

Catherine Mullner for School of English President

Manifesto

school accountability

- Increase transparency by making the Draft Action Plan for each semester readily available to students

increasing diversity

- Review and change the School of English staff hiring process to ensure the language is fair to all staff applicants in the School of English
- Create a student led School of English Equality and Diversity Committee to shadow the Staff Equality and Diversity Committee

accessibility/ student resources

- Initiative to officially record lectures on Panopto once in-person lectures resume
- Ensure that 2020/21 extensions policy for Honours dissertations is permanent
- Initiative to keep online submissions permanent to ensure that the submission process is accessible to all students regardless of mobility or location

events/ intra-school collaboration

- Play readings in the Botanic Garden
- Collaboration with the School of Chemistry and the School of Modern Languages to join their pen recycling initiative
- Collaboration with Comparative Literature: Freshers Welcome Event

MANIFESTO

Catherine Mullner -- School of English President (2021/22)

Hello, my name is Catherine Mullner, and I am running to be your next School of English President!

Having worked closely with our current school president, Callum Irvine, for two years, I am more than prepared to take on the responsibility and demands of this role. As President, I want to focus on four key issues: school accountability, increasing diversity, accessibility/ student resources , events/ intra-school collaboration.

School Accountability/ Transparency

- Increase school transparency by making the Draft Action Plan for each semester made readily available to students
 - This document would essentially discuss the initiatives/plans the School of English has for meeting the suggestions of students that is delivered by class representatives to each Student Staff Consultative Committee Meeting (SSCC)
- Ensure that the planned sub-Honours module redesign runs smoothly and student feedback upon this matter is taken into full account
- Review of School's Sustainability Practices
 - Creation of Student Sustainability Committee in the School of English that would work in collaboration with the Student Association's Environment Officer to review the feasibility and effectiveness of the School's sustainability practices

Increasing Diversity

- Create a student led School of English Equality and Diversity Committee to shadow the Staff Equality and Diversity Committee
 - This committee would raise and investigate issues of diversity in the School of English, and ensure that the Staff led Equality and Diversity Committee is taking accountability and action in such matters, and will be led by the elected committee chairman and the student Disabilities Representative
- Review and change the School of English staff hiring process to ensure the language is fair to all staff applicants in the School of English
- Collaboration with the Staff Welfare Officer and the class representatives for undergraduate and postgraduate students to create a welcome event during Freshers Week
 - This will serve to make students aware of the availability of the Welfare Officer and the mental health resources the School of English offers

Accessibility/ Student Resources

- Plan to create a separate “Social Media and Marketing” representative Expansion Pack for class representatives to ensure that once social events are planned, they are made accessible and visible to all students in the School of English
 - If this is not feasible, I plan on allotting two representatives to the social events representative expansion pack to increase the visibility and frequency of social events in the School of English
- Initiative to keep online submissions permanent, rather than the original paper and online submission to ensure that the submission process is accessible to all students regardless of mobility or location
- Initiative to officially record lectures on Panopto once in-person lectures resume
- Introductory Practical Essay Week: will push to change the first week in first years sub-Honours modules to a practical skills week that will lay a foundation for coursework and prevent later confusion
 - Accessibility to the Writing Lab will be made apparent during this week, and an introductory session for all years will be created
- Increasing accessibility to Careers Services by working closely with the student careers representative to establish clearer communication with the Careers Centre
 - Ensuring the Careers Services talk in Semester 2 of Year 2 in the School of English occurs after it has been missed for the last two years
 - Starting “Careers Chats” available to all undergraduate students in the School of English that will be hosted by the student careers representative and a student member of the Careers Centre
- Increasing secondary-resource accessibility for all undergraduates and postgraduates in the University
 - Will involve the student library representative and the University Library Staff (such as Head Librarian Hilda McNae) to increase the availability of texts only available in person by investigating e-book availability and the accessibility to scanned texts
- Ensuring that extensions for Honours dissertations that was made available during the 2020/21 school year is kept for future Honours students

Events/ Intra-School Collaboration

- During months such as Mental Health Awareness Month, Black History Month, Pride Month, etc. I would like to host a week of featured authors/books that championed such social movements
 - This can be posted on Facebook, and staff that have taught texts relevant to such topics can host a discussion with students on a selected book to celebrate and raise awareness of these important movements interactively
- Play readings in the Botanic Garden

- A revival of an earlier School of English tradition, the School of English would host play readings in the Botanic Garden (which is free to students) where students can gather, meet new people, and have a play reading. Members of staff can be welcome to join, and plays can be selected in a monthly poll by students. If the Botanic Garden is not accessible by Fall 2021, we can still put on this event virtually, or socially distanced in the quad.
- Collaboration with Comparative Literature: Freshers Welcome Event
 - With the large overlap of students who have taken both Comparative Literature and English modules, I plan on creating an introductory freshers event in collaboration with the current Comparative Literature convenor, Anne Madeline Lee, to help clarify the differences between the two modules and the benefits of both
- Collaboration with the School of Psychology
 - Plan to put on an event during mental health awareness week where the School of English in collaboration with the School of Psychology can host a talk with a prominent author who features/ discuss mental wellbeing
 - Leading up to the event, mental health resources will be made available and widely spread in collaboration with Staff Welfare Officers from both Schools
- Collaboration with the School of Chemistry and the School of Modern Languages to join their recycling initiative
 - Push and install recycling bins meant for disposable pens to reduce the environmental impact of the School of English