

DoESfesto

Hi. I'm Tom, and I've written a list of 143 ways I could improve the Union as your next DoES. I'll start by explaining what the DoES is, since most students have no idea. Next, I'll skim over my background and experience within the Union. That's followed by a big list, which I think makes a good alternative to the usual vague manifesto. This list is crudely named "DoESfesto".

The list is divided into 8 sections: Services, Events, Communication, Venues, Bars, Website, Freshers' Week, and Elections. This covers most of what the DoES does. In general, the ideas I'm most excited about are at the top of each section. If you're wondering about the logistics, funding, or justification for any of the points, feel free to email tg68 or message me on [Facebook](#).

What is the DoES?

The Director of Events and Services (DoES) is responsible for overseeing any Union-organised events. This includes booking acts, both for Freshers' Week and throughout the year, making sure every group using the building has all the resources they need, and yes, deciding Bop themes. They work in a team with 5 other student-elected Sabbatical Officers ("sabbs"), including the Association President and the Director of Student Development and Activities (DoSDA).

The DoES line manages Ents Crew, STAR, Design Team, Mermaids, and, if it ever comes back, Music Is Love (MiL). I have sat on 3 of these 5 committees, managed STAR, and effectively ran MiL during its hiatus, so have a good understanding of how each should work with the DoES. The DoES also attends meetings to approve event applications, review discipline (i.e. building bans), and discuss general Union management.

Above all, the DoES should exist to help students push their ideas through the Union.

Experience

- STAR: St Andrews Radio, Station Manager 2019/20 and Head of Tech 2017/18/19: created the Musicians of St Andrews group, started Sounds of Sandy's, founded starTV, updated entire STAR website, introduced shows at 9am, midnight, and 1am, and gave weekly updates on progress via [campaign page](#).
- Music is Love, Head of Marketing 2018: helped to organise student music events like Bell Pettigrew sessions and Rector's live lounges.
- Ents Crew, crew member 2017/18 and Technical Coordinator 2018/19: helped to run sound and light at events in the Union, including Bops, Sinners, and Catwalk.
- Created STIMS (St Andrews Indie Music Society) in 2017: regular events with bands playing at house parties.
- Union bar staff since 2019: first-hand experience with the logistics of running the bars. This has given me an appreciation for the role of bars in the Union's operation, as well as a better understanding of licensing laws.
- Degree in physics, with a focus on acoustics.
- Got the Union's 500 hour volunteering award a few days after it was introduced.
- Organised all Mex/Coop events, if anyone's been here long enough to remember those.

General aims

- Use Union spaces more effectively, especially Main Bar, Barron Theatre, and the unnamed grass area behind the main building.
- Focus on responding quickly to all messages and emails.
- More events around 7-10pm.
- Update the Union website.

Services

1. Let students store things in the Union over summer, for a small cost.
 - 1.1. There's more than enough space over summer (e.g. society rooms, Beacon Bar, meeting pods).
 - 1.2. Money earned would be directly spent on students, whether through events or general upgrades to the building.
 - 1.3. Would probably need everyone to collect their stuff by the first weekend of Freshers' Week – this would be made clear from the start.
2. Showcase more student art around the Union building – maybe a competition with cash prize.
 - 2.1. Mural on the side of the Union.
3. Make it easier for students to borrow equipment like the PA system (speakers, microphones, etc.)
 - 3.1. We already have this equipment, but it sits unused in a cupboard. Would be more useful to charge, say, £10 for any group to use it, anywhere they want.
 - 3.2. This shouldn't be a problem if Music is Love returns.
4. Free fruit Fridays.
 - 4.1. This was a thing many years ago, and would be easy to reintroduce.
5. Keep Beacon Bar open throughout the semester for people to study in (i.e. room open, bar shut).
6. Make free earplugs available at loud events.
7. Union merch: bike seat covers, more water bottles.
 - 7.1. Students can get free water bottles at Freshers' Fayre, or expensive clothing and stationery at the University shop, but there are currently no other options.
8. Encourage subcommittees to open a few positions in September, e.g. assistant positions, so that first years can get involved.
9. Sabb announcements, such as Freshers' Week acts, to be made on STAR.
10. Get free chips back on Yoyo.

