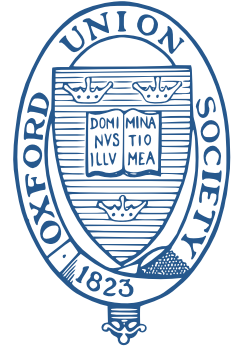


*the* OXFORD UNION ELECTIONS  
Michaelmas Term 2021



## Long Manifesto Booklet

The Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officers work to ensure that Union Elections are free and fair.

To request other accessible formats, or to discuss any issue relating to the Election, please contact the Returning Officer via email at [ro@oxford-union.org](mailto:ro@oxford-union.org).

*Candidates for Secretary’s Committee are no longer required to provide Long Manifestos. You can consult their Short Manifestos by visiting <https://oxford-union.org/debate-results-manifesto/>. Candidates for Office and Standing Committee may submit both a Short Manifesto and a Long Manifesto. This booklet contains Long Manifestos only.*

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**The Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officers work to ensure that Union Elections are free and fair.**

Any Electoral Malpractice should be reported to the Returning Officer either via the Union Office (Tel: 01865 241 353) or by emailing [ro@oxford-union.org](mailto:ro@oxford-union.org).

*Electoral malpractice includes, but is not limited to, the following activities:*

*Making false or misleading claims intended to influence the election · Intimidation · Bullying · Harassment · Discrimination · Extortion or blackmail · Representing a political or national party, group or faction · Soliciting votes in the Society's buildings · Distributing physical campaign materials or videos · Spending money on advertising or publicity · Treating · Impersonating others · Electoral pacts in different elections inside or outside the Society · Bribery or buying Memberships to influence the Election · Accessing electronic devices, accounts or personal files without permission · Misusing an official position in order to campaign · Loitering in or outside the Poll Room · Breaching the secrecy of the Count · Physically reproducing or defacing any electronic or physical Electoral material produced by the Returning Officer · Hindering any Electoral Official.*

**To see a complete list, please consult Rule 33, which is available from <https://oxford-union.org/rules-and-policies/>, or contact the Returning Officer via [ro@oxford-union.org](mailto:ro@oxford-union.org).**

## CANDIDATES FOR STANDING COMMITTEE

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### Simon VAN TEUTEM

Ex-Elected Member of Standing Committee, *St Peter's College*

#CONNECT

#### **DEDICATED:**

- **WORKED** 40+ Vac Days
- **HELPED RAISE** £800k+ in Membership Drives
- **DELIVERED** TWO winning paper speeches: Religion and US Debates
- **FACILITATED** TWO Union Balls: Paradise Lost and Moulin Rouge
- **SERVED** THREE terms on committee; including on Standing Committee

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- **MANAGED** £185k budget - Merton Winter Ball Treasurer
- **CO-FOUNDED** International access scheme
- **#1 SPOTIFY TRENDING PODCAST HOST**
- *Twitter Political Pundit: 13K+ followers*
- Competitive Rower - Won Blades in Torpids

#### **VISION:**

- **Dutch Politics** Panel
- Cambridge Union Varsity Debate

I endorse all #CONNECT pledges.

**Larissa KOERBER**  
**Women's Officer, Mansfield College**

#CONNECT

DEDICATED:

- **WORKED** 19+ Vac Days
- **CONFIRMED:** Belarusian Opposition Leader
- **INTEREST FROM:** Bridgerton actress, World-class artist
- **CO-ORDINATED** *Women's Charity Karaoke Night* and *Union's Girls' Night In*
- **HELPED ARRANGE** Moulin Rouge Ball
- **DELIVERED** Social Justice Paper Speech
- *Ex-Logistics Officer*; **TWO TERMS** on Committee

ACCOMPLISHED:

- *Mansfield Ball President*: Managed **£83k+ budget** and **15+ person committee!**
- OxWIB Sponsorship Director
- **ORGANISED** OxWIB Introduction to Impact Investing Panel
- **CO-FOUNDED** Water-access charity

VISION:

- Fondue Night!
- **Boycott Beijing Olympics Panel**

I endorse all #CONNECT pledges.

