

**SCRUTINISED LONG**  
**MANIFESTOS**

**HILARY TERM 2021**

## CANDIDATES FOR STANDING COMMITTEE

Ahmad Nawaz (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *Lady Margaret Hall*)

#ALTERNATIVE

### Experience:

- Award-Winning **Human Rights Activist**.
- **Treasurer** Pakistan Society.
- **Founded** 'Dialogues for Change'.
- **Led** Nationwide youth campaign.
- **Debate academy Graduate**.

### Accomplishments:

- CONFIRMED: **Nobel Prize-winning** Economist.
- **Founded** Refugee Support Project.
- **Helped put together** NHS debate.
- **Top 100** *Most Influential young people*.

### Vision:

- **PANELS** on UN's Sustainable Development goals.
- More speakers on **Human Rights!**
- **Arrange a Charity** event for **Homelessness** in Oxford.
- Make sure everyone READS THE STANDING ORDERS AND UNDERSTAND THEM!

## Eu Ro Wang (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *Christ Church*)

### *#BRIDGE*

#### Vision

- Entrepreneurship Panel
- More BAME Speakers

#### Accomplished

- Confirmed 5 Speakers: Steven Pinker
- Helped arranged Religion Debate, Experts Debate winning paper speech
- Interest from Tech CEO, Bitcoin Billionaires
- Facilitated Daron Acemoglu, China Panel
- Marketing director at venture capital society
- Consulting director at consulting society
- Interned at a human rights NGO
- Secretary of cultural society
- Former *National President* of 200,000+ member organization
- State-school educated

#### Dedicated

- Worked 15 Vac Days
- Secretary of the Secretary's Committee

Sharon (Lang Qing) Chau (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee,  
University College)

*#BRIDGE*

Vision

- Feminism Panel
- More Wom\*n's debating workshops
- ESL Debating Workshop

Accomplished

- Interest from former Head of Government
- Assisted Religion debate - delivered paper speech
- Helped arrange NHS debate
- Interest from Nobel peace prize winner
- Captain of Hong Kong debate team
- Comment Editor at Oxford student newspaper
- OxPath Head of Mentor Engagement - access initiative

Dedicated

- Worked 10+ Vac Days
- Sponsorship officer for DSC
- Equity officer for Oxford Schools debating

Rachel Ojo (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *University College*)

## **#PROGRESS**

### **EXPERIENCED:**

- Delivered Paper Speech in Union debate
- Interest from prominent MP
- Assisted Experts, Helped Arrange No Con Debates
- Invited 25+ Speakers

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Advisor- House of Commons Senior Group
- Chair, Knife Crime Youth Select Committee
- Diana Award Recipient
- JCR Freshers rep

### **PLEDGE:**

- Panel- Future of African Union
- Guaranteed access member committee interviews
- Improve Speaker Diversity Ratio
- Membership Fee Reduction
- SBS Socials

## Ayesha Khan (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *The Queen's College*)

### Pledge

- Cultural Society Collaboration
- First-Gen Access Rep

### Accomplished

- Helped Arrange Cancel Culture Debate - delivered paper speech
- Facilitated Kim Campbell, Katherine Parkinson, Nimco Ali
- Investigations writer at Oxford student magazine
- Committee member of largest political society in Oxford
- Local politics radio show host
- Debated in House of Commons

### Dedicated

- Worked 12 Vac Days
- Sent 90+ invitations

Daniel-Paul Osahon (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *Balliol College*)

#Bridge

Pledge

- **Pop Culture** and Religion Panel
- *Beach Cocktail* Night
- Oxford Union **Bridge Clubnight**

Accomplished

- Assisted Religion Debate - confirmed Michael Shermer
- Arranged Social Mobility Panel - confirmed Professor Green and Andrew Halls
- Interest from internationally acclaimed rapper, co-founder of BLM
- Winning paper speech!
- Events director of Oxford's largest finance society [OFS]
- Co-founder of new medical society

Dedicated

- Worked 10+ vac days
- Facilitated 5+ events

## William Feasey (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *St Hilda's College*)

### *#BRIDGE*

#### Vision

- Five a side football tournament in the Chamber
- Streaming Events in the Chamber
- Future of Democracy Panel
- Greater Interdisciplinary Societal Engagement

#### Accomplished

- Confirmed Martin Tyler
- Arranged Experts debate, confirmed two Debate Speakers
- Interest from England Football Captain and Rugby Legend
- Delivered successful paper speech
- Organised flagship OFQE Uyghur Event

#### Dedicated

- Worked 10+ Vac Days
- JCR chair
- Attended Access Committee
- Attended Saturday Series

## CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

Larissa P. Sidarto (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *St Cross College*)

Hi everyone!

