

# Nyasha Mutembwa: President

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*'Work Hard Play Hard'* – not my quote but definitely my life mantra

The name is Ash, I am a fourth year Civil Engineering student about to finish my degree. Before I leave this campus and city, I believe I could offer a profound amount of leadership as President of DUSA. Through many efforts within society committees and being an active member of the university, I believe I have the capacity to represent a range of diverse groups that make up the student population. From playing for our Dundee Basketball Women's firsts team to being on the Women in STEM committee to being President of African-Caribbean Society.

## **Key Priorities:**

### **Diversity & Inclusion**

I believe that DUSA's vision of being a kinder, greener, and more diverse global student community is something I can help achieve. To do so, we must be more representative of the community we live in. As a result, rather than just promoting the 'token cultural events' that occur throughout the year, we must stand by these groups and help them when they are in need. Whether it's researching, educating, connecting like-minded individuals, or even providing respected food fusions for everyone to explore.

### **Society Management**

As a committee member for multiple societies, I believe there should be more focus on how transformative this experience can be for your career in the way that it teaches you skills employers admire and look for; therefore, more support should be offered and funding (if not, support on the best funding strategies) as well as increased social engagement with the efforts provided by them.

### **Academic and Career Support**

Academic support to me is mental health, legal as well as housing and anything that is a major impact during your studies. We don't talk much about it and not many know that its availability, especially since the pandemic. I want to work on improving that and career support to provide high quality students who believe they've been prepared for life after university.

*My mantra will allow me to work hard, on behalf of the students, so they can enjoy the best years of university.*

# Zechariah Laari: VP Academia

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Hello everyone, my name is **Zechariah Laari**, an Energy law and policy student, **the Vice President of Academia and a member of the Race and Equality Charter self-assessment team of the University of Dundee**. It has been a great pleasure working with university in improving student Academic experience over the last year. Hence this gives me the beaming confidence to seek your mandate to be re-elected as your **Vice President of Academia** to consolidate our gains.

My Policies are as follows...

## **Academic**

Assist students with mitigating circumstances, Academic appeals, Grade's transparency, Plagiarism, fitness to practice, feedback and Accommodation. I will also Promote equal learning opportunities (online vs. in- person) by holding the University accountable to upgrade our digital architecture and infrastructure to meet modern demands.

Promoting student voice in teaching and learning is my major foci. I will work closely with the various academic leads to ensure that students are given the opportunity to champion their academic experience, including identifying and retooling quality gabs in teaching and learning.

Work with the admission team, School President, The SRC, and international societies, to review English proficiency requirement to promote equal admission opportunities for international students.

For PGR/PHD Focused I will lobby with the university and the Doctoral academy to establish a permanent student representative presence (DUSA REP / School President) on PHD Upgrade review panel to promote student voice.

## **Promoting student engagement**

Organise one and one sessions to assist student with their dissertations and research papers including regular digital, mathematics and literature cafes for students.

I will also liaise with DUSA to organise events at Ninewells and Kirkcaldy to promote educational inclusivity.

## **Equality and diversity**

Promote equality and diversity by stamping out any element of sectionalism and discrimination against age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, race, sex, religion and belief aimed at promoting sound mind and well-being.

While Continuing to promote the establishment of continental dishes on DUSAs Menu and cafeterias with cultural (diversity) events to showcase student pride and identity.

Let's do this together!!! You are the focus!

# Obiozor Okoro: VP Representation

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MY MANIFESTO

THEME: **INCREASING INCLUSIVITY**

NAME: OBIOZOR OKORO

## **Introduction**

My name is Obiozor Okoro, I am an MSc Social Work student I have an MSC in International business from Bradford University and a BSc in International Law and Diplomacy from Babcock University Nigeria. I have had experience in representation with my university in Nigeria as a student accommodation representative, where I mostly represented the voice of students on activities and challenges which they face while living on campus, I held this position for two years and was known for being proactive, and a passionate advocate for consistency in ensuring that issues are resolved effectively and efficiently. In the past I have held other positions as Vice president CIPM (Chartered Institute of Personnel Management) Enugu, Nigeria 2020/2021, and being a Human resource professional up to managerial level.

I am suitable for the Vice President Representation role because I am dedicated, approachable, friendly and can democratically work alongside with students and university staff while staying focused on achieving set objectives. I believe I have a decent understanding of what the job entails and see it well within my ability. As a human resource professional I encourage building bridges of relationship and understand the principles of equality diversity and fairness to yield a productive environment. I have accumulated skills in administration, team work and problem solving.

## **If voted I aim to accomplish the following:**

1. Students feeling more involved with the student union. More so, making provisions and Inclusion for off-campus distant learners
2. Proper and adequate welfare representation for students with kids.
3. Ensure proper representation within school and across the 3 various campuses. Thereby promoting a suitable multi-cultural network within the university environment.

# Amarachi Ejim: VP Student Wellbeing

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Hello, I am Amarachi Ejim, currently an MSc Student of Advanced Social Work Studies and I will love to be your Vice President Student Wellbeing.

Since after the pandemic, I have really understood how much wellbeing is about whom it is for, then who offers it. ALL students should be engaged on personal basis for matters relating to their wellbeing and I am very passionate about being a platform to make that happen.