## **Jacobus PETERSEN**

**Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *St Peter's College***

#CONNECT

DEDICATED:

- **CONFIRMED:** 15+ Treasurer's Treats, **Helped Confirm** Russian Ambassador
- **HELPED RAISE** £420k+ (Membership Drive)
- **INTEREST FROM** *princess*
- **FACILITATED** 14 events: *Oxtoberfest, Bryan Cranston*
- **HELPED ARRANGE** The Oxford Artisan Distillery *gin tasting*
- **WORKED** 13 Vac Days
- **DELIVERED** winning *Meritocracy paper speech*

ACCOMPLISHED:

- College Boat Club Treasurer - £5000+ budget
- **Published** graphic designer
- Marketing Director: upcoming *student theatre production*
- **President**, *school debating society*
- Dutch Geography champion

VISION:

- **Future of the European Union** Panel
- Bring back film screenings!

I endorse all #CONNECT pledges.

**Alex FISH**

**Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *Hertford College***

**#RESILIENCE**

In my time at the Union, I have seen this unique society from many angles. Whether it be performing stand-up comedy or organising gin tastings, I have thrown myself into the Union. However, I have recognised the Union needs changed. I'm proud to have created and passed the role of Communities Officer which expanded the access committee. I want to run a panel on homelessness and organise a Ceilidh. Let's unlock the Unions potential! **DON'T WISH!  
VOTE FISH!**

**Josh CHIMA**

**Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *Mansfield College***

Increasing access to institutions within Oxford is something I care deeply about; I co-founded the 'Opportunity Directory' to bridge the socioeconomic gap in corporate professions, am the Treasurer of the 93% club and provide pro-bono legal assistance in Oxford. Having been involved in the Union this term, I'm keen to improve its access and outreach, particularly with students from under-represented regions. From matriculation to now I've campaigned against elitism in Oxford and hope to continue this within the Union.



## **Lucy BANKS**

**Elected Member of Secretary's Committee, *New College***

#CONNECT

### **DEDICATED:**

- **CONFIRMED** *Former Archbishop of Canterbury*
- **HELPED RAISE** £422k membership drive, £8k sponsorship
- **HELPED ARRANGE** Meritocracy Debate
- **FACILITATED** 13 events: 'Lemony Snicket', *Union Ball*, four debates
- **WORKED** 10 Vac Days
- **INTEREST FROM** quiz show host

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- **Three-time** debating champion
- *Prize-winning* historian
- Delivered **Winning Paper Speech**: Liberty Debate

### **VISION:**

- **Future of Oxbridge** Panel
- *International Women's Day* **fundraiser** with Women's Societies in Oxford

I endorse all #CONNECT pledges.

**Daniel DIPPER**  
**Press and Sponsorship Officer, *Magdalen College***

#INSPIRE

**DEDICATED:**

- **Worked 36 vac days - MORE THAN ANY OTHER undergraduate STANDING CANDIDATE**
- **Led all the Termly Accessibility Consultations in 2021**
- **Secured Dick and Dom for Oxford Union Ball**
- **Responsible for £4,000+ of Union Ball expenditure**
- **Contacted 340+ companies for sponsorship**
- **Secured interest from CEO of FTSE100 firm**
- **JCR President-Elect**
- **Runner-Up for the Sutton Trust Social Mobility Award 2020**
- **Opportunity Oxford access programme Student Ambassador**
- **Potential Plus UK Trustee**
- **Social mobility campaigner**

**PLEDGES:**

- **Disability Panel**
- **DJ Dan Performance**

## CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY

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### Anjali RAMANATHAN Press and Sponsorship Officer, *Christ Church*

I spent my entire first year as an ordinary Oxford Union member. I attended speaker events and socials, and I developed an appreciation for what the Union can offer its members without much knowledge of how the committee functioned.