11. Publicise that the Union has a darkroom for developing photos.
12. Publicise that the Union has a computer room with A3 printers and scanners.
13. Publicise that the Union shop buys second-hand red gowns.
14. Publicise that students in private residence can receive parcels at the Union's address.
 - 14.1. Students in (most) halls have a 24/7 porter – students in houses are likely to miss parcels if they're in lectures all morning.
 - 14.2. Would give students a choice between collecting missed parcels from the Royal Mail office on Largo Road, or collecting parcels from the Union.
15. Make the Union a myHermes ParcelShop.
 - 15.1. Provides a small amount of extra income.
 - 15.2. Improves links with local community, i.e. people who otherwise have no reason to enter the Union.
 - 15.3. Shouldn't be too much strain on receptionists' time, as sending a parcel only takes a few seconds.
 - 15.4. Longer opening hours than the current ParcelShop.
 - 15.5. Potential issue with space to store parcels if this becomes popular, but there are lots of possible spare rooms hidden around the building.
16. You can add songs to the Main Bar playlist (there's a [page](#) for it, but you have to log in to submit a song, and I have no idea if it actually does anything).
 - 16.1. Could change this to be STAR's responsibility.
17. Review the Union's arrangement with ITS (University IT Services) – Design Team and STAR have both had big problems with communication between the Union and ITS, which needs to be addressed.
18. Many past sabbs have attempted to make a calendar for all society events, but it invariably fails for many reasons. A group linked to the Your Union Events page, that anyone can join, would be more effective: when people share events there, they would appear in the group's event calendar.
 - 18.1. Similar to [this](#), but not linked to a single year group.
 - 18.2. An "Events in St Andrews" group exists, but only current students can join, making it less effective for events aimed at a mixed audience. It also seems to be run by an inactive account. If you think this sounds fine, here you go: [events calendar](#). You now have access to something the last 8 DoSDAs could only dream of.

- 18.3. Check the Union's attempt. It's empty. The submission form takes too long, it's easily forgotten, and only people involved with societies/subcommittees can submit an event. Above all, no one looks at it.
- 18.4. If the links in this section have disappeared, I will ensure all manifestos uploaded to the Union website next year include the intended hyperlinks.
19. Group chat for all subcommittee/society presidents.
20. Check amount of food waste from Rector's, Main Bar, and Old Union Cafe, to see if it's worth using Too Good To Go (like Olio but for businesses) – this would let people collect food from the Union's kitchens that would otherwise go to waste.
21. Stop taking bikes that are left over summer – currently all bikes are removed from the racks in July.
 - 21.1. Bikes are tagged for two weeks before being removed. An easy way around this would be for people to message me, asking to remove any tags from their bike.
22. Any sports event a student wants to watch should be available on the projector in Sandy's (or at least whatever's on the Union's Sky package).
23. In fact, if anyone wants to use the projector (when the space isn't booked), they should be able to.
24. Allow people on Ents Committee to skip any and all queues in the Union.
25. Get a (new) Snapchat filter for the Union.
26. Contact Stagecoach about increasing buses between DRA and the town centre after 6pm.
27. Improve rewards on the volunteering portal; for example, guaranteed Honorary Life Membership, Yoyo points, or Rector's vouchers.
28. Let students in all societies use the volunteering portal.
 - 28.1. Eventually let all students use the volunteering portal.
29. Food trucks outside the main entrance on Fridays, not just Sinners.
 - 29.1. Or consider opening Main Bar's kitchen around midnight, but only serve chips.
30. If I'm not in the sabbs' office, you can leave a message written on the window.
31. Have a microwave for anyone to use somewhere in the building.
32. Pay Mika back for the drum kit she bought for the Union.
33. Play STAR in the Union elevators.

