

Benjamin West

Executive Officer Manifesto



Hi there! I'm Benjamin, the current 3rd year class rep for Computing, and I'm running for Exec Officer for 2019/20.

The three main campaign points I will be running on are Societies, Scheduling, & Social.

Societies:

Something I have noticed with regard to societies is member retention in the latter half of the semester. Once people find one or two societies they like at the start of the semester, they typically stick with them rather than finding new places to express themselves. Some people stop going to societies later on, be it due to lack of interest or other commitments. One way to combat some of these problems is to encourage societies interacting with each other, giving their members a chance to experience different societies. I am hoping to create a way for societies to reach out to the SA for help planning and organizing events that can bridge societies, and to help promote these events.

Scheduling:

A problem that students are having is the massive gaps in timetables between classes that are never long enough to go home between. This leaves them with loads of spare time, and while a small amount are useful to get work done, there's often more than necessary.

Another issue is only 1 hour of class in a day, and often at an inconvenient time. Multiple times I have been timetabled for a 1-hour lecture, with nothing else that day, so I often don't go. I can imagine this is worse for people who commute a long distance to university each day, as having to spend the money to park or get public transport would likely not feel worth the time.

I plan to talk with the university to see what can be done to minimise the excess time of students timetables, but if that doesn't work the way I hope, then my third point can hopefully help.

Social:

Over my 3 years at the university, I have noticed that the universities social spaces have just been falling off dramatically. There are very few places and times for students to hang out with others, or to relax between or after classes. The Common Room in the Student Centre is a prime example of this. They have slowly been selling the games consoles that students can use on the multitude of screens they have, and the computers are vastly outdated. For machines that are supposed to be for gaming, they are worse than many of the simple classroom PCs.

I hope to work on the SAs existing plans to try and revitalise the Student Centre, and also to add more social spaces inside the main university buildings. One of my big plans is to repurpose smaller rooms in the university that aren't used often, and turn them into social spaces, with couches and TVs on the wall that students can use to watch videos and hook up consoles to, to spend the time between class on stuff other than just doing coursework in the library.