This time I spent enjoying what the Union had to offer turned out to be really valuable to me when I joined committee as a Press and Sponsorship Officer. I entered committee with a strong sense of what I believe the Union's value is: it expands our sense of what's possible. It brings us face-to-face with powerful people and allows us to engage with them as equals, and it encourages us to be critical of even those we admire. I've kept this value in mind when thinking about what speakers to invite, and during my vac days I prioritised inviting gender diverse speakers and speakers of color.

In my time on committee, I've worked 14 vacation days, confirmed 4 speakers, organised the Liberty debate and helped arrange the US debate, and facilitated 3 other debates: Social Justice Debate, Beyond Meat Debate, and the Meritocracy Debate. I helped raise £422,000+ through the membership drive. I've also facilitated six speaker events and I've sung at two socials. I've also served on the Finance Committee, learning about the challenges of Union finances and the ways to improve them.

My perspective on the Union changed when I was working as a committee member at the Union ball. I realised that the Union's most powerful way to connect with its members is by creating memorable social experiences that produce a sense of community. As Secretary, I hope to run social events that appeal to members from a wide range of backgrounds and with varying interests.

My pledges include:

- Valentine's Day Social
- MBA socials in the bar
- Facilitating Union Building room rentals for MBAs
- Holi & Chinese New Year Socials
- Street food festival in the Courtyard
- Live music in the bar

I endorse all #CONNECT pledges.

**Laura SMITH**  
**Senior Access Officer, St Anne's College**

**#INSPIRE**

Worked **MORE** Vac Days, Invited **MORE** Speakers than **ANY OTHER SECRETARY CANDIDATE**, Chaired **MORE** Meetings

**EXPERIENCED**

- **20+** Vac Days
- CONFIRMED Six Speakers, including Nadine Burke-Harris and journalist Chris Wallace
- Helped Raise £422k+ (Membership Drive)
- Responsible for **State School Outreach** Initiative
- CHAMPIONED Ask for Angela
- CHAMPIONED **Speaker Diversity Sponsorship**
- CHAMPIONED Access on Standing Committee for 2 terms as Access Officer
- Attended MORE Library Committee AND Library Strategy Committee meetings than any other Secretary candidate
- Working on disability access in the Library
- Working on Union visit and debate for Special Needs Students
- Delivered paper speech in US debate

**ACCOMPLISHED**

- “**Outstanding**” *Charity Award*
- INTERVIEWED by **BBC** and **talkRADIO**
- **HOSTED** Deputy Ambassador at University Talk
- **President** of Oxford Universities Quidditch Club
- College Mentor
- Created Fresher's Week College Quiz as member of Oxford University Quiz Society
- Published by *The Washington Post*

**PLEDGE**

- Cheaper **Ball Tickets!**
- **MASQUERADE BALL!**
- *Networking socials!*
- Raise money for *charity!*
- More *Access Socials!*
- Permanent **Beer Garden!**
- **Comedy debate!**
- Panel on *Neurodiversity!*

I was inspired to get involved & champion access after attending one of the in-person events at the Union in Michaelmas 2020. You may have met me working at the Fresher's Fair or working in the Goodman Room at the Moulin Rouge Ball! As a woman with experience of being an international student, I am critically aware of the need for inclusion and to provide everyone with equal opportunities, which will be central to my work on socials as your Secretary!

*I endorse all #INSPIRE pledges*

## CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER-ELECT

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### Naman GUPTA

#### Elected Member of Standing Committee, *Merton College*

I feel proud to have been involved in the Oxford Union the last two terms. From Svetlana Tsikhanouskaya, Belarus's opposition leader, championing democratic reform; to Azra Jafari, Afghanistan's first female mayor sharing her concerns for her home's future, speakers have brought wisdom, power and empathy.

At its best, the Union hosts and directs global conversations about things that matter. For too long though, the same problems have persisted: entrenched unfairness, an exclusionary culture, and a failure to stand up for what's right.

