

Manifesto- Campaigns Officer

Lauren 'Mancoon' Mcguigan

The students here at Roehampton have a great reputation for getting involved and caring for issues around them, I would like to include myself as one of these students. This is why I am running to be one of your campaigns officer's for the next academic year.

Firstly a little about me. My name's Lauren McGuigan, known to many as 'Mancoon' due to my rather distinguished accent! Well I'm a 2nd year Drama student, 23 years old (I'm not disclosing my mental age) and basically I like to put the world to rights as and where I can.

Before I came to Roehampton I was in between universities and working full time as a charity campaigner. I worked for some amazing charities such as the NSPCC, Mind and Scope, getting businesses and good people such as yourself to pledge donations to help fund these charities, and where people couldn't help financially, I would ask if someone could give time, or maybe help them to organise a fundraiser. On an average week I was raising around £400 for the Charities. I also have a mother who for the past few years has been fighting a rare form of Cancer. This cancer went undiagnosed for over 10 years because of its rarity; doctor's missed the vital signs mistaking it for heart problems, High Blood Pressure, or Asthma. It was not until a simple chest X-ray was finally given that it was discovered. This lack of knowledge on behalf of the Medics has cost my Mother her lifestyle and eventually will cost her life as they are unsure of how to treat after a certain stage. I then decided to campaign for change and information. I have done various runs and pub nights but it just so happened the moment I was my most vented about the situation was the moment the plinth project started in London and I had won a place. I advertised through the Newspapers and Regional shows in the North West that I was auctioning off my hour, to do what the highest bidder wished, as the press coverage would gain more awareness and information for people like my mum. I then found myself one rainy October evening on a plinth, in Trafalgar Square belting out football anthems. This then not only attracted through the Northern Press who were already aware of what I was doing, but also the London Evening Standard who interviewed my Mum about her illness and what I was doing. I raised £600 in my hour on the plinth for a Cancer Charity. But it is not always about the money; sometimes lending my extremely loud voice to a cause can be the most important thing.

That's what I would intend to do if you elected me as one of your Campaigns officers. Working alongside whoever else you vote in with me, I would aim to drive and give focus to our existing campaigns such as Black History Week, LGBT and Go Green Week and carry on driving the Campaigns Crawl. Come up with inventive Strategies which alongside RSU activities which would boost awareness. For example what if people hired out wheelchairs from the RSU for the period of their lecture to gain insight of what it is to be a disabled student of Roehampton, with the hire fee going to a disabilities charity. How about throwing our own 'Pride' festival during LGBT week? During last year's Go Green Week, some friends and I threw a freegan lunch as an idea for our course which was a great success. If we did this inter-collegiate, come dine with me style it could be fun, raise awareness, hopefully people could make some new friends and most importantly it will be free! I have also thought

about introducing Roehampton's own 'Speaker's corner' so you can let everyone know what you feel they need to know!

One of the most pressing issue's I am determined to campaign for is the issue of Fees and Higher Education. With the most recent proposal of £7000 a year fees being put forward by one Government think tank, it is important that we make our voices heard to those in charge and make sure that your views are heard, after all it's your money and your education- shouldn't you have more control? I have already started writing to my local MP about this issue and I realise that unless we all stand up and be heard than the cost of our education is just going to get higher!

I also will work to fight for internal issues that people want addressing. This year the Digby student's started petitioning to save Brenda and Tracey's, and it is decisions like this about our day to day university life that are just as important to our experience here which is why the SUC is so important. if there is something you want addressing, let me know because I would be more than happy to address it for you!

Vote Lauren 'Mancoon' McGuigan for your Campaigns Officer!