

**Oxford Union Elections
Trinity Term 2021**

**Scrutinised Long Manifestos of
Candidates for Junior Officers &
Standing Committee**

The Returning Officer
Jamie Bowden
Brasenose College

Candidates for Standing Committee

Freddie zu Wied (Wadham College)

#REACH

EXPERIENCED:

- Chaired *SU presidential debate*
- Facilitated successful district councillor campaign
- Ran **education nonprofit**, *BioReach UK*
- *Director, The Oxford Blue*
- **Facilitator, TEDx & DLD Munich**, “Europe’s Hottest Conference” - 200+ speakers
- **Environmental Committee Chairman**- Led 30+ team
- Ran a **Natural History Museum**
- Incumbent WCBC captain
- Raised £3000+ for charity
- German national

PLEDGES:

- Improve **press relations** with student publications
- Increase **representation of transgender speakers**
- STEM members’ social

I endorse all #REACH pledges

Ambika Sehgal (Elected Member of Secretary’s Committee, Lincoln College)

#OPEN

From collaborating with women’s societies for Pink-Week Karaoke Night to confirming Aneeta Prem, a campaigner opposing Female Genital Mutilation and Family Dishonour-Based Crimes, serving on Secretary’s Committee has been extremely fulfilling. This is why I joined the Union: to have fun while strengthening the women’s community at Oxford and to provide a platform for overlooked world issues. I want to continue this work, hosting a Family Dishonour-Based Crimes Panel and organising more socials with women’s societies.

Naman Gupta (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, Merton College)

#REACH

EXPERIENCED:

- Confirmed *Financial Times Editor + 3 others!*
- Helped arrange **Immortality** Debate
- Invited 50+ *speakers*
- Facilitated 4 socials

ACCOMPLISHED:

- **Co-President of Uni-Access Charity**, with 200+ mentors
- **Secretary** of **Major Subject Society**
- **UK Youth Parliament**
- *Vice President - Engagement of RAG, the Oxford Student Union Charity*
- *Helped raise over £11k for Against Malaria Foundation*

PLEDGES:

- **PANEL** on Inequality
- **Mock Interview Day** for disadvantaged students
- **BAME** social

I endorse all #REACH pledges

Theo Sergiou (Senior Access Officer, Keble College)

#REACH

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Involved in **4 Rule Changes** for access
- **Completed 20+ vac days**
- **Ensured Screen-reader accessible termcard and social-media posts**
- **Youngest ever** contributor to **CABINET**
- **EMMY-winning and BAFTA-nominated** documentary on my life
- *Thanked by London Mayor* for campaign that reinstated U18s Free-Travel
- *Top 10 most influential people in Germany 2015*
- **UK Youth Parliament, London lead**

PLEDGE:

- Souvlaki Night
- Rap-Battle: grime artists
- Intercultural Societies Ball

- Sidemen Hide-&-Seek in Union

I endorse all #REACH pledges

Alfred Dry (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *St John's College*)

#OPEN

- Trans Rights Panel
- **Legendary Socials: Drag Nights/Drag Brunches/Drag Everything Darling!**

Accomplished

- **ORGANISED/PERFORMED** in Drag Social
- **FACILITATED** Immortality Debate, Delivered Paper Speech
- Ex-JCR Chair, Class Representative

Dedicated

- **Worked 10+** Vacation Days
- **FACILITATED 3** Pub Quizzes

Alfred Dry (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *St John's College*)

#OPEN

While on Secretary's Committee this term, my priority has been to make the Union a warm and inviting place, from organising and performing in the drag night to facilitating pub quizzes. I am overjoyed that these events have brought a sense of community and laughter to the Union. On Standing Committee, I want to organise drag socials and a Trans Rights Panel to take advantage of our open, fun-loving, post-pandemic world, celebrating the diversity within and beyond the Union.