Pledges:

#### FAIRNESS

- More member ballot spaces for *Meet & Greets, President's Drinks* and *Debate Dinners*
- **Ban** candidates from applying for appointed positions in the same term.
- Simplify rules

#### INCLUSION

- More **diverse** photos and portraits
- Members suggest speakers + debates
- **Wom\*ns debate**

#### ACCESS

- Expand eligibility for Access Membership
- Outreach Program to help disadvantaged applicants

I think a Treasurer should have broad leadership experience, dedication and ambitions for the Union.

As the President of UniReach, an Oxbridge access charity, I manage 300+ mentors and a committee of 10+ in supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds into Oxbridge. In our last admissions cycle, I am proud to share an estimated 57% of our applicants received offers at Oxford. I am the Vice President (Engagement) of RAG, the SU Student Charity and the President-Elect of the Oxford PPE Society. I have been the Treasurer of a major subject society.

I am dedicated, having worked 25+ vac days, confirmed 4 speakers and ran several socials (2 pub quizzes, *Vino & Vinyasa* and the *Oxmas Soirée*). I have been Secretary to Debate Selection Committee, helped arrange the *Immortality* and *Big Tech* debates and helped raise £422,000+ in

a membership drive. I have convened an Oxford Schools Debating Competition round, and judged 3 rounds.

I'm *also* pledging:

#### FINANCES

- **Carbon-Neutral Union**
- Accessible financial report
- Discounted club tickets

#### CAREER

- *Online alumni network*
- Sponsored careers events

#### SOCIAL

- Weekly pub quizzes + yoga classes
- **Holi & Chinese New Year** Socials

I endorse all #CONNECT pledges.

## Theodor SERGIOU

Elected Member of Standing Committee, Keble College

### #INSPIRE

Worked on Committee **LONGER**, completed **MORE VAC DAYS**, passed **MORE rule changes**, *ATTENDED MORE ACCESS, FINANCE, BAR STRATEGY and STANDING* committee meetings, chaired MORE Debates than ANY OTHER TREASURER CANDIDATE

### EXPERIENCED:

- Worked on Committee **LONGER** than any other Treasurer Candidate
- Former Senior Access Officer
- Involved in passing of **5 Rule Changes** for access
- Ensured **SCREEN-READER ACCESSIBLE term cards** and **social-media** for the visually impaired
- **GUIDED two accessibility consultations**,
- **SIGNIFICANTLY** contributed to organising the MOULIN ROUGE BALL
- Helped **Raised £422k+** during the membership drive
- Completed **28+** vac days, **MORE than any other Treasurer candidate**

### ACCOMPLISHED:

- **YOUNGEST PERSON RECORDED IN BRITISH HISTORY** to contribute to a **No.10 CABINET**
- Young *Citizen of the Year* Award 2020
- **EMMY winning** and **BAFTA** nominated documentary on my life
- Management Undergraduate of the Year
- **Diana Award** Recipient
- **RAISED £9,180** aged 15
- Leader on campaign that reinstated U18s Free-Travel and thanked by London Mayor
- Top 10 most inspring people in Germany 2015
- **Leader in the UK Youth Parliament**

### INSPIRING PLEDGES:

- Set up **ENDOWMENT FUND** from external sponsorship to create strong investment income for the Union
- Revenue brought about from the **ENDOWMENT FUND** will be used to give **CRANKSTART SCHOLARS** free membership
- Create the role of **SPECIALIST SUPPORT ASSISTANT** for anyone with a disability wanting to join committee
- **CAREERS NETWORKING DINNERS WITH ALUMNI FOR MEMBERS**
- Members to submit *speaker suggestions*
- Opening Union Buildings over the vacation
- **RAP BATTLE** with Grime Artists
- *Intercultural Societies Party*

**I endorse all #INSPIRE pledges**

## **CANDIDATES FOR LIBRARIAN-ELECT**

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### **Dan PAULS**

**Chief Social Media Officers, *Balliol College***

#### **#INSPIRE**

##### **PLEDGES**

- BIGGER MEET & GREETINGS
- MEMBER'S SPEAKER SUGGESTIONS
- OXFORD UNION SPORTS DAY
- SBS NETWORKING EVENT
- HAPPY HOUR £1 PINTS