I had worked as a para social worker in catering for welfarist needs of students in my undergraduate campus. And fortunately, I have been privileged to share a one month and few weeks experience as DUSA vpsw which within the few weeks, the passion I have for this course has allowed me to give back to students within the short while and I sincerely wish to be given another opportunity to create more positive and rewarding impact in students' experiences at UoD and I hope to achieve these:

- Take wellbeing to ALL students: through creation of an active and responsive communication platform with our diverse students' community. Where students are communicated to personally and engaged in interaction regarding their personal wellbeing. This will be a system of intentional individual check in on students, ensuring they are sharing in services available for their best experience.
- Identifying and representing students concerns: no one knows a person's/group's needs more than they do. I will represent the students actual individual and collective needs ranging from housing and accommodation to financial assistance, academic concerns and students that are parents and with special needs. I will set up the Wellbeing Champions within each school to work with me with the Student's Representative Council and productive efforts will be made to assist students.
- Link students to all services available to them according to their needs and create a system of follow up to know how much better they are getting: this will involve working with DUSA Advice and Support team, UoD counselling department, funding unit and housing services.

Your wellbeing is all about You

Amarachi Ejim for vpsw

Hearty cheers!

# Jazmine Bennett: VP Community

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Your Vice-President of Community should be somebody who values and engages with community in its broadest sense. A vote for Jazmine is a vote for these policies:

## **1. Establish links between DUSA and the wider community.**

There are opportunities between DUSA and wider Dundee that are just waiting to be unlocked. I propose that we establish links with other organisations in the city such as Shelter Scotland Dundee branch and the Dundee Trades Union Council to tackle issues like student poverty, the housing crisis, and precarious student employment. This way we can work to end these issues and you can be at the forefront of the action, making real change. As a prolific community activist I have already begun to make these links in my capacity as:

- Dundee Student Renters Union (DSRU) University of Dundee Rep
- Society committee member
- Active member of Living Rent – Scotland's Tenants' Union
- Unite Hospitality BetterThanZero activist

## **2. Recognition and inclusion of transgender and non-binary students**

According to university and DUSA records, there are no non-binary people running in this election. My presence as a non-binary person is evidence that this is not the case. In order to amplify our voices, I propose we implement a system whereby students can self-identify as their gender identity. We can then create a cis-trans solidarity network within DUSA where students can express concerns and implement activities and trainings to improve trans student experiences. This could include things like swimming sessions for transgender and non-binary people.

## **3. More connection between academic disciplines so as to boost a sense of community, confidence, and employability.**

There seems to be a feeling of disjointedness within the student community, especially between academic schools. In order to combat this, we can all work together to implement a programme of interdisciplinary extra-curricular activities, e.g. community art workshops that focus on messages around issues like consent or sessions on issues like how Philosophy and Health Sciences intersect. There will also be opportunities for students to run activities on areas they're interested in, allowing you to develop your transferable skills.

# Zining Li: VP Student Activities

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I am Zining Li, an economics student at the Financial economics (Hons) BSc programme. Currently, I am in my third year, I suppose that it will be a great time for me to promote my initiative to help more students. During 2021/2022, I was running as General Representative in the Student Representative Council (SRC) and participated in hearing the voices of students and assisting fellows to organize a series of activities and propose their initiatives (e.g., Chinese Spring Festival Event). I have a great passion for service for students and assisting other SRC members to create a friendly, inclusive, and refreshing environment for our universities, and I would like to ensure more students enjoy better extracurricular activities and enable more multi-background students to have a platform to illustrate themselves.

In order to achieve this, I would like to claim the following three policies:

- **I will encourage multicultural students to introduce things about their different cultures at several events.** Help to engage with students from multi-cultural backgrounds.
- **Create more events for communication between DUSA and students which enables students' development in multiple areas.** I would like to do some research with fellows and learn about the demands of students and staff that might be beneficial to all. Meanwhile, I will assist in holding more events to attract more students in order to shorten that gap between staff and students.
- **Create more public events which can attract students and staff from other universities to join to build communication and promote the goodwill of the University of Dundee.** Meaningfully, those can become great platforms to ensure the students network with excellent people and learn more innovative ideas.

Sincerely, I hope you guys can vote for me and help me to create a friendly, inclusive, diverse and refreshing environment for the University of Dundee. Thank you so much!

# Parissa Robinson: SRC Chair

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Hi there,

My name is Parissa and I am applying for the role of SRC Chairperson again.

As SRC Chairperson last year, I believe I have the skillset and first-hand insight to be able to successfully fulfil this role again.

My three main policies:

- **Communication** - to ensure all councillors have equal opportunity to voice their opinions - from the most outspoken to the most reserved
- **Impartiality** - to remain unbiased and support open discussion from all councillors
- **Organisation** - to help oversee the compilation of meeting agendas and support councillors to submit motions

# Adam Robertson: Independent Member of Court

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Hi, I'm Adam, I'm a second-year Philosophy student and I'm running to be the Independent Member of Court.

In my two years at the university, I have done my best to be as involved as possible in various ways with representative structures, student groups and societies. My involvement with Dundee Student Action and my current role as the Secretary of the Socialist Society have given me insight into how various decisions made by the court affect both students and staff. With my experience being an active class representative for my subject, I'm also aware of the importance of the representative structure for the running of the university, from experience in the classrooms to broader decision making areas, such as the University Court. In these roles, I have developed good organisational skills and the ability to consider lots of information and big topics which I believe will be important with all the different business considered in the Court. I also understand the importance of working towards solutions in situations where different people have differing opinions.

One of my aims in the role will be to link the Court to students and students to the Court. Many students probably have no idea what the Court and the IMC does. Being such an important body in the university I hope to help students understand the role it plays in decisions and how it is relevant to their experience. Part of this will be working closely with the School Presidents, the SRC, and trying to engage students on a broader level as well.

I will also work to ensure that the University Values are the focus of Court discussions. In particular "Valuing People" and their contributions should be utterly central. This means students, staff, and the Dundee community who make up the university should be the focus of any decisions made. As well as improving the lives of people involved with the Uni, this should also help the Court be closer to students and the community, rather than existing in a vacuum.