

VOTE 1

HAWTHORNE



FOR VICE-PRESIDENT COMMUNITY

NOMINATED BY: Ciarnan Helferty (Students' Union President)
SECONDED BY: Andrew McNeice (Christian Union President)

ALSO SUPPORTING:



**SHANE BROGAN
FOR PRESIDENT**



**SUSAN KEARNEY
FOR VP WELFARE**

Hey everyone!

My name is Laura Hawthorne, I studied Social Anthropology and Theology and I am this year's Vice-President Community.

As a student I was the secretary for Amnesty International, ran a University and Chaplaincy based initiative called "Late Love", was an active member of Student Council, speaking on several motions and a dedicated course small group leader.

Over the past few months I have been working to make our University a better place for everyone by representing students to the local community, working with police and City Council to make South Belfast safer and helping student groups like RAG and SIFE to raise money for charity and get students involved!

Here is some of what I have done so far this year, and what I promise to do next year if you vote for me!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

This year I have produced a DVD about the student disciplinary code and responsible drinking called "Don't see a good degree wasted", shown to all first years and in 5 main schools to enable students to be aware of their rights and responsibilities.

STUDENT CHARITY

I have secured Executive approval and funding for the establishment of the Students' Union Overseas Charitable Fund for those students undertaking charitable work and volunteering in the summer, which will be in operation in the next academic year.

ST PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

I have led the way on the programme for the St Patrick's Day Festival 2009 bringing together Queen's, University of Ulster and Belfast City Council (see www.stpatricksfestivalbelfast.org for more!). If re-elected I will ensure that the festival remains student driven next year.

THE SPACE

I've worked to make The Space the best it can be with new TVs, vending machines, sofas and games as well as holding things like US Election parties, political debates, clubs and society events and much more. I will work to improve The Space and make sure it is a place in which all students feel welcome and where all needs are catered for.

SAFER CAMPUS

I have led the way on the student safety initiative with funding and approval secured for the Union Night time bus which will be operational during this academic term. We have also held the largest District Policing Partnership Meeting in public this year. We have published our own safety material and ensured action from the relevant bodies over lighting issues in the Holylands.

I work closely with the Community Safety Wardens, PSNI and all residents groups attending all meetings and I will continue to do so next year.

RAG

As VP Community, I am treasurer of the Union's charity, RAG (Raise and Give). So far this year RAG has raised in the region of £8,000 and I will work to ensure that as much as possible is raised this year and built upon next year.

STUDENT HOUSING

There will be a new 30% cap on Houses of Multiple Occupation introduced in the coming years. I will continue to work on the student position piece regarding the new HMO legislation introduced for the Belfast City Council Area to ensure that your voice is heard!

STUDENT VOLUNTEERING

I will work towards the re-establishment of the Student Community Action Society giving students valuable work experience whilst giving something back to those around them.

I PROMISE TO DO ALL OF THIS AND MORE!

Vote Laura Hawthorne for Vice-President Community

WORKING FOR YOU!

Last year you voted for us and this is some of what we have achieved so far:

- 5 Day Extension for all assessments because of the QCAT closure at Christmas
- A new night-time bus as well as better street lighting to improve student safety
- We have given you your say with a referendum on the national union; the UGM decisions on the PEC prices and abortion stance; and engagement with under-represented groups
- The costs for staying in Halls have seen the lowest increase in the UK
- Over the past year the Union has introduced a new Environmental and Sustainability Policy, recycled an additional 40 tonnes of glass and reduced what it sends to landfill by 30%!

BETTER LIBRARIES

The new library will open in September – we will campaign for 24 hour and weekend opening, as well as the facilities students need to study.

We will also work to make sure that the University handles the cross-over properly, buys the books that you need and implements more flexible loan periods and fines.

EMERGENCY FUND

This year I, along with some of the other student officers, have taken a 5% pay cut to create an Emergency Hardship Fund to help students who can't even afford to buy food.

We will expand this and work to make sure that no student needs to drop out of University because they can't afford to continue, while fighting to make sure that the University helps groups like nursing and international students who can't apply for the University's Support Fund.

FIGHT FEES!

We will fight any attempt to increase tuition fees and will lobby the University and government to make sure that they know that students cannot afford to pay any more.

We will also campaign against the University's hidden charges like printing costs, graduation fees, module guides and library and halls fines and continue to work for a reduction in the price of the PEC,

Many students already graduate with £20,000 of debt – we can't allow this to continue!

INDEPENDENCE

The University has the power to over-rule everything the Union does – we can't even email you without their permission. This is not acceptable and must be changed!

We will fight for greater independence and to create a Union which is able to force the University to listen to its students!

STUDENT SAFETY

It's your right to feel safe on campus and in your own home - we will work to improve student safety through a night-time bus, personal safety lessons and the Fight for Light campaign.

We will also work to protect students from the rising number of burglaries in the University area, including ways of tracking your possessions and getting landlords to improve security.