Manuel Fieber (Director of Sponsorship, *St Hugh's College*)

#REACH

EXPERIENCED:

- Won four new sponsors as Director of **SPONSORSHIP** - Secured **beer garden screens** sponsored by Samsung
- Delivered **Paper Speech** in opposition of Europe debate motion

ACCOMPLISHED:

- **Management Consultant** (leadership, top team, organizational culture) gone **MBA**
- MUN Veteran and **world citizen**

- **Board Member** of several non-profits in arts and culture

PLEDGE:

- **MBA Debate** in Chamber
- **Engage** more with **alumni/life members**
- **Anchor sponsorship** more at the core of the Union

I endorse all #REACH pledges

Declan Nelson (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *Merton College*)

#OPEN

From the moment I clicked on my first Union debate, I knew this was something pretty exciting: a society that had the potential to transform the social scene.

Laura Smith (Junior Access Officer, *St Anne's College*)

#REACH

Accomplished

- Secured State School Online Outreach Initiative
- Interviewed Deputy Ambassador to US
- Most Outstanding Member of Gamma Beta Phi Chapter
- Interviewed on politics by BBC and talkRADIO

I was inspired to get involved & champion access after attending one of the in-person events at the Union in Michaelmas. I'm a woman, who's been an international student. Being the sole female student at Harrow School, I'm critically aware of the need for inclusion.

I endorse all #REACH pledges

Charlie Mackintosh (Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *New College*)

#OPEN

As an army scholar, I want to host a Future of Defence panel. Serving two terms on committee and Finance Committee has highlighted the Union's long-term problems and inspired me to address them. Guaranteeing a future for the Union requires experience and vision — like alumni fundraising.

Dara Sanwal (Ex-Chair of Consultative Committee, *St John's College*)

#FORWARDS

EXPERIENCED:

- Worked **50.5** vac days,
- Hosted **2** speakers,
- Minuted **9** committee meetings,
- Served **3** terms on Union Committee,

...More than ANY other standing candidate

ACCOMPLISHED:

- EX-SECRETARY AND CHAIR OF LARGEST UNION COMMITTEE
- **JCR Access Officer-Elect**
- Ex-student journalist, ex-subject society committee, SU campaign Treasurer!
- Stood for local council

VISION:

- Future of Space Panel
- Eco-friendly Union: remove plastic cups from bar, bring in sustainable suppliers!
- Sensible reforms to improve efficiency and access

Anvee Bhutani (Ex-Logistics Officer, *Magdalen College*)

#OPEN The Union declared itself institutionally racist in 2015 and has a history of platforming fascists. Last Trinity, I confirmed a BLM founder at the height of the global Black Lives Matter movement.

Candidates for the Office of Secretary

Ananya Chowdhury (Chief of Staff, Pembroke College)

#REACH

Confirmed **JEREMY CORBYN**. Responsible for **MORE speaker events, MORE socials and 4x MORE debates** than **ANY OTHER SECRETARY CANDIDATE**

ACCOMPLISHED:

- CO-FOUNDED an **African social impact overseas start-up**
- HELPED RAISE: **£72,000** for charity
- DEBATING: **International School MUN Debater** , Winner of Eton Open Debate competition
- ACCESS: Volunteered over **300 hours to charity** teaching sexual health and entrepreneurship overseas
- DIVERSE LEADERSHIP: Vice-President of the **Oxford Venture Capital Network**, Development Officer of Pembroke **College Boat Club**
- ACCESS: Youth board member of a **young person's charity** which I have been involved with for over 5 years as a young carer!