I'm Larissa, and I want to serve as your next Union Secretary. As Secretary, I shall focus on building the **#BRIDGE to Network**.

I'm a big believer in the power of storytelling, in which meaningful conversations can expand one's horizons. Previously, I worked on an ambitious dream to connect Indonesian smallholder farmers to goods and services. The mission has taken me across the globe - being invited to share my experience in various venues such as Bloomberg, Tech in Asia, to ASEAN & World Economic Forum. It has been a real pleasure to be part of the Oxford Union community, and I am determined to contribute more. From having the chance to deliver a paper speech in the Cancel Culture debate, assisting with the Privacy Debate and confirming one of the speakers, to facilitating events for the IMF's Chief Economist Gita Gopinath, 'Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother' Amy Chua, and the President of the European Court of Human Rights Judge Spano. It was an honor to be able to write questions for these events, which gave me a greater understanding of the importance of interrogating the speakers that we have at the Union. I want to take this opportunity to strengthen the community - allowing individual members to share their stories.

My favorite aspect of being part of organizations is to connect with members and be inspired by their life journeys. Over the years, I am humbled to realize that my biggest inspirations come from my surroundings; from farmers, business partners, mentors, family, friends, and colleagues. The same goes for my experience at the Union. I've had the pleasure to get to know a first-year student who founded a food delivery app. A second-year medicine student explained to me philosophies behind car designs. Or a third-year student dreams of creating stronger Sino-British diplomatic bonds. All with exciting life stories and passion - in a world transitioning from the pandemic, I will ensure such interactions are possible for the community.

**I pledge** to create a stronger Oxford Union community, and I believe together we can **#BRIDGE** the Union!

## CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER-ELECT

Arjun Bhardwaj (Chief of Staff, *Corpus Christi College*)

### #BRIDGE

Over the course of this term and preceding vacation, I served as the Chief of Staff at the Oxford Union. It has been a truly exciting opportunity, allowing me to debate alongside Jeremy Hunt and interview the European Union Ambassador to the United Nations. It reminded me of why the Union remains so appealing: it provides an unparalleled opportunity to be involved with discussing the most important issues of our time. Yet, despite all its benefits, I do believe that there is still so much that needs to be changed. Accordingly, albeit not for the first time, I have decided to run for Treasurer.

During my time on the Standing Committee, I helped raise over £400,000 for the Union and passed a budget through both the Finance and Standing Committees. I also previously arranged the historic Modi debate, confirming two speakers for our first ever 'No Confidence' debate about another country's leadership. This term, as well as arranging every debate, I implemented the first-ever online 'Meet and Greet' system which allowed members to interact with our guest speakers after the event. I have had interest from two captivating speakers, including a member of the CIA Senior Leadership.

As Treasurer, I think it would be a great idea to introduce a loyalty card system at our bar. I would envision this as a scheme that would reward members and regular users of our bar with (I'm sure) welcomed discounts & free beverages. On top of this, I am keen to revamp the membership drive and introduce corporate memberships - which could provide a huge source of needed income to the Union.

Above all else, I hope that as Treasurer I will be able to mould a more inclusive Union for current and future members alike.

## CANDIDATES FOR LIBRARIAN-ELECT

Michael-Akolade Ayodeji (Secretary, *University College*)

*#BRIDGE*

I got involved with the Oxford Union by attending online beginners debating squads last year. Having chosen to take a year out of university for personal reasons, I thought I should try to make the most out of the virtual opportunities of lockdown. I had long wanted to tackle my issues with social anxiety and public speaking, so taking on the competitive sport of debating seemed to make sense.

