

SCOTTISH FOR PRESIDENT



“Being a voice for you”

The student body has shown its voice this year, with the university’s planned closure of Brenda and Tracy’s café, we as a union have been given the chance to show how well we can support the student body and how we can fight for what you as students want to have within this uni. If we can have such a voice with a University issue, imagine the impact we can have on a grander scale, such as a nationwide impact on tuition fees for example, and I for one am ready to be part of that!

“Say no to a rise in top-up fees”

This year is unbelievably important for students with the General Election looming, and the NUS has identified a hot list of 20 key student areas where the powerful student vote could make a decisive difference to the result. We live in one of these key areas. I pledge to work with the NUS and Wandsworth council to identify candidates which will support and defend student interest. **WE cannot accept candidates who support the uncapping of tuition fees!** Political Engagement is something we lack at Roehampton, with our voting turnouts for General and National Elections lower than ever, however, I believe with such important issues, that will effect student inclusion massively if they go ahead, we can make a difference to the election in May. **I pledge to support the national campaign against the rise in tuition fees**, and work with the student body to increase voting levels to ensure that our area is represented by a candidate who will not support this outrageous notion of raising the cap on tuition fees.

“Tell us what we deserve to know”

There are many changes afoot in the uni at the moment, and one of the things that is seriously lacking is communication from the uni to the students. I believe that it is not the unions responsibility to be a go between or a scapegoat for the uni’s (in)decisions. I will fight for better communication, availability of reports to students (eg number of students going into post grad employment or education, results of the NSS. They say a degree is not enough anymore, well if that is the case, the uni needs to be providing us with evidence of why a degree from Roehampton is a step in the right direction and **I plan to make sure we get this information in an open and honest fashion**. We deserve to know the results of audits and student opinion!

“Continual Development and improvement on all campuses”

In order to remain one of London’s best universities, it is important to continue to develop for our future. I plan to ensure that departmental restructuring is effecting for improved quality of learning experience.

The Union over the past year has really developed its academic profile, this is significant as every single student at this uni has one thing in common – their **education**. The union is determined to hold the uni to account on its commitment to improve the quality of the student experience and teaching and learning.

The Union and the University are facing some massive changes next year, with the change from schools to departments, and I feel that **it is imperative that the student rep system is not lost within these changes, but embedded into the culture of the university**. The university must take seriously the voice of the student body, which is fundamental in order **“to improve the teaching and learning, along with student experience as a whole”**.

Nikki Watson Student Union President Candidate