Events

34. Have a referendum about replacing Bop themes.
 - 34.1. We could move towards having more standard genre-themed nights in 601, with the occasional cheesy/chart themes, or we could have normal club nights every Friday, with less frequent cheesy Bops on Saturdays (similar frequency to Sinners). For example, Dick and Dom Bop (they're DJs now), not just "Cheesy Bop".
35. Have more external acts/DJs on Friday nights, in as many of the bars as possible. There are so many DJs in St Andrews and relatively few opportunities, so it shouldn't be hard. Even if we run out of student DJs, there are plenty in Dundee.
36. More one-off music events, with bigger bands, visiting DJs, etc. throughout the semester.
37. Invite different societies to have demonstration-type events around 9pm in Main Bar on Fridays, like Capoeira Society and Jazzworks do sometimes. For example, Coffee Soc, Craft Soc, Art Soc, Film Soc, Inklight, Poker, Pool, and St. Action could all host demos or give-it-a-go events.
38. Stagger ticket sales for Freshers' Week events – events often sell out in August, before many people even know if they're going to St Andrews.
39. If you're caught trying to resell a ticket for a stupid price, I'll cancel the ticket.
40. Careers workshops aimed at different student groups, e.g. panel events for careers in arts/theatre, design, academia, charity work, etc.
41. Ensure all areas of the Union are used for Freshers' Week events, not just 601.
42. Have social mixers for similar societies each night of Freshers' Week or early in the semester.
 - 42.1. For example, "outdoor societies meetup, 7pm at Main Bar".
 - 42.2. Gives freshers a chance to sit and talk with people from a group of similar societies over a pint (of non-alcoholic juice, if you so desire).
 - 42.3. Freshers' Fayre is great for joining mailing lists, but not so good for making genuine connections with people who have similar interests.
 - 42.4. Maths and English departments both host events similar to this, and they get good reviews.
43. More pop-up shops in 601: add tattoo parlours, and move poster sales from across the road. Continue with vinyl record and vintage clothing sales, but with a mixture of companies and kilo sales.

44. Set up a subgroup of STAR for live music events, to replace Music Is Love, assuming it isn't reformed soon – similar to how the Charities subcommittee manages Race2, RAG, and Catwalk sub-subcommittees, and how STAR manages The Record, starTV, and Hearing Aid Magazine.
45. Make sure budget is allocated to Sounds of Sandy's for the year.
46. The DoES often needs to cover small events, such as setting up a DJ in Sandy's, if Ents are occupied with a big event in 601. This would be easy for me, considering I live in the Union, have lots of experience with sound equipment and Ents, and spent two years on call as STAR's Head of Tech.
47. More bubble machines, fog, confetti, balloons, and inflatables. (In general, not just at 601 events.)
48. Maximum of one ABBA-themed event per semester.

Communication

49. Reply to Facebook messages and emails quickly. It sounds small, but most of the DoES' job is communication, which has been hindered by slow repliers in previous years. Many sabbs tend to get annoyed if you message instead of email. Not me.
50. Make one of the Union events pages co-host on some society and subcommittee events, e.g. Ents Crew's DJ training and Jazzworks' Main Bar events. If an event is in the Union and aimed at all students, why not make the Union a co-host to improve publicity?
51. Allow elected students to edit their position's page on the Union website.
 - 51.1. My account was accidentally given partial admin access for a while – in that time, I updated STAR's page, and improved various areas of the subcommittees tab.
 - 51.2. The current system, “email X to update your page”, is much less effective than letting a subcommittee head edit and review their page a few times.
52. Keep my elections campaign page active with updates throughout the year, as I have done with the STAR Broadcasting Officer page.
53. Ask subcommittee heads for additions to the weekly sabb email before sending it.
54. Anonymous online form for anyone to send me thoughts and feedback directly.
55. Personalised mass emails to trick people into paying attention.
56. More mass emails about a single topic, since no one reads the whole weekly sabb email (but keep these fairly infrequent).

