upton. If you are able to turn your cameras on, that would be fantastic. Brilliant. Thanks both. So as before, we'll start with opening statements in alphabetical order before moving into rounds of questions. So with that, we'll move into the opening statements. You have a minute and a half. And we're going to start with Ananya.

Ananya Krishna 25:26

Um, yeah, Hi, I'm Ananya. I'm a second year history student. And for the past year, I've been a course rep. And this experience has highlighted to me personally how students within the humanities department have felt unheard and limited within their degrees. And this is the main reason why I nominate myself for this position. So my manifesto highlights my key points, which are creating more opportunities within the school making reps more accessible, encouraging more intra department exchange and promoting study and other supports. The aim of this is that I want to start offering opportunities that would create an environment where students can effectively learn, ask for help, feel

safe, debate and broaden their horizons. These may seem like small steps, but I hope they're enduring both in school and its students. And if this sounds as exciting, as I hope it does, and please vote for me.

Kate Roberts 26:24

Thank you and Ananya, and with that, we're going to move on to the next candidate, which is Katie.

Katie Upton 26:31

introduce myself, I'm Katie Upton, a BA Liberal Arts student. This academic year, I've been a course rep where I've got to know many people within the School of Humanities. I am passionate about representing the needs of students and I strongly believe that I have the courage and determination to make the necessary changes, as outlined in my Manifesto. The role of school rep is a position that would allow me to do what I love most, making positive changes to our educational environment. If you vote for me, then you'll be voting for someone who's proactive and eager to get to work. I want to unite our school and give students the opportunity to feel comfortable voicing their opinions.

Kate Roberts 27:08

Thank you, Katie. And thank you both so much for your opening statements. We're now going to move on to questions where you'll have two answer, so you'll have two minutes to answer each question. Your first question is, what was the biggest challenge facing students in your school over the last year? And what would you do in the role to combat that? We're going to start this time with Katie

Katie Upton 27:30

Coronavirus highlighted a lack of communication through hybrid learning, I aim to create an open dialogue between all members of the school to provide a safe space to talk about any concerns. In order to achieve this I propose the idea of a coffee morning perhaps on a monthly basis run by myself, to connect with students and staff. Coronavirus, has highlighted areas of improvement and communicating and coming together is one of them.

Kate Roberts 27:56

Thanks, Katie. We'll now move on to our next candidate Ananya.

Ananya Krishna 28:01

Um, yeah, I agree with Katie, I think that the main challenge that students have been facing this last year is not being heard. Personally, I know a lot of students have been having issues applying for extensions, accessing resources and difficulty and been facing difficulties with online learning. My solution is making reps more accessible. And I plan on doing this by holding office hours in multitude to lecturers as well as engaging in dialogue with reps on a more regular basis outside of SSC meetings.

Kate Roberts 28:32

Thank you. So moving on to our second question. Again, you have two minutes to respond. And your school what one change over the last year has benefited students the most that you'd like to see kept for the future of education. So this time, we're going to start with Ananya.

Ananya Krishna 28:50

I think the one change that has really benefited the school is the use of pre recorded material, I think it'll be very useful going on into the future. Because if you think about it, if a student misses class, because they're ill or even just for revision for an exam, the resources are there, they haven't missed out on the class, it's all there, they can take notes, they don't have to go through the hassle of asking people for your notes, and it's just makes it a lot more accessible.

Kate Roberts 29:19

Thank you so much. We'll now move on to our next candidate Katie.

Katie Upton 29:25

The increased awareness of diversity and inclusivity. Over the past few years Royal Holloway have been striving to become more inclusive and diverse. That's the same for our school. I would like to introduce an annual diversity review to aid this progress, to open discussions about how can we, how we can make the school more inclusive, students feedback should be at the heart of everything we do.

Kate Roberts 29:49

Thank you very much for your answers. So that actually wraps up this section of the evening for the role of School of Humanities. So thank you so much for joining us tonight. We will now have another short interlude while we prepare for the next section where we'll hear from candidates for the school rep position for Law and Social Sciences. Thank you very much both.

30:05

[Interlude]

Kate Roberts 31:27

Welcome back to the next section of candidate question time, I would like to welcome candidates for the role of school rep for the Law and Social Sciences school.

Kate Roberts 31:39

Brilliant with so we're joined today by Nalissa Wilkinson. As before, we'll start with opening statements before moving into a round of questions. And with that, we'll move into your opening statement, you have a minute and a half and the time will begin once you start.

