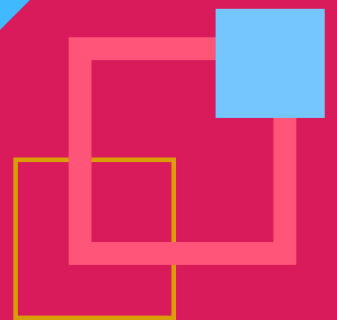


SEMESTER ONE REPORT

Cam Brown
Association President



December 2024

WELCOME MESSAGE



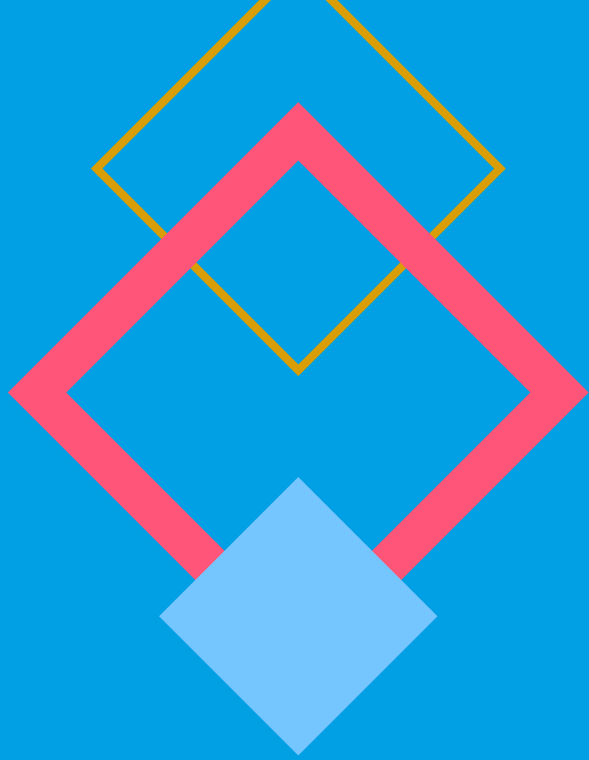
When I ran to be your Association President, I promised to deliver the biggest shake-up of our Union since 1989—a vision built on bold change, fresh ideas, and injecting a new energy back into YOUR Union. Semester One has been all about delivering on that promise. We've begun transforming governance structures through the Democracy Review, restructuring our Senior Management Team, hiring new staff to better support elected officers, and expanding our advocacy services to meet your needs. These steps are laying the foundation for a stronger, and more sustainable Students' Association that works for everyone.

This semester of change has also been about securing financial stability. By negotiating a larger block grant from the University, we've delivered crucial funding to support the reforms we've initiated. These changes aren't just about the present; they are about ensuring the long-term stability and effectiveness of Your Union. After all, change is not simply about this year, rather it is about the next decade.

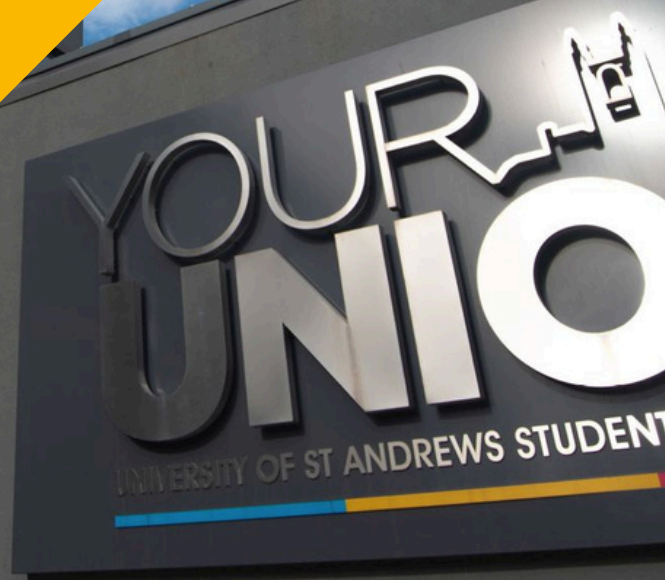
This report highlights some of our other transformational efforts and provides updates on key projects, including initiatives like the Campus Larder, and the work we're doing to enhance your student experience at every level. It also looks ahead to Semester Two, where we'll focus on embedding these changes and driving forward the priorities you've told us matter most.