EXPERIENCED:

- ARRANGED and HOSTED Stand up **Comedy Night** and **Yoga in the Chamber**
- SOUGHT lasting sponsorship relationships with **over 1000 sponsors**
- **CHIEF OF STAFF**: responsible for all TT21 Debates and managing appointed committee
- RAISED £2,500 as sponsorship for the Union, **the first time in a year**
- CONFIRMED and ARRANGED **Jeremy Corbyn speaker event**
- INTERVIEWED **IMF Chief Economist**
- DELIVERED winning paper speech **twice**
- INTEREST FROM **iconic American first lady** and lead singer of one of the **greatest bands of the 21st century**
- ACCESS: Organised Oxford Union visits for young carers who are members of a youth charity

REACH FOR BETTER:

- First **(MASQUERADE) UNION BALL** in over a year (I'll let you make the pun)
- **ALUMNI** events: gaudies and open debates in chamber
- Hire the Union space at a greater discount specifically for alumni and MBA members
- Revive the alumni **newsletter**

- Continue **themed socials** taking place in the courtyard (in the beer garden), with an opportunity for members to pitch and organise their events
- Revitalise and diversify the bar **FOOD AND DRINK MENU** by using the industrial kitchen available in the Union

I ENDORSE ALL #REACH PLEDGES

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

#OPEN

Being a state-educated, first-generation immigrant, the opportunity to be a part of a place like the Oxford Union has changed my university experience for the better. From spotlighting voices during the Civil Liberties Panel which I organised to raising the issue of language barriers at Access Committee, I've learned that the Union can be a place for all - but only if it listens to the wider Oxford community.

Only by making the Union truly open to everyone, irrespective of background, can we make it a place where people genuinely want to go. I loved working at the beer garden and have facilitated six social events there during my time on the Standing Committee. Installing a permanent beer garden with heaters would continue this spirit all year round. Organising even more affordable, inclusive and frequent socials, such as Laser-tag in the Chamber and '*Speed Dating and Debating*' would be a major priority of mine as Secretary.

I have worked 36+ vac days — more vacation days than any other secretary candidate — helped arrange both the Class and Cancel Culture debates and confirmed both a reality TV star, Kerry Katona and news host, Ana Kasparian. I have extensive experience arranging socials, having arranged 8 for Oxford's largest political society while serving as Social Secretary. I have sent over 175 invitations to speakers and delivered the winning paper speech at the Cancel Culture debate.

Candidates for the Office of Treasurer-Elect

Eu Ro Wang (Elected Member of Standing Committee, Christ Church)

#OPEN

I believe a comprehensive financial review, long-term sponsorship, and building maintenance work are crucial to ensure Union's long-term stability. I've overseen a \$15 million budget as the President of FBLA, a student business organisation, and served as the Secretary of the Finance Committee, experiences which have prepared me to lead these initiatives. Moreover, increasing the budget of the Access Committee will help move forward the incredible work Access Committee does for terms to come.

As the world is opening up, I'm excited to pledge Treasurer's Treats from nightclubs to offer discounts on drinks and ticket fees for members, but I'm also excited to advertise these offerings more through a Membership Benefits Handbook, outlining various perks of membership.

Another offering I'd like to provide for members is a career database to facilitate the job-search process for our members when they are students and even after they leave Oxford to reap the benefits of a lifetime membership.

EXPERIENCED

- Confirmed 14 Speakers: Litecoin Creator, Facebook Co-Founder, Parasite Movie Writer, Creator of Dunning-Kruger Effect, Venture Capitalists, Graham Allison, Steven Pinker, more than double any other treasurer candidate
- Arranged Europe Debate, Helped Arrange Religion Debate, Facilitated Experts Debate, Delivered Experts Winning Paper Speech
- Secured 8 Treasurer's Treats, 6 Floor Prizes, more than any other treasurer candidate
- Organised Entrepreneurship Panel, Facilitated Cryptocurrency Panel
- Worked 38 Vacation Days, more than double any other treasurer candidate
- Attended more Finance Committee meetings than any other treasurer candidate
- Secretary and Standing Committee Delegate to Finance Committee
- Secretary of Secretary's Committee
- Interest from Big Tech CEO
- Delivered on Manifesto Pledges and fulfilled more pledges than any other treasurer candidate:
- More BAME Speakers
- Entrepreneurship Panel
- Interned at a human rights NGO
- President-Elect of CapitOx, Marketing Director for OXVC, Secretary of Cultural Society