Nalissa Wilkinson 31:54

Hello, my name is Nalissa, I am a second year Economics and Management student. The main reason I'm running as a school rep is to just increase the overall amount of support to students within the school. Over a past year, I have worked as a course rep and found that a lot of things about the school need to be changed. And I've done, I found this out through speaking to other members of the school, and noticed a few key issues such as the following, such as slow feedback time, lack of guidance and support from lecturers and little support available to joint honour students. As a school rep, I really hope to be able to improve just these issues and work on them closely with other people within the school.

Kate Roberts 32:42

Thank you so much, Nalissa, for your opening statement. We will now move on to questions but you'll have to answer. So you have two minutes to answer each question. Your first question is, what was the biggest challenge facing students in your school over the last year? And what would you do in the role to combat that?

Nalissa Wilkinson 33:00

I would say overall that the biggest challenge has been for lack of support and guidance from the school in general. There have been numerous complaints by students within the school, but very little has been done to solve and address these problems. I think that although student voice is very important. Even student voice doesn't necessarily tackle all of the issues. For example, very little is being done to support joint honours students. Joint honours students sometimes have difficulty being able to express their voice. Because within departments, there's little consultation between them. And as a school rep, I hope to be able to address this by like helping give feedback, or running surveys and stuff just to find out ways we can really increase the support for joining honours.

Kate Roberts 34:04

Fantastic. Moving on to our second question again, you have two minutes to respond. And your school what one change over the last year has benefited students the most, that you'd like to see kept for the future of education?

Nalissa Wilkinson 34:18

One change I noticed within the school this year is that there's a lot more events available within the school for people from the same school to meet each other. I think that's really nice. The fact that there are opportunities available where people can make friends from people within that school. I'd really like to continue on this as this just is really good for like freshers to meet new people, even second years and third years to meet new people. For example, there have been pub night, like, pub quizzes, and karaoke nights, and I think this is just something that I'd really like to continue on as a school rep.

Kate Roberts 35:01

Thank you so much, Melissa for your answers. So that actually wraps up this section of the evening for the role of school rep for Law and Social Sciences. So thank you so much for joining us tonight. We're now going to have another short interlude while we prepare for the next section where we will hear from candidates the school rep position for Performing and Digital Arts.

36:06

[Interlude]

Kate Roberts 36:06

Welcome back to the next section of candidate question time. I would like to welcome candidates the role of school rep, the School of Performing and Digital Arts.

Kate Roberts 36:22

If the candidate is able to pop their camera on that would be fantastic. Thank you so much. So today we're joined by Olivia Earl. As before, we'll start with opening statements before moving into rounds of

questions. So with that, we'll move into your opening statement, you have a minute and a half and your time will begin once you start.

Olivia Earl 36:41

Hi, I'm Olivia Earl and I'm a second year music student running for PDA school rep this year. I've had an amazing time at Royal Holloway so far and I'm really passionate about ensuring that all other students have the best experience possible as well. I'm motivated and committed to making sure that the student voice is heard and I feel prepared to take on this role even during these difficult times with the pandemic. On campus, I'm a course rep and a peer guide as well as being a choral scholar, Vice President of the music society, manager of the conductors collective and artistic director of the raven opera society. Off Campus, I've worked as a teacher I run two small businesses and I have experience and qualifications in many areas of the arts. As a result of my involvement in so many extracurricular activities, I'm well versed in managing my time and ensuring that I stay on top of my work. My manifesto points are centred around having your say in the structure of assessments, helping you to cope with seminar anxiety, improving the system for registering your attendance, and improving engagement with your academic reps, peer guide system and personal tutors. We're so lucky to have such a talented cohort of students in the PDA school. And it would be a great honour to work in this role. I can promise that by voting Earl for arts you're voting to make your voice heard and to see positive changes across the school.

Kate Roberts 38:03

Thank you so much, Olivia for your opening statement. We're now going to move on to questions where you'll have to answer. So you'll have two minutes to answer each question. Your first question is, what was the biggest challenge facing students in your school over the last year? And what would you do in their role to combat that?

Olivia Earl 38:20

Over the last year, students have been faced with a plethora of alternative assessments. A lot of those have been really daunting, particularly where performances are concerned. As we start to move back to some sort of semblance of normality, students are going to be facing yet more changes. And I think it's really important that they feel comfortable and confident with all of these decisions. And to combat this, I'd like to release regular surveys to ascertain how happy students are with the proposed alternative structures to assessments, particularly if the pandemic is ongoing next year. I also just want to make sure that all of the academic reps are able to host open and honest conversations with all students.

Kate Roberts 39:04

Fantastic. Thank you, Olivia. So moving on to our second question again, you have two minutes to respond. In your school what one change over the last year has benefited students the most, that you'd like to see kept for the future of education?