Change isn't always easy, but it's necessary. Together, we're building a Union that works better for everyone—now and for years to come.

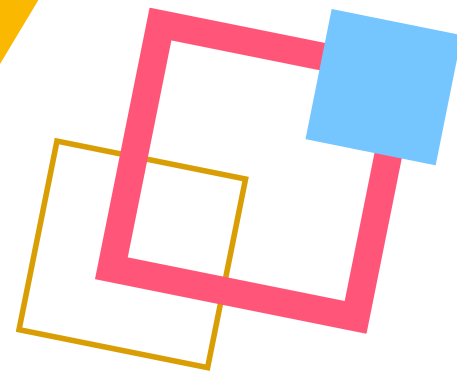
#YesWeCam





MANIFESTO GOALS






MANIFESTO GOALS

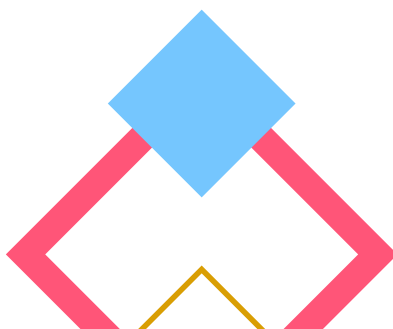


I set out a very broad manifesto (again!) While many of my goals have changed since taking office, I am proud to have made enormous progress on many of my promises to you. Here is a brief description of what I've done so far on my original manifesto goals.

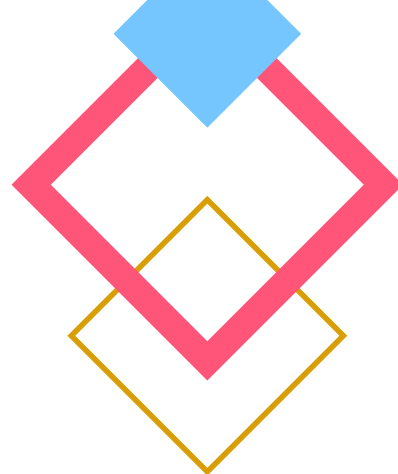
Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Change Programme</p>	 (Ramping Up)	<p>In October 2023 we launched our Change Programme to reform the Students' Association. In December 2023, we recruited Antony Blackshaw and his team to lead our Change Programme. Since then, we've been working incredibly hard to find out what you want Your Union to look like, and to make these changes where we can.</p> <p>One other ch-ch-ch-change is that Antony is now our interim CEO, until we recruit a full-time CEO over the spring and summer.</p> <p>Our Senior Leadership Team is also changing, and our governance structures will be shaken up over the Christmas break.</p> <p>We've brought in new staff to support student societies and develop capacity in our advocacy service. Some of our existing staff have had role changes too.</p> <p>In December, we launched the Democracy Review (find out more on page 12).</p>
<p>Supporting part-time work</p>	 (In Progress)	<p>As DoEd, I got us to the point where the University recognised part-time work as an extenuating circumstance which may impact on your studies. This is all the more important in a difficult financial environment, with less-than-generous student loans.</p> <p>We cannot let the momentum die, or allow this issue slip from the agenda. It's time for a fresh push.</p> <p>I'm working with Hitanshi, your DoEd and other SRC Officers to pick the issue back up, and will continue to work on this in Semester 2.</p>






MANIFESTO GOALS

Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Free breakfasts		<p>Last academic year, the University hosted a few free breakfast initiatives, but uptake wasn't great and we have some lessons to learn about what we offered.</p> <p>We've been doing some research into what other universities and student unions offer, and we will be working to make free breakfasts a reality for Semester 2.</p>
Continue and expand the Campus Larder		<p>Last academic year, Barry and I helped create the Campus Larder providing essentials to students who need it. We have expanded the Campus Larder this year, and it is now overseen by our Campus Larder Intern and a team of amazing volunteers.</p> <p>We are looking to start 'Campus Larder on tour' where we take the larder out to some halls.</p> <p>We are working with student groups to expand what we offering in the Larder, so watch this space.</p>
Working with housing groups	 (Always in progress)	<p>While working on University accommodation rent, I've been working with CASH and other student representatives on accommodation to hear their perspective and elevate their concerns.</p>