- Ex-President of FBLA, 230,000+ member organisation
- Spoke at conferences with over 13,000 members
- Oversaw \$15 million+ budget and created a \$25,000 scholarship for low income students to attend national conferences

ADDITIONAL PLEDGES

- Increase Advertising of Treasurer's Treats through Membership Benefits Handbook
- Treasurer's Treats for Discounts at Nightclubs
- Building Maintenance Work
- Carbon-Neutral Union
- #StopAsianHate Panel

Ahmad Nawaz (Elected Member of Standing Committee, Lady Margaret Hall)

#REACH

ACCOMPLISHED:

Invited MALALA + GRETA

- Award-Winning **Human Rights Activist**.
- **Top 100 Most Influential young people**.
- **Treasurer** Pakistan Society.
- **Founded** 'Dialogues for Change'.
- **Head of BAME Caucus** at OULC.
- Delegate to **Debate Selection Committee**.
- **Led** Nationwide youth campaign.
- **Debate** academy Graduate.
- **One Young World** Ambassador.

EXPERIENCED:

- **Arranged** a Charity event for Homelessness- Badminton social.
- Facilitated **Jeremy Corbyn** event.
- Helped arrange **Veganism Debate**.
- **Arranged** the Sustainable Development Goals panel.
- Interest from **World renowned Economist**.
- Confirmed an MP.
- Interest from UN Youth Envoy.
- **Founded** Refugee Support Project.
- Confirmed 10+ speakers for Oxford PakSoc.

AWARDS:

- Prime Minister's Point of Light award holder.

- **Diana Legacy Award** winner.
- **Pride of Birmingham** Award holder.
- Honorary **lifetime Ambassador** of *Anne Frank Trust*

REACH FOR BETTER:

- **Organise** Uyghur Panel.
- Have **CHEAPER Ball tickets** for non-drinkers.
- Discounted club tickets for members.
- Tiered **Access** membership.
- Put **NAJAR's** and **HASSAN's** on the Treasurer's treats.
- **TRANSPARENCY**: Create a financial report for members.

I Endorse all #REACH Pledges

Candidates for the Office of Librarian-Elect

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

#OPEN

Physics students are few and far between in the Oxford Union. Despite this, ever since running for Secretary's Committee back in Michaelmas, I have found the Union to be a place that can achieve and contribute so much to discourse in Oxford.

The Union shouldn't just be a place for challenging opinions however, but also a place to provoke thought and platform voices that haven't been traditionally heard before. I aim to achieve this through greater spending on higher profile speakers and a members survey for speaker suggestions.

I believe the Union has a greater responsibility to champion charitable causes, leading me to pledge a MOvember speaker series for this coming Michaelmas term.

Despite speaker events being the crux of the Union, I wholly recognise the necessity for the Union to be a social hub for Oxford students. I am excited to bring a Bake-off competition to the chamber next term!

EXPERIENCED

- Worked 35+ Vac days, more than any other candidate for this role
- Co-Organised 2 Events, more than any other candidate for this role
- Confirmed 15+ speakers; {Magnus Carlsen, Martin Tyler, Lord Bilimoria, Dwain Chambers, Peter Hitchens, Professor Kaku, Tom Harwood} more than any other candidate for this role
- Hosted and Organised Panel on Big Pharma
- Co-Organised Immortality Debate, Arranged Experts debate, Helped Arrange Monarchy debate
- Facilitated Jeremy Corbyn in addition to seven beer garden socials
- Interest from World Champion UK Boxer, International Rugby Legend, Former England Football Captain
- Attended more access committee meetings than any other candidate for this role
- Served as Secretary to the Access Committee and was involved in conversations regarding the Presidential Support Fund and the Accessibility Consultation
- Secured Ahmed's Kebab Van discount for members

- This term I facilitated the Magnus Carlsen event, helping to raise over £300 for over 20 different charities.
- Delivered a successful paper speech in Experts Debate - swung the vote!