##### **ACCOMPLISHED**

- RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICITY FOR ALL EVENTS THIS TERM
- ASSISTED Religion Debate, Social Mobility Panel, BIG TECH DEBATE, NHS DEBATE
- CONFIRMED 3 Speakers: Professor Francis Green, Andrew Halls, Michael Shermer
- Led UNION BALL Publicity
- Interest from world-renowned rapper
- DELIVERED 2 Winning paper speeches!
- DELIVERED Digital Membership & New Website (as pledged on previous slate)

##### **HIGHLY EXPERIENCED: 3 TERMS ON COMMITTEE**

- Term on Elected committee
- 2 Terms on Senior Appointed Committee
- Ex-Secretary's committee
- Ex-Director of Digital Operations
- Director of Communications
- Vice President of Oxford's Largest Finance Society (Careers)



**Charlie MACKINTOSH**  
**Elected Member of Standing Committee, *New College***

#CONNECT

**CONFIRMED MORE SPEAKERS, WORKED MORE VAC DAYS, RAISED MORE MONEY, SERVED ON MORE COMMITTEES THAN ANY OTHER LIBRARIAN CANDIDATE**

When I came up to Oxford, a friend of mine described the Oxford Union as ‘almost like a second college’. At the time, I didn’t understand what he meant, but over the three terms I have spent on committee, I have come to understand it completely.

I first encountered the Oxford Union at the Oxford Schools’ Debating Competition. Even then, I was struck by the society’s uniqueness and felt its inspirational power to promote debate and discussion. It inspired me to debate more and it was immensely rewarding to give back by convening a Regional Round of Oxford Schools’ last year. Within the Union, I have had the opportunity to arrange a debate on Scottish independence and help arrange debates on class in British politics and US Global Leadership. My highlight of last year was delivering a paper speech opposing the abolition of the monarchy, an experience I’ll never forget.

Nowhere else in the world do students have such an opportunity to challenge the powerful and platform the marginalised. The Union has enabled me to do this, confirming speakers including a Former New Zealand Prime Minister, Irish Taoiseach, and British Foreign Secretary. We cannot, however, trick ourselves into thinking that this uniqueness is enough to secure the future of the Union.

Serving on Finance Committee, Secretary’s Committee, and Standing Committee, I have become ever more aware of the existential threats to the Oxford Union. The Union needs someone who is willing and able to look beyond single-term goals to secure a future for our society. I believe that I can be that person. Having benefited so much from the Union, I see it as my duty to help secure those experiences for generations of students to come. I would be privileged to serve as your Librarian.

I pledge to help the Union #CONNECT:

**Socially:** Start Union Tik-Tok  
**Societally:** Debating scholarship for underprivileged students from underrepresented regions  
**Communally:** Regular Alumni socials and networking events  
**Digitally:** Online ‘guide to debating’

## **CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT**

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### **Ambika SEHGAL**

#### **Elected Member of Standing Committee, *Lincoln College***

The Oxford Union needs to platform issues that students should care and learn about. Before I got involved with committee, I watched a talk by Nimco Ali OBE with a friend. I didn't know anything about Ali except that she is a campaigner against female genital mutilation (FGM), and it felt like this was something I should know more about. She described her own experience: in Somalia, 98% of women have been subjected to FGM. I was stunned by the fact that the cruelty she described is so widely experienced and yet so rarely discussed.

I started researching FGM right after the talk, and as I discussed this with my friends, we were equally shocked by how unaware we'd all been of such a widespread and disturbing issue. The experience I had with my friends after Nimco Ali's talk has defined the value of the Union in my eyes — it sparks conversations that matter.

During my first term on Committee, I confirmed Aneeta Prem, founder of the Freedom Charity, who campaigns against family-dishonor based crimes. I wanted to continue the conversation I'd found so valuable while drawing attention to another issue that doesn't receive mainstream attention.