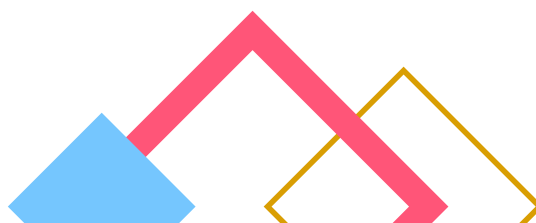
MANIFESTO GOALS



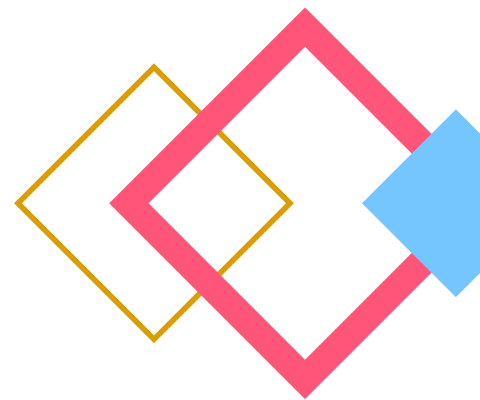
Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Affordable University halls and housing	 	<p>Every year, the Association President and Residential & Business Services (RBS) negotiate to set rents for University halls and University managed properties for the following academic year.</p> <p>This year, I have advocated for the lowest increase in rents, including writing a separate paper to this effect to the Planning & Resource Committee of University Court which deals with these matters.</p> <p>We ran an Accommodation Survey to find out whether students feel University properties are good value for money, and how affordable you feel University accommodation is. This was invaluable to show us what students think about halls.</p>
SOSU relaunch	 	<p>Over the last few months, I've been working with the Union Affairs Team at the Union on relaunching the 'Save Our Scottish Universities' campaign, which urges the Scottish Government to commit to an increase in funding of Higher Education, and raises awareness of the issue among students. I also met with other Scottish Presidents to hear what they thought on the issue, and some co-signed the letter which went to the First Minister, the Minister for Higher & Further Education, and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance on 3 December. This went live on our social media too (@save.scottishunis)</p> <p>We have created an online petition for anyone to sign to urge the Scottish Government to increase funding for HE and FE (sign it here!) as well as an educational campaign on our Instagram (@save.scottishunis).</p>
Transition St Andrews		<p>As part of the Change Programme, we have been looking at how we can better utilise the physical spaces in the Union. I've been working with SLT throughout the Change Programme's Whole Union Space Review within the building to find what we can offer our students.</p>


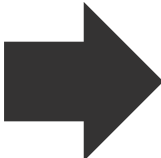

MANIFESTO GOALS

Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Sustainable events		As part of the Change Programme, issues around sustainability in the Union have been moved to the DoES's remit.
Collaborate with Environment Subcomm		As part of the Change Programme, issues around sustainability in the Union have been moved to the DoES's remit.
Postgraduate community		<p>As Your President, I have continued to advocate for further PGT & PGR representation. Last year we added the PGT & PGR Presidents to SRC and the University Senate. Your PGT and PGR Presidents are now paid part time Sabbatical Officer positions, further enhancing PG Representation within the Association.</p> <p>I'm continuing to look at how we can enhance PG representation outwith the Union, and will work with our new PGT & PGR part-time Sabbs, the DoSDA, and St Leonards College to improve the PG experience further.</p>
Safety on campus		<p>I know that over the last couple of years, student representatives have backed the idea of the University getting the SafeZone app. My undergraduate institution, the University of Chester, had the SafeZone app, and it made my friends and I feel much safer on campus and especially on nights out.</p> <p>In Semester 2, I will collaborate with Caitlin on writing a paper to the University outlining why SafeZone will make a significant difference to your safety.</p>