Rachel Ojo (Elected Member of Standing Committee, *University College*)

#REACH

Arranged **MORE** Events, **MORE** Debates, Attended **MORE** Library Committee Meetings **AND MORE** Library Strategy Meetings than **ANY OTHER LIBRARIAN CANDIDATE**

ACCOMPLISHED:

- ORGANISED Future of **African Union Panel**
- Delivered *Winning Paper Speech* in Scotland and Class debate
- CONFIRMED **8+** Speakers - Ndaba Mandela, A Shadow Home Secretary, Blair Imani
- ARRANGED **No Con, Monarchy and Experts Debates - MORE than any other Librarian candidate**
- FACILITATED **Jeremy Corbyn** Event, **Drag, Poetry & Jazz** Nights
- Interest from **prominent MP**

DEDICATED:

- INVITED **120+** Speakers
- ARRANGED **Jazz Night**
- **ONLY** Librarian candidate to be **Delegate to Library committee**
- **ONLY** Librarian candidate to ***Champion group study spaces in Union Library***
- Demonstrated **MORE Commitment to Library Booklist Diversity** than any other Librarian candidate
- DEBATED in ***2 Competitions-*** More than any other Librarian candidate
- **ONLY** Librarian candidate to have **Judged Oxford Schools Debating Competition**
- Served **MORE** terms on **library AND library strategy** Committee than any other Librarian candidate

ACHIEVED:

- **House of Commons** Senior Group *Advisor*
- BBC Radio 1 **Teen Hero** - *Invited to meet Royals at Kensington Palace!*
- Member of **UK Youth Parliament**
- Supported **UK Youth Violence Commission** report
- Chair, **Knife Crime Youth Select Committee**
- Diana Award Recipient- **“Anti-Bullying Champion”**
- JCR **Freshers rep**
- OFFICIATOR for ***England Athletics***

- **Head of Access and Diversity** at Oxford PPE Society
- Jack Petchey *Achievement Award*
- **Pride of Essex Award**- “Inspirational Youth”

REACH FOR BETTER:

- **Fair:** Everyone can **ballot for debate dinners**
- **Connect:** *Workshops* for schools in the union
- **Opportunity:** *Auditioned Paper Speeches*
- **Innovate:** Oxford **Union App** with Termcard and opportunities
- **Collaborate:** Panels in **partnership with Oxford Societies**
- **Inclusion:** *Members suggest* Debates and Speakers to be invited

Further Claims:

- Exclusively **state school educated**
- PPE Student

I endorse all **#REACH** pledges!

Candidates for the Office of President-Elect

Viren Shetty (Treasurer, Christ Church)

#OPEN

Watching a YouTube video of Shashi Tharoor arguing that Britain owes reparations to its colonies was my first experience of the Union. Launching a multi-term ‘Decolonise the Union’ project would give us both the ability to platform more oppressed voices and to delve into the Union’s archives ensuring that the photos we have on our walls showcase trailblazers from the past. Last week I hosted and organised a panel on prostitution, hearing from former sex workers themselves, rather than detached politicians, about what needs to be done to protect them.

It means nothing to be a society that platforms minority voices if nobody comes through the doors to hear these stories in the first place. Putting members back at the centre of the Union, continuing the Tuesday Night Open Debate as well as introducing Town Hall Style Debates are at the top of our agenda. The Union also needs to be re-invigorated as a social space, with a comprehensive review as to how to improve the offerings of the indoor bar and the installation of a permanent beer garden.

Having championed an increase in the vacation day allowance for access members and helped shape the Presidential Hardship Fund, I’ve worked consistently to make committee more accessible. Establishing a welfare rep, implementing the results of the Equality and Diversity Review and opening up and advertising committee meetings would all put an end to some of the toxicity.