57. The Member for First Years should be an admin of the Class of 2024 Facebook group.
58. Subcommittees can sell things on the Union's website, but don't get any notification when something sells. This should change.
59. More publicity for Freshers' Week events that aren't in 601.
 - 59.1. The booklet that the Union sends to all incoming students should include society events, not just the big 601 events.
60. Increase marketing of events to first years.
 - 60.1. Many people aren't on Facebook before uni, but Facebook is the main place where events are shared – the Facebook event *is* the event.
 - 60.2. Have a mailing list just for incoming students, to tell them about:
 1. Events (general promo, with links to events on the Union website, and related Union Instagram posts).
 2. Links to society websites.
 3. Links to Facebook groups/pages for student societies/events.
 - 60.3. More focus on Instagram.
61. The orientation app has separate calendars for academic and social events; they should be combined.
62. Use st polldrews to make decisions.
63. Find new places for people to put posters up, because Rector's pinboard is chaos.
64. Ask On The Rocks (OTR) to chill out.
 - 64.1. £30 fine for any student group that misses a deadline (such as "send event description by X date") is too much, especially with the relative lack of reminders.
 - 64.2. £50 event cancellation fee is too much, especially when many of the events cost £0 to organise, and are run by volunteers. Perhaps different contracts for different sized events.
 - 64.3. Deadlines more than 2 months in advance may be necessary for booking venues and printing event programmes, but this means more reminders should be given before issuing fines.
65. Last year, subcommittees received money for their budget in October. This should have been July at the latest.
 - 65.1. Part of the problem was due to a subcommittee requesting an excessive budget; line managers (DoES and DoSDA) should check budgets before they are officially submitted to prevent this happening. That way, they can ask the

subcommittee to submit a more sensible budget, instead of delaying payment of budgets to every other subcommittee.

- 65.2. Subcommittees should receive money well before September in order to buy things for Freshers' Week, and to plan larger events where deposits may be required months in advance.
 - 65.3. In theory, subcommittees can spend money they haven't received, as long as they have a confirmed budget, but this adds another level of complication that would be easier to get rid of.
66. Have a long think about what to do with the Your Union Events, Students' Association, and Freshers' Week 20** pages, because having all three post events seems a bit silly.
 67. Most people don't have time to send feedback or go to traditional office hours, so I'll talk to people queueing outside on Friday nights (in addition to traditional office hours).

Venues

68. Use the nice big grass field behind the Union.
 - 68.1. Give the field a name – it's easier to organise an event somewhere if the location has a name.
 - 68.2. Add the unnamed field as an option on the room booking form.
 - 68.3. Laser tag (field + StAge/601) – build a maze with inflatables etc.
 - 68.4. A big bouncy castle.
 - 68.5. Barbecue.
 - 68.6. Gardening.
 - 68.7. Welly wanging.
 - 68.8. If we already have a bouncy castle and welly wanging, might as well make it a whole town fayre.
69. More art/wall hangings/bits n bobs around the building.
 - 69.1. The Union's architecture is too clinical, and has no character.
 - 69.2. More character means student music groups and DJ collectives will be more willing to host events in the Union.
 - 69.3. Sandy's is the only bar that currently has at least some character: shirts and photos on the wall, a dart board, a pin board, nice furniture, shelves covered

with shields, an ancient cup, and a baby alpaca amongst the whisky. This is why intimate music gigs just about work there.

70. Better integration of the Barron Theatre with the Union.
 - 70.1. The Barron never seems to be mentioned on the Union Events/Students' Association pages, and it's hard to find any photos of the venue on the Union website, despite it being intended as a Union commercial space.
 - 70.2. The Barron gets used a lot, but it tends to be the same crowd – could focus on bringing other groups into the venue, e.g. music events, potentially some of the clothing/plant sale type events that are usually in 601.
 - 70.3. Consider reducing the cost of hosting ticketed events, especially for student groups. The box office currently takes 25-30% for ticketed student events, which may be prohibitive.
71. Allow sign-ins during Freshers' Week.
 - 71.1. I've seen multiple students turned away because they brought a non-St Andrews friend along. The reasoning is to keep Freshers' Week exclusive to freshers, but it ends up being counterproductive.
 - 71.2. Either way, the policy should be better publicised.
72. Fix the lock handles on all toilet doors.
73. Fix the left hand tap in the men's toilets on the middle floor (it gives static shocks).
74. Fix the soap dispenser in the women's toilets on the middle floor.
75. Fix Sandy's speaker system (might just need a new aux cable, will have to check).
76. Clear out the societies' cupboard – a lot of stuff seems to be junk or unclaimed.
77. More plugs in Old Union Cafe.