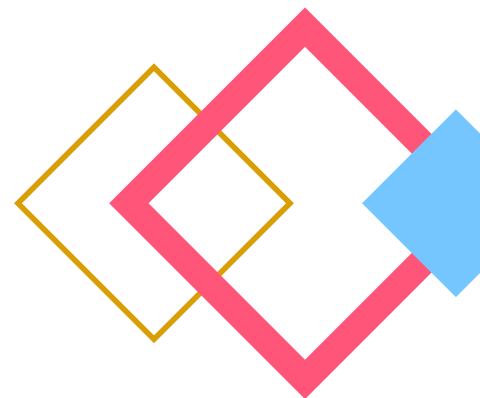



MANIFESTO GOALS

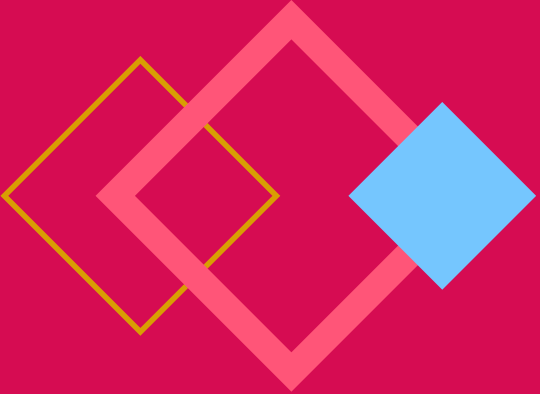


Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
Wellbeing Wednesday	 (Paused)	<p>As a Sabb team, we'll be picking this up in Semester 2 to protect your Wednesday afternoons for sport and wellbeing activities.</p>
Deliver the SPA		<p>The Student Partnership Agreement is a formal agreement between the University and Students' Association outlining how we will work together. This has previously been led on the Association side by your Director of Education, so I worked on a draft last year with the University.</p> <p>Now that Hitanshi is your DoEd, she's been working tirelessly to ensure that the SPA reflects how the Students' Association and University should collaborate, and I've supported her in her phenomenal work.</p>
Defending freedoms		<p>One thing I wanted to do was educate and publicise the right we all have to share our voices through the freedom of express and the right to peaceful assembly.</p> <p>Caitlin, your DoWell has done an amazing job of educating you on just this (and so much more) through her Student Activism Guide on the Students' Association's website.</p>

MANIFESTO GOALS



Manifesto Goal	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Your Voice will be voice</p>		<p>I have always been committed to advocating for you as Your Association President, and acting on the feedback you give me.</p> <p>So far, this has included things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University Accommodation Survey which ran October-November, and presenting the findings and other research in a paper to PARC about how you feel about the affordability of University-managed properties. • Ensuring that you have a voice in how the Union is structured, through the Democracy Review and Referendum
<p>Stand up for Graduate visas</p>	<p>No longer needed</p>	<p>When I wrote my manifesto back in March, the then-UK Government were talking about reviewing and significantly altering the Graduate Visa. This included limiting the international students who could bring family members to the UK with them, and increasing the salary required for people to stay in the UK on the skilled worker visa route.</p> <p>Since then, the out-going Government and current Labour Government has committed to maintaining the Graduate Route visa.</p> <p>I remain committed to supporting international students however I can, including through advocating with the Government.</p>






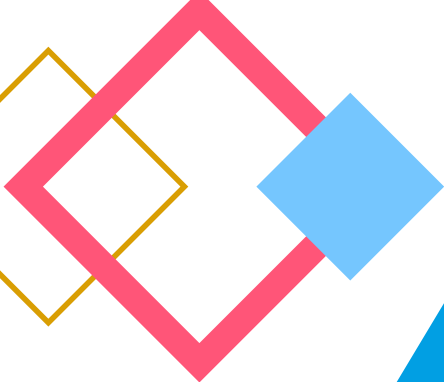
ACHIEVEMENTS & **PROGRESS**






ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

This section encompasses the projects and initiatives I have progressed *outside* of my original manifesto plan. While many of my initial ideas outlined in my manifesto remain important, many opportunities to positively affect student learning and research have presented themselves since taking office. Here are a few of the opportunities I've jumped on:




Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Supporting the Rector</p>		<p>At the last SRC in November we passed a motion to support the Rector, following her removal from University Court. As the Rector still has pastoral duties, the Students' Association has been supporting the Rector to fulfil this aspects of her role.</p> <p>Part of the motion included assistance with recruiting an assistant, accepting an updated Constitution for the Rector's Committee, and with providing office space in the Students' Association, as well as a budget to support her activities.</p>
<p>Student representation on Court</p>		<p>I submitted a paper to a subcommittee of University Court about increasing student representation on Court. I will pursuing it throughout Semester 2, and will update you when I can.</p>
<p>Union space review</p>		<p>This semester we conducted a review of the spaces in the Union to ensure that we are making the best of the rooms we have available. Through this, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed the Student Engagement suite for our staff • Designated our Advocacy Suite • Creating a student kitchen on the top floor

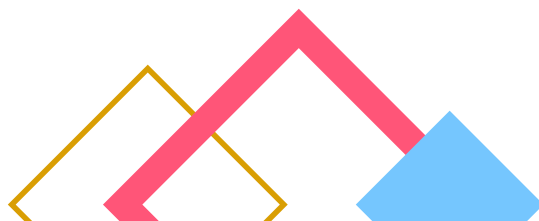


ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>President's Campaign Fund</p>		<p>I created the President's Campaign Fund to support students who are wanting to put on a campaign or event not otherwise covered by other funding. You can apply for the Fund through this Microsoft Form.</p>
<p>Democracy Review & Referendum</p>	 	<p>Natalie, our Change Consultant for Student Voice spent months writing the Democracy Review, after intense consultation with Association staff, student representatives, and University staff. This review recommended various changes to improve the effectiveness of the Association, and included things like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paying your PGT and PGR Presidents on a part-time basis and making them part-time Sabbs (as opposed to volunteer officers). • Creating Fora and an Executive to our democratic structures, and change SRC to be once per semester for Association-wide issues. • Abolishing the Association President role to become the 'President of Union Affairs' • Abolishing the Director of Events and Services role to make it a graduate job rather than a Sabb role. • Changing the other Sabb roles from 'Director of' to 'President of' <p>You voted in your Democracy Referendum on 3-4 December. 1088 students voted, of which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 852 for the changes in the DemRev • 200 against the proposed changes • 36 abstentions <p>This means we can take these changes forward to the Students' Association's Trustee Board before winter break!</p>

ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

Achievement or Project	Current Status	What I've Done
<p>Introduction of Union Affairs Intern</p>		<p>In addition to our amazing Campaigns & Communications Intern, Emil, I'm now supported by the Union Affairs Intern, Alice, who does a fabulous job helping me with admin and on the all-student email! The Association President has needed additional staffing support for years, and I'm glad that this is now in place #ChangeProgramme.</p>
<p>Block grant negotiations</p>		<p>The block grant is the funding that universities give to their student unions to allow them to fulfil our core functions, including student representation and activities.</p> <p>I've been negotiating with the University all year on the block grant. While, at the time of writing, we have a provisional deal, we need final confirmation from the University.</p>
<p>Supporting my fellow Sabbs</p>		<p>My fellow Sabbs are doing amazing work to make the student experience better, so you can have a better time in and outside the lecture theatre. Some of the areas we're collaborating on include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Union Awards • Student kitchen in the Union • Student Partnership Agreement • Supporting the Rector • SafeZone



LOOKING TO SEMESTER TWO



As you can see in many sections of my report, there's still much to do in Semester Two (and beyond)! That said, I also know that there will be many unexpected opportunities and situations that arise as well, and I am committed to being responsive and expressing a strong student voice wherever that need presents itself.

My top few priorities coming back from the winter break will include:

- Finish the Change Programme
 - Recruit our first permanent CEO
 - Secure the Deal (on the BG)
- Work with the Association on updating our Laws
- Campus Larder
 - Embed, Long term sustainability
 - Expand initiatives
 - Funding campaign
 - Breakfast club
- Continue the fight for Higher Education Funding
- Secure additional Student Representation on University Court
- Continuing to ensure that all of my all-student emails contain Taylor Swift references...

If you have questions about this report, what I'm up to, or have an idea, I'd be delighted to hear from you at (president@st-andrews.ac.uk). You can also stay up to date on my projects and priorities on Instagram @yourpresident.sta