As President, I hope to increase the number of termly panels to shed light on issues otherwise overlooked. By live-streaming events for members, we can platform these issues more widely — for alumni not in Oxford, for students who want to watch an event but don't have the time to walk down to the chamber, and more. I've confirmed Beatrice Fihn, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work campaigning for nuclear disarmament, along with five other speakers. My hope for the future is to continue hosting speakers who can bring unique perspectives to the Union, because that's central to the value of our institution. It is for its members and that matters.

It means nothing to platform issues that don't always get mainstream attention if nobody comes through the doors to listen to these narratives in the first place. I believe that in order to increase member engagement, the Union needs to create a sense of community and fun. During my time on Committee, I have organised two Women's Karaoke Nights with societies supporting Oxford's women and the Musical Mercredi event. I have pushed the Union to take stronger stances on social issues and pioneered the issuing of a statement outlining the Society's response to *Girls' Night In*. In addition to this, I passed the closure of the Members' Bar in solidarity with the boycott.

To deliver on these ideas, we need organisation and effective leadership. I have confirmed more speakers than any other President-Elect candidate. I arranged the TT21 Art Debate and facilitated three debates this term; these are experiences which have prepared me to lead the initiatives I am pledging.

I pledge to help the Union #CONNECT:

**Socially:** More socials with other societies

**Societally:** Increase Access budget

**Communally:** Compulsory open hours for all officers

**Digitally:** Event live-streams for members

**Michael-Akolade AYODEJI**  
**Librarian, University College**

**#INSPIRE**

**ARRANGED MORE DEBATES, HOSTED MORE EVENTS, WORKED MORE VAC DAYS, SERVED MORE TERMS ON COMMITTEE, ATTENDED AND CHAIRED MORE COMMITTEES THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

**EXPERIENCED:**

- WORKED **70+** Vacation Days- ***MORE THAN ANY OTHER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE***
- **Confirmed** Dawn Butler!
- **Arranged** Beyond Meat Debate, Oversaw Social Justice and US Debate
- **CHAIR**ED **3 Committees:** Library, Secretary's, Bar Strategy
- Ex Secretary and Ex Disabilities Officer
- Completed **3 Library Booklists**

**COMMITTED TO GROWTH:**

- INTRODUCED **Librarian's Book Club**
- Championed Debate ACCESS AND Mental Health
- HELPED ARRANGE **Black History Month Debate**
- INTRODUCED Ask for Angela

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- **President** of University-Wide Society
- **Raised £1500+** for MENTAL HEALTH Charities!
- Ex JCR Exec
- Involved in Planning 2022 Birmingham **Commonwealth Games**
- Convened and Judged Oxford Schools Regionals
- **HELPED RAISE £250,000+** for Telethon Campaign
- Mental Health: ***MIND Strategy Consultant***
- Former University Royal Naval Unit Cadet
- YCA Co-lead for Culture and Major events

**INSPIRE A TRULY INCLUSIVE UNION:**

- **Demystifying the Union**
- Implement Installments for Membership
- **Networking Events** with Speakers

Further education was never something I thought I could aspire to. Despite growing up in care with numerous gaps in education, I persevered through being denied an opportunity at further education due to my immigration status. Starting university as a mature student intensified my imposter syndrome but it was in the oxford union beginners debating workshops that I learnt to build up my confidence in public speaking and hone this skill. After the first two years of staying out of the politics of the union, I first became involved as a disabilities officer with the aim to help make the society that had given so much to me, a friendlier and more welcoming place for

all. I have since been blessed with the opportunity to serve as your Secretary and Librarian. In these roles, I championed access and advocated for more engagement with external sports and cultural societies. Change starts from within and I will like to follow in my predecessor's footsteps by reaching across the aisle.

I have been able to look up to the union as a wonderful institution but also realise how we can make it better for us! I believe that together we can Inspire a Union that is truly inclusive, a union where we can all feel welcome! I have had so many rewarding experiences in my time at the Union so far, however, I believe it is the wealth of these experiences and growth that will enable me to excel as President.

**I ENDORSE ALL #INSPIRE PLEDGES**

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