


President of Student Opportunities



YOUR  UNION
UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
Scottish Registered Charity, no. SC019883

SEMESTER ONE REPORT

BUILDING YOUR OPPORTUNITIES



Top SIX Wins

What did I get up to this term?



Bookings

I worked with several Union departments to streamline the event booking process, and advocated consistently to the university about the need for additional society spaces for the Union.

I formed the new Activities Team

to streamline your most frequent interactions with the Union.

Funding

Alongside the rest of the Exec Team, I pushed for full transparency regarding our finances and encouraged the eventual full release of the student spend for our networks and societies!



Affiliation

As part of Societies Committee, I advocated for a new streamlined affiliations process that launched in November. This year we affiliated a record **14** new societies.

In my first 6 months fully in office, I managed

6156
email chains!
(That's more than 50 whole threads a day!)

helped manage everything from mail to emergencies for over

150+
student societies!
(and I love each one!)

Top Three Events

From roundtables to protests, these were my favourite events that got me out of the office this term:

WonkHE Festival of Higher Ed

I attended the world's largest Higher Education conference where I was invited to speak about the importance of developing employable skills directly to the leaders of universities across the UK.



Funeral for Our Future

In late November, sabbatical officers from across Scotland came together in Edinburgh to hold a public Funeral for our Futures. Scotland's future is strongest when it welcomes the world in, not shuts it out.

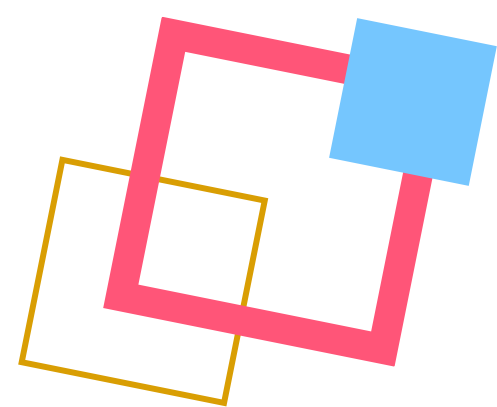


Postgrads on the Pier



I organised the first-ever Post-grad pier walk in partnership with St Leonards College and the Byre Theatre - a first step to building a more engaged and cohesive postgraduate community.



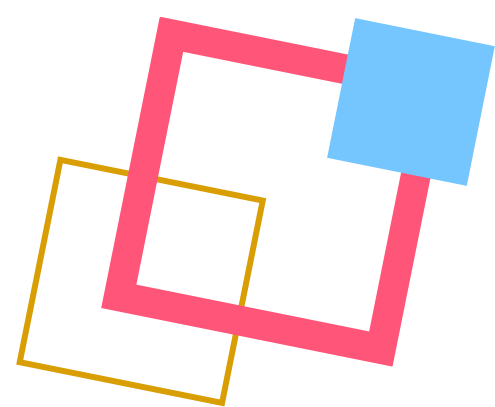
MANIFESTO GOALS





LEVELLING UP VOLUNTEERS

Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
One Union Officers	 (Ramping Up)	<p>Increasing collective identity has been a key focus in strengthening volunteer effectiveness. To complement formal Democratic Structures, a new all-officers meeting has been introduced. While not a formal decision-making body, it has been effective in information sharing among officers, building officer community, will continue in Semester 2.</p> <p>Volunteer recognition has expanded through the successful launch of the Volunteer of the Month scheme, alongside a significant increase in engagement with recognition via the volunteer portal compared to last year.</p> <p>Skills development has been prioritised through additional training resources on the portal, with a full review of officer training underway ahead of Semester 2 re-affiliation. Further work is ongoing to strengthen tangible volunteer rewards, including enhanced recognition mechanisms.</p>
Spaces Review		<p>A review of Union-controlled spaces was underway on arrival in post, which I pushed to complete. This has resulted in the delivery of a new purpose-built STAR studio with upgraded equipment, alongside the forthcoming opening of a dedicated volunteering suite.</p> <p>Constructive discussions with the University regarding non-Union spaces are ongoing. While these conversations have required longer timelines, engagement has been positive and negotiations remain promising.</p>

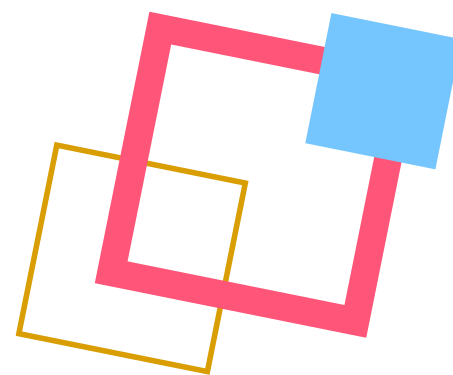
MANIFESTO GOALS





YOUR UNION, YOUR VOICE

Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Student Outreach	 (Ramping Up)	<p>Student engagement has been strengthened through new, more transparent routes into Union decision-making. Open forums have been introduced for the first time, allowing students direct access to discussions, including clear explanations of the Union's financial position. Forums for Semester Two have been scheduled to avoid clashes, limited to one per week, and will be announced at the start of term to maximise accessibility.</p> <p>As part of the Executive, student-facing engagement has been expanded through regular "Ask Your Exec" sessions on social media, providing an informal and accessible channel for questions and feedback.</p> <p>Targeted outreach to underrepresented groups has also progressed. The first-ever postgraduate Pier Walk on St Leonards Day was delivered successfully, providing a visible and well-attended welcome space for postgraduate students. Through work on the University's Orientation Committee, advocacy has resulted in earlier access to societies and Union opportunities for the January intake.</p>
Brand Update	 (In Progress)	<p>Work is underway to improve the clarity, usability, and reliability of the Union's digital presence. While further development is required, a new structure is being established in which guides, information, and advice are organised coherently and can be updated directly by relevant groups.</p>

MANIFESTO GOALS



LASTING CHANGE FOR LIVING COSTS

Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Food		<p>Work to improve food access has focused on reducing waste and supporting existing provisions. Under the Campus Larder, support was given to the student-led Spare Spoon initiative, which was successfully reintroduced at the start of the December revision period to redistribute hall food surplus. This relaunch coincided with the introduction of Alice's free breakfast initiative, strengthening coordinated food support during a high-pressure academic period.</p>
Sustainability	 (In Progress)	<p>As a member of the Community Council Transport Committee, support for sustainable transport and reuse schemes has included contributing to an annual bike light sale and the development of Union-led bike safety guidance.</p> <p>More broadly, sustainability has been supported through responsible financial stewardship. While this has been a collective effort, by the end of Semester One, the Union is in a markedly stronger position, with record post-Covid engagement in nightlife and high levels of student participation in recent 601 and Main Bar surveys, providing a strong evidence base for future development.</p>

COMING SOON

SEMESTER 2



01

INCREASED DIRECT COMMUNICATION

Alongside a monthly societies newsletter, I'm planning to visit as many societies as I can next term so you can talk to me directly!



02

NEW AFFILIATIONS PROCESS

I'm simplifying the process to re-affiliation your society! Look out for more info very soon!



03

CONTINUED VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Volunteers and Officers alike are about to be more visible around the Union!



04

MORE UNIFIED ACTIVITIES TEAM

I'm centralising emails and creating an Activities Team that is more response to your needs!



05

BYRE RENNOVATION

Alongside the new Performing Arts Network, I'll be pushing the university to invest in the Byre!