Within weeks of training in MT20, I broke into the Novice Final at the Amsterdam Open and now in HT21 I have been entrusted to convene and judge rounds at the Oxford Schools Regionals. These rewarding experiences were pivotal in boosting my self confidence and making me want to get more involved in other aspects of the Society.

Admittedly, having only ascended to the Office of Secretary this term after you graciously elected me to the standing committee last term, I am new to the world of Union governance. However, I have a wealth of outside experience that will help me excel as Librarian.

I have served as President of a University Wide Society, contributed richly to the affairs of my college as Access and Equal opportunities officer, as well as helping to raise £250K+ via telethon campaigning. Locally, I attend the West Midlands Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, representing the voice of young people in challenging our region's Mayor. As the YCA portfolio Co-Lead for Culture and Major events, I'm involved in the planning of major celebrations such as the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022. Nationally, as one of Mind's strategy advisors, I've used my own lived experience to champion mental health by helping to shape Mind's 2021-2024 objectives in light of how the pandemic has affected certain communities disproportionately.

I pledge:

- *Anti-prejudice Reading Group*
- *'Demystifying the Union' Project*
- *Digitising Union Archive*
- *Greater External Societies Collaboration*

...and I endorse all *#BRIDGE* pledges.

## Alexander Gan (Merton College)

Independent

### **Values:**

- Personally anti-hacking: I have never messaged anyone to hack for my vote, and never will. I am however more than happy to have conversations – feel free to message me online!
- Jaded about the Union: The Union is a debating society, nothing more. Too many people act as if the Union is the UN. I can speak from (some) authority that it isn't.
- Transparent about motives: I think it's fun to run. I will work to make things run smoothly.
- Willing to make hard choices: I have set out some potentially unpopular policies. I want to be upfront about what I feel the Union needs.

### **Will Lobby**

- More non-alcoholic beverages; guest fees
- Allow hot chocolates to be served in the evenings.
- Remove floor prizes.

### **Experiences:**

- **Co-President** of the Merton College PPE+ Society
- **Co-President** of the Oxford University United Nations Association
- **Director of Development** for ShARE Oxford Student Consulting

# CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT

Chengkai Xie (Librarian, *Brasenose College*)

*#BRIDGE*

This is not the first time I have put myself forward to run for the Presidency of the Oxford Union.

I served as your Secretary. I ran for President last year to lead the institution away from the status quo. I lost, but was not prepared to give up despite this setback, and later ran for Librarian. Last time, I focused my campaign on creating a term card of speakers and events that genuinely resembled the diverse interests of the membership. This time, I hope to have the opportunity to put this into action, and create a Union that is truly a bridge to a brighter future.

I will never forget my first Union experience, the No Confidence debate, which convinced me to become a member. Little did I know, a year on from then I would be delivering a paper speech alongside ministers on the same motion. Coming from a state school in Preston, the opportunity to shine a light on the leading issues of our day with world leaders was an undeniably exciting prospect, and I knew I wanted to be part of this conversation as soon as I arrived at Oxford and watched that debate.

When I was growing up in China, I could never have dreamed of sitting in the Secretary's chair during Thursday night debates - let alone interviewing a former Canadian Prime Minister as your Librarian this term. Going from someone who barely knew any English when he first came to the UK, to becoming someone who has represented the Union by delivering debate workshops, my journey in the Union has been one of the most eye-opening and confidence-building experiences.

Having benefited so much from the Union myself, I am eager to continue to create a Union centred around inclusion and engagement. Wipe the slate clean and vote TEAM BRIDGE for a forward-looking and cohesive Oxford Union.

**I am committed to the following:**

- **DEMOCRATISE** events: Speaker, Debate and Q&A suggestions
- **INTERACTIVE** events: Concerts and Screenings in the Chamber
- **ACCESSIBLE** events: Translation for BIG foreign speakers
- **DIVERSE** events: Platform marginalised voices
- **OPEN** Union: **IN-PERSON EVENTS**, State School Outreach Programme, Beer Garden
- **DIGITAL** Union: Online Members Area, Podcasting Events and Live-Streaming
- **FAIRER** Union: Tiered-Access and Foundation-Year Membership
- **CONNECTED** Union: Mentorship Scheme, ReFreshers Social