Bars

78. Make all Union drinks prices available. I've never seen them written anywhere.
Makes no sense.
79. Have messy bombs in Sandy's – there's room in the fridges, so why not?
80. Move the chairs and tables in Sandy's before karaoke so people don't crash into them.
81. Let people charge their phones at reception.
 - 81.1. Buy a few adapter cables and USB hubs.
 - 81.2. Write person's name on a sticky note on the phone.

82. More themed nights in Main Bar, with related drink deals. Themes could be related to public holidays, societies, or genres.
83. Make everyone download Yoyo. It's faster for customers, 10x faster for bar staff, has no £5 minimum, and gets you free food from Rector's.
84. Test keeping Union open until 2:30am on busy Fridays.
 - 84.1. Requires license/permission from Fife Council, which seems unlikely but I'll still give it a go.
 - 84.2. Could just keep one till in Main Bar/601 open for the extra time, i.e. close Beacon and Sandy's, so fewer staff have to stay longer just to clean up.
85. Keep Union open until 2:30am or 3am in Freshers' Week.
 - 85.1. This has happened multiple times in the past, but the Union lost money because everyone left at the normal time.
 - 85.2. Could find ways of making people stay longer, e.g. Yoyo reward if you buy a certain drink after 2am.
86. Look into reapplying for an outside alcohol license.
 - 86.1. Union previously applied for a license allowing alcohol outside the main entrance, and the benches outside Sandy's, but it was refused due to noise concerns.
 - 86.2. Noise could be reduced by building a wall around the benches outside Sandy's, or giving people lollipops (it's effective) before applying again.
 - 86.3. Additional smoking area outside Sandy's would reduce air pollution at the main entrance.
 - 86.4. Union has an agreement with neighbours not to use the area outside Sandy's after 8pm; could keep it open until this time (weather dependent) or review the agreement to allow occasional extensions.
87. Some form of notice for last orders at each bar (a shiny bell?) For reference, it's usually 15 minutes before close for Main Bar.
88. Get biodegradable straws in all bars, like in Rector's.
89. Spill the beans on Tuesday's cheap drinks also being available on Sunday and Monday.
90. This used to be a point about stopping single-use plastic cups at external events; turns out they're biodegradable. Now you know.
91. Sandy's karaoke: pay £10 to charity to move your song to the top of the queue.
 - 91.1. Any less than £10 could lead to chaos. I know £10 to play a song faster is stupid, but there are some very stupid generous people in this town.

92. Bar staff applications used to have much more intense interviews/training, which should be reintroduced.
 - 92.1. Problem seems to be that all applications are reviewed around the same time in April, following the Union's staff recruitment day, so there's no time to properly review the mountain of applications. Consider moving back to reviewing applications throughout the year.
93. Bring back black Pablos. It's nearly impossible to find black vodka, but we can dream.
94. Fix Sandy's fridges – they make the room too hot, and the doors get stuck.
95. Replace Sandy's shutters.
96. Fix shutter lock hole at Main Bar till 4.

Website

97. Update the entire Union website – there is a plethora of dead links, inaccurate opening times, and empty pages.
 - 97.1. For example, the page for The StAge, i.e. the biggest venue in St Andrews, just says “coming soon...” and the room booking timetable has been “unavailable” for about a month.
98. Union website should include links to all student-related groups.
 - 98.1. Things like the house-hunting group, Class of 20** year groups, foodsharing group, book-swap group, and musicians group.
99. Union website should have a page for campaigns (#FuckWashstation).
100. Union website should have a “Union hack dictionary” page – almost no students know what “SSC”, “sabb”, or “subcommittees” mean, but Union hacks tend to overuse these terms.
101. Change the Union website design; hire a web designer if necessary.
102. Reform the room booking system – make the timetable easier to access, streamline the booking form, and improve the general design.
103. Change the menus on the website from “your union”, “voice”, “activities”, “events” to things that make more sense.

