

# Don't Get FoMo; Vote for RoMo!

LEVELLING UP VOLUNTEERS

YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE

LASTING CHANGE FOR LIVING COSTS

YOUR  
UNION

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Scottish Registered Charity, no. SC019893





# Robert “RoMo” Moran

*Your Candidate for President of Student Opportunity*



*BUILDING YOUR  
OPPORTUNITIES!*

Hello! My name is RoMo, and I’m thrilled to be your candidate for the brand-new role of President of Student Opportunity! In our time at university, “opportunity” takes many forms—academic exploration, creative expression, professional development, and the sheer joy of discovering what we’re capable of. But for too many, these opportunities remain out of reach. Whether it’s due to financial constraints, lack of confidence, or a simple unawareness of what is available, the gap between potential and participation persists. I believe that must change.

My motivation to run is grounded in a clear vision: a Union that doesn’t just advertise opportunities but actively ensures that every student can access them. That means better support for student societies and volunteering groups, but it also means spotlighting the quieter corners where growth happens. It means recognising that “opportunity” can be stepping onto a stage, stepping into a conference or interview, or simply stepping into a room where you feel you belong— both now and forevermore as a graduate.

Having spent my four years on *nine* committees like Ents and Mermaids and having supported creative, academic, and technical projects alike, I’ve seen firsthand what students can achieve when given the space and support to thrive. I want to bring that understanding into a role where I can help widen the doors for others.

This campaign is not about promising more events or adding buzzwords to posters. It’s about asking: How do we build a culture where opportunity is for everyone—not just the confident, the connected, or the already-involved? How do we make this Union a place where Your Ideas, Your Projects, and Your Ambitions can find real backing at Your Union?

I want your support not just for the ideas I bring but for the care and commitment I will bring to making them real.

Warmest regards,

*Robert Moran*





# LEVELLING UP VOLUNTEERS

## • The One Union Officer Scheme

Increasing collective identity is an easy way to increase volunteer power, which can be improved by emphasising the importance of inter-subcom communication and collaboration. Furthermore, this structure will encourage clear information about duties and responsibilities and the distinction between volunteer/staff positions, with position descriptions, training opportunities, and expectations easily accessible via YourUnion.Net.

To further support our officers, the "One Union Officer" scheme will also introduce a reward and recognition system, with initiatives such as "Volunteer of the Month", a standardised handover process, and individualised volunteer letters of recommendation. Officers will also benefit from regular training opportunities, including online courses and in-person workshops, ensuring they continuously develop their skills. Finally, volunteers should be eligible for a standard discount when purchasing Union goods at Union shops.

## • The Spaces Review

St Andrews is a notoriously small town, but that doesn't mean we should have to limit our capabilities as a Union! Throughout the year, I will work with the Union and the University to look at how spaces are being used around town and how they might better serve student needs. Here are some initial thoughts:

- Right now, the kitchen on the Upper Floor of the Union is used for storage, an underutilisation of a space that could directly support students. By opening it up as a functional kitchen, we can offer students a place to prepare food, take a break, and refuel during busy days in the Union.
- The late Barron Theatre, closed in 2021 by the University, is about to be converted into something new. The University has many office spaces, especially with the relatively new Eden Campus in Gaurdbridge. The Barron Theatre was a student arts space for half a century and should continue to serve student interests, even if in an entirely new way.
- There are many ideas for new things to take up residence closer in town, including a Centralised Uni Service Centre (one centre staffed by members of various departments like finance, visas, accommodation etc), a more prominent home for St AndReuse, and a stronger partnership with the Byre.



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# YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE

## • Student Outreach

The more students involved in the Union, the more effective we will become. I have a series of ideas about increasing student engagement, which include Union Unlocked—a short video campaign welcoming new and returning students to participate in the Union whilst engagingly explaining its complexities—and Question of the Week for fast feedback on smaller questions chosen by the Exec Team available every day via QR-code throughout the Union.

We can also do more to welcome specific groups to our Union directly. Similar to the Freshers' week in September, we should have a warm welcome for our post-graduate students in October, even if on a smaller scale. Additionally, I will ensure the Union reaches out to inbound exchange students well in advance to make them aware of the opportunities that await them in St Andrews! Finally, a regular Ask Your Union conference, where students can come to ask questions directly to the Exec Team in a public setting, will help to ensure that the team remains dedicated to the needs of the entire student body—not just those in the room.

## • Brand Update

Within the last year, we have simplified our brand, but we can do better. For example, the colour scheme of the Union should be reflected in the gowns worn by its sabbatical officers to make the brand more recognisable. But most importantly, the website needs a thorough refresh. Over the summer, I will liaise with all departments of the Union to create a more streamlined version of the website without broken links and outdated information. I will also look into ways of allowing more people access to updated information where appropriate to clear some of the bureaucracy involved in website updates.

In addition to the aforementioned One Union Officers information portal, I will increase transparency within the Union by creating a publically available portal containing dates, times, and agendas for public meetings and the minutes afterwards. I will also create a centralised guidance system that condenses our various guides and information packets into a single easy-to-navigate page. Crucially, there will be a prominent “Emergency Help” button that will link directly to the University’s emergency response page and Support & Report.



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# FIGHTING LIVING COSTS

## • Food

The newly established Campus Larder has been a great success so far, but we can do more to support students. Notably, it is in a room with floor-to-ceiling glass walls, which can make a trip to the larder significantly more intimidating. At the very least, themed frost can be applied to the glass to obscure the identities of those inside.

Furthermore, by providing a low-or-no-cost breakfast from 8h-9h on set days, we can help to feed the majority of our students who skip breakfast on a daily basis, either for cost or time-saving measures. The early hour of the meal might also encourage students to make their early morning classes! Finally, I will work with our University halls to find a way to reduce food waste by providing free meals from hall leftovers.

## • Sustainability

Transition St Andrews are already running several successful schemes and deserve more recognition and support for their work.

For example, St AndReuse should be more publicised particularly around the start of the second semester and post-grad move in days. Furthermore, in addition to the annual bike sale, I would work with St AndReuse and Fife Council to create a term-time cycle rental and a cycle-sharing scheme not dissimilar to those found in cities across the world, but with a few peculiarities for our small town. This scheme would be open to the community and tourists alike, providing a new method of transportation around our beautiful town!

Finally, the current support from Government is not enough to sustain our universities. The Save Our Scottish Unis campaign has provided an excellent forum for starting conversations about the future of Scottish universities, but it is time to take the next step and increase direct student participation. After all, it is we the students with the most on the line.



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