EXPERIENCED

- Confirmed 30+ Speakers: Peter Tatchell, Gina Miller, Daniel Sturridge, Billy Bragg, Nathalie Bennett, Ramachandra Guha, Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, Kristian Nimitz
- Arranged 10 Debates: Delivered Feminism Winning Paper Speech, Helped Arrange Feminism Debate, Empire Debate, India Podcast, Arranged Revolution, NHS Debates, Organised Veganism Debate
- Secured 20+ Treasurer’s Treats: The Economist, Oxford Wine Company, 5 Floor Prizes: More than any other candidate for President-Elect
- Organised 3 Panels: Prostitution, British South Asian Voices, ‘Difficult Women’
- Organised Tuesday Tunes Social in the Beer Garden
- Championed Debating Expenses Reform
- Delivered on Manifesto Pledges
- Secured Online Treasurer’s Treats, Flash Offers
- Passed change which introduced MCR Graduate Representatives

- Increased Vacation Day Allowance for Access Members on Committee to £12
- Secured Hogan Lovells, Economist Sponsorship

ADDITIONAL PLEDGES

- Increase Debaters' Allowance
- Alumni Reunion Ball

Molly Mantle (Librarian, St Hugh's College)

CONFIRMED MORE SPEAKERS, ORGANISED MORE EVENTS, SPEARHEADED MORE REFORMS, FULFILLED MORE PLEDGES THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

ACCOMPLISHED

- CONFIRMED **35+** speakers - *Facebook CTO, Lily James, Anthony Giddens*
- MORE THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
- ORGANISED **4** debates - *Privacy, Monarchy, Class!*
- MORE THAN DOUBLE ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
- COMPLETED **100+** vac days
- RAISED £1000, HELPED RAISE **£250,000+**

COMMITTED TO ACCESS

- PASSED **PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT GRANT**
- PRODUCED **Access Handbook**
- FOUNDED **National Campaign to Ban Conversion Therapy**

DEDICATED

- ORGANISED **Chess Tournament!**
- HOSTED **27+** Speakers
- **MORE THAN 3X ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**
- ARRANGED **3+** events - **Jazz Night, Mental Health Panel**

INNOVATIVE

- ORGANISED **4** panels - *domestic violence, gender inequality, LGBTQ+*
- PASSED **Access Fundraising Proposal**
- CHAMPIONED state school debate **outreach**

REACH FOR BETTER

- **Accessibility:** Reduce membership fees! Increase Access Remit!
- **Transparency:** **Independent Sexual Assault Reporting System**
- Formal process to report bullying
- Improve press relationships
- **Socials:** Soapbox events - *Speak on what matters to YOU*
- **International women's day event**

- **Wom*n's debate**
- **Efficiency:** Reform invitations process (*end binning*), review spending - *more on members!*

- Access Committee Secretary, Ex LGBTQIA+ Officer
- Championed **Diversifying Library Collection**
- Helped Raise **£250k+**
- Worked Membership Drive
- Secured use of pronouns in emails
- Arranged captioning for zooms
- Conceived of access handbook, access committee mechanism reform
- Produced access committee handbook
- Confirmed 10 speakers - Justice 4 Grenfell Founder, Jane Goodall, Gloria Allred, Amy Hart, reeta Loi, Jamie Windust
- Confirmed many BAME speakers, many openly LGBTQ+ and many female speakers
- Interest from civil rights leader who worked with Dr MLK
- Interest from famous student who desegregated schools
- Interest from battle of the sexes tennis player
- Organised LGBTQ+ panel
- Ex LGBTQIA+ officer, Access committee secretary
- Ran national campaign to ban conversion therapy
- UNI REACH leadership team, uni-peer mentor, helped with college access

DEDICATED

- Championed diverse library book lists!
- Delivered on pledges
- Helped Raise £250k+ during Membership Drive
- Served 1 term on appointed committee
- Served 3 terms on library AND library strategy Committee
- Member of access, library, bar strategy
- Served 5 terms on committee

I am a queer woman. I was originally afraid to join the union in case I was excluded. After attending my first event, which I enjoyed, I committed myself to ensuring the Oxford Union was a welcoming space for all members. From my first term on the committee, I attended the access committee and worked hard to do so.

ENDORSE ALL #REACH PLEDGES