

VOTE 1

KEARNEY



**FOR VICE-PRESIDENT
WELFARE**

NOMINATED BY: Ciarnan Helferty (SU President)
SECONDED BY: Laura Hawthorne (VP Community)

ALSO SUPPORTING:



**SHANE BROGAN
FOR PRESIDENT**



**LAURA HAWTHORNE
FOR VP COMMUNITY**

Hey everyone!

My name is Susan Kearney and I'm a final year Law and Politics student. I am running for VP WELFARE in this year's sabbatical elections.

As well as studying Law and Politics, I work part-time as an Enterprise Intern for the Societies and Enterprise Coordinator in the Students' Union. I also have a lot of experience in societies including Queen's Radio, the Politics Society, the SU Magazine and my current position as secretary of SIFE (Students' in Free Enterprise).

I am a dedicated and able student, and will use my experiences as a Student Councillor to press welfare and student issues further. Over the past two years I have also worked closely with the student officers on a number of areas and this means that I am ready to hit the ground running on the issues students need action on!

If you want an approachable, proactive student working on your behalf – VOTE KEARNEY #1!

COMMUNICATION

The SU elections aim to benefit **YOU** the voters. I promise that if I am voted to the position of **VP WELFARE** I will guarantee increased communication between myself and you the students.

SAFETY

Safety is such a prominent issue especially in regards to recent events in the University area. I will take action by handing out personal attack alarms, starting a campaign against drink spiking and self-defence lessons for male and females. I also aim to continue to promote the 'Be Safe' campaign, and will encourage the use of the free phone for taxis in the Union, and getting home safely initiatives.

Another immediate concern for personal safety is the increased amount of burglaries and theft in the vicinity. I intend to work closely with the PSNI to establish ways of protecting your homes and valuables against such unfortunate incidents.

REPRESENTATION

The VP Welfare represents students at University disciplinary hearings, as a Law student I will be able to use my background to make sure that these hearings are fair to students and are carried out properly.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT

The University's crèches work on an 8.30am – 5.30pm basis. What about students with lectures after 5.30pm? I intend to work with Health and

Support Services within Queen's to discuss the possibility of further schemes so as not to prejudice against studying mothers.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Queen's plays a vital role in many students' university experiences, yet there are many issues which have not yet been tackled. As VP Welfare I plan to improve conditions in Queen's owned accommodation especially concerning the lack of internet in each room in many post-graduate and international houses.

I also plan to establish a 4Room Forum whether for students on Erasmus, in Elms or coming home from a year abroad with concerns of finding others to live with, or introducing them to students in similar situations.

CREDIT CRUNCH CONCERNS?

With the current fears for graduates trying to find jobs, increasing debts and the worrying prospects of having to repay loans, with my experience in SIFE I propose to work with the Student Advice Centre in the Union to incorporating financial capability workshops and resource packs for ALL students.

STUDENT HOUSING

There will be a new 30% cap on Houses of Multiple Occupation introduced in the coming years, which will push students further away from campus. I will 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!

I PROMISE TO DO ALL OF THIS AND MORE!

Vote Susan Kearney for Vice-President Welfare

WORKING FOR YOU!

The Executive you voted for last year have already achieved a lot so far and our team this year will continue this:

- 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 some student officers have taken a 5% pay cut to create an Emergency Hardship Fund to help students who can't even afford food.

I pledge to take the 5% cut to expand this Fund, 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.