Freshers' Week

104. Balance events for all types of people, with a focus on promoting society events alongside the big Union events throughout the week.
105. A reasonably well-known comedian, e.g. Daniel Sloss.
106. Society mixers every day at 7pm in Main Bar. For example:
 - 106.1. Outdoor societies mixer with Breakaway, STAAG, Canoe Club, etc.
 - 106.2. Music societies mixer with RockSoc, Jazzworks, Folk & Trad, Rap & Hip Hop Soc, etc.
 - 106.3. Sports/games mixer with Pokemon, Poker, Quidditch, Pool Soc, etc.
 - 106.4. STEM societies mixer with PhySoc, SUMS, Women in Computer Science, Economics Soc, etc.
107. A night with DJs playing a different genre (or decade) in each bar.
108. Clan Warfare but more crowd involvement.
109. Welcome to the Bubble but more bubbles.
110. Big-but-not-too-big band, e.g. Young Fathers.
111. Sounds of Sandy's but a slightly bigger budget because it's Freshers' Week.

Elections

112. Reduce strictness of certain election rules; some are so excessive that they alienate people from the whole elections process. For example:
 - 112.1. “No comments allowed on nomination posts” – currently, if someone’s grandparent comments a smiley face on their nomination post, that’s a rule infringement.
 - 112.2. “All printed campaign material must include the recycle logo” – this achieves absolutely nothing.
 - 112.3. “All campaign material must be stamped before being put up” – this includes every copy of the same poster, and could easily be approved online instead.
113. Stricter rules on some aspects of elections, e.g. no shouting outside the library, less aggressive campaigning outside the library, and stop trying to talk to people who are clearly trying to avoid everyone outside the library.
 - 113.1. Keep candidates on the grass area instead of the path.
114. Encourage successful candidates to keep their campaign pages active with updates on manifesto progress.
115. Anonymous form for submitting rule infringements.

116. Let sub-honours students run for all positions – currently only honours students can run for sabb positions.
117. Encourage candidates to spread out across town, and not all gather outside the library.
118. Put manifestos of all candidates on the Union website during elections week.
 - 118.1. Currently only sabb manifestos are made available.
119. List of candidates should include links to campaign pages for all candidates, not just sabbs.
120. Keep manifestos of all successful candidates on the Union website throughout the year.
 - 120.1. Add progress trackers like Reading Union's website.
121. Allow pictures bigger than 96x96 pixels on the voting portal, because they were utterly pointless last year.
122. More spice at debates, including more critical questions about each manifesto.
123. Let people return to the voting portal multiple times.
 - 123.1. Currently, if you submit a vote for one position, you can't return later to submit votes for other positions.
124. Change voting portal to checkboxes, so you can unselect options.
125. Clearer explanation of the voting process, i.e. how votes are counted.
 - 125.1. This should be clearly linked on both the Union website and the voting portal.
126. On the nominations portal, mention that the 250 word "personal statement" is what people will see on the voting portal.
127. Much more info published about each elected position before nominations open: what the position entails, how the position will affect the average student in their everyday life, and what previous holders of the position have achieved.
128. Page on the Union website for each elected position, with details of their responsibilities (this is already there), previous Councils reports, and previous position holders.
129. Encourage more student media to cover the elections and candidates, so it's not just The Saint.

Questionable ideas so The Saint has something to criticise

130. Turn the space behind the Main Bar DJ booth into a ball pit.
131. Publish a map of all toilets on the Union's website.
132. Take shoes off upstairs.
133. Publish a map of all water fountains on the Union's website.
134. Upgrade Main Bar's vegetarian burger from Aldi burgers to Linda McCartney Mozzarella 1/4lb Burgers.
135. Union to provide firewood for bonfires, so no one has any reason to use wooden pallets.
 - 135.1. Stop leaving the nails from pallets they hurt dogs you psychos.
136. Subsidise the bus to/from Leuchars.
 - 136.1. Pay Stagecoach to introduce a student discount.
137. Keep the Union open for an extra hour when the clocks go back in October.
138. Keep the Union open on Raisin Sunday, purely so people can do stupid stuff there.
 - 138.1. Would probably make a surprising amount of money.
 - 138.2. Three of the 200 points on my kids' scavenger hunt were ruined by the Union being closed, and I'm still bitter about it.
139. I will provide the biscuits at Councils meetings.
140. If it snows, you can get a glass of snow and a yellow VK for £2.22.
141. The Union will explicitly announce support for the serial comma.
142. Turn the nice big grass area behind the Union into a skatepark/parkour area (and swings).
143. All new matriculation cards to be stamped with a fun fact or cheesy joke, which people can use as icebreakers in the Union.