Olivia Earl 39:19

Over the last year, we've been forced to have smaller group teaching. This was obviously a necessity during the pandemic. But I think this would actually be really beneficial as we return to normality as it allows students to have more of a platform in classes. And this more intimate learning environment

allows for ideas to flow more freely, particularly from people who are feeling a bit more shy or who get anxious about contributing in front of people.

Kate Roberts 39:45

Thank you so much Olivia, and thank you for your answers. So that wraps up this section of the evening for the role of school rep for the School of Performing and Digital Arts. Thank you so much for joining us tonight. We're going to try and move back to the position of school rep for Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences. And hopefully Joshua is able to join us after his technical difficulties. And so there'll be a brief interlude and then we'll move on to that role if possible.

40:21

[Interlude]

Kate Roberts 40:50

Brilliant, welcome back to the next section a candidate question time. And so I'd like to welcome back Joshua candidate for the role of school rap, the Engineering, Physical and Mathematical Sciences. Thank you so much for joining us. I hope we're able to hear you this time.

Joshua Yewman 41:04

Hi there. Hopefully, you can hear me.

Kate Roberts 41:06

Yep, perfect. As before, start with your opening statement before moving into a round of questions. So you have a minute and a half once the time starts.

Joshua Yewman 41:21

Okay. Hi, my name is Joshua Yewman, and I'm a second year computer science and AI student. Over the past two years, I've spent a Royal Holloway I've noticed a few points I feel the school could improve on. Every student deserves to have a voice, have an opinion and hold views on what should change within the school. I have had first hand experience of being dissatisfied by something within the school, telling someone and then nothing. I believe this shouldn't happen. And the students deserve transparency and a straightforward process to provide their views. We also have many wonderful facilities within our school that are limited to a select group studying select degrees. These limitations means students cannot explore other interests, they sometimes require extra facilities to do so. I believe that campaigning to break down these barriers will not only increase student knowledge, but give students space to create extraordinary innovation. These and many more points I wish to work on if elected. I hope you will see true change if I am elected, and that many mistakes that have been made previously won't be made. Again. Thank you for your time. And I welcome your questions.

Kate Roberts 42:37

Thank you so much Joshua, for your opening statement. So as you say, we're now going to move on to questions that you have to to answer. So you have two minutes to answer each question. Your first question is what was the biggest challenge facing students in your school over the last year? And what would you do in the role to combat that?

Joshua Yewman 42:57

So I think the biggest challenge that has faced students over the past year is adapting to the new style of learning. I believe that better communication can really help students within EPMS. And I believe that we can improve the way that the school gives students the information at the moment. Students seem to be bombarded with email after email after email, and it's really difficult to digest that information. So I believe that condensing and consolidating this information into a more easy to read and digest system will be really, really beneficial to students.

Kate Roberts 43:38

Fantastic. Thanks, Joshua. So moving on to our second question, again, you have two minutes to respond. In your school what one change over the last year has benefited students the most, that you'd like to see kept for the future of education?

Joshua Yewman 43:54

I think the best change that has been made is utilisation of online learning systems such as Moodle and Teams. That being more information has been posted on Moodle, there's been better structuring and better accessibility of module leaders. I'd like to see this trend continue. And for all resources students need to continue their studies to be posted on online platforms where they can access it whenever they need. I would also like to see the concept of virtual office hours continue, which allows students to more easily connect with their course leaders and seminar leaders. And so that is really what I'd like to see continue.

Kate Roberts 44:34

Thank you so much Joshua for your answers. That actually wraps up this section of the evening for the role of school rep for the School of Engineering, Physical and Mathematical sciences. Thank you so much for joining us this evening.

Kate Roberts 44:47

As you may have seen, there are currently no candidates for the role of school rep of Life Sciences and the Environment listed on our website. However, candidates for this role will be announced this week.

Kate Roberts 44:57

Voting is open from Monday, the 22nd of March until Wednesday the 24th of March, with results being announced later that evening.

Kate Roberts 45:06

In our voting system, we use single transferable vote, also known as STV. This means that you can rank candidates in order of your preference, candidates will need to secure 50% plus one, of the total votes in order to secure the possession. If this is not achieved right away, the person with the lowest votes will be removed from the election, and their votes will be transferred to remaining candidates, according to your preferences. This will continue to happen until either a candidate achieves the 50% plus one line or only one candidate remains.

Kate Roberts 45:41

Thank you so much to our candidates and to you for joining us tonight. We will return tomorrow at the same time. While we will hear from the candidates for the vice president societies and sports role. We look forward to seeing you there and I hope you have a good rest of your evening. Thank you very much.