



# **Papers for SRC and SAF Meeting**

**6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – MS Teams – 17 00**

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## **Statements for Executive Committee Carve Ups**

### **SRC Senior Officer**

#### **Sarah Johnston:**

Over the past 4 years, I have been an active and engaged member of the Union. This includes involvement over 2 years as a Class Rep, followed by a year as School President, and now coming into my role of Science and Medicine Faculty President. As well as this I have held roles in Union subcommittees like OTR, Charities Campaign, and Mermaids, which have all given me great experience in representation and holding positions of responsibility.

I would be a good senior officer because I have experience in leadership from my School Presidency and RAG Week Coordinator, as well as positions on the committees of various societies. I bring a wealth of experience, and determination to every role, as well as being very reliable and hard-working. Having led committees, I would feel comfortable chairing the SRC meetings if necessary, and my experience in providing weekly reports for EduCom would make me well placed to deliver updates from SAB.

I am always looking to improve the student experience, and support those around me, which I would apply wholeheartedly to this role. I have experience in providing a strong voice for students, and for driving and delivering change which I would hope to continue. I feel passionately about making sure that everyone's experience in St Andrews is as good as possible, and maintaining a good focus on wellbeing, diversity, and inclusion in our practices as a Students' Union.

I am so excited to work with you all in the coming year!

#### **Ananya Jain:**

Hello! I am a third year Art History and English student, from Delhi, India and will be the BAME Officer on the SRC for 2021-22.

I have previously been involved with multiple student groups and societies, most notably my current role as the co-founder and co-president of the BAME Students' Network Subcommittee. Being on Councils over the past year as BAME Officer has taught me extensively about how the Students' Association is organised and how it functions. This provides context and a good overview for coming into a Senior role both as a nominee to the SAB, but also as a Deputy Chair for Councils.

My background knowledge of the Association and Councils will help me adapt to the role faster, and lead to nuanced, informed decision making. Working with

University wide focus groups such as the Race Ethnicity Belief Groups and consultative committees such as CEDI (Central Equality Diversity Inclusion), also helps me in my ability to work in teams and consider multiple factors with being consulted on issues.

With respect to personal skills, I am organised and manage my time well, so I will be able to give this role the time and commitment it deserves. I am also extremely passionate about addressing and working on enhancing the student experience. Being in my last year of University being elected to the role will also provide me with a platform to increase my involvement and do so, whilst also bringing a diverse perspective to the table.

### **Sandra Mitchell:**

I would like to nominate myself for SRC senior officer on the executive committee as I would like to learn more about the union and how it works for students. I have previously served on councils as Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer and worked with councils on a campaign in a non-councillor role so I feel I have a good knowledge and understanding but this can always be expanded upon. As a mature student I feel that I can bring a unique insight to the role and I would welcome the chance to learn more about the Union as I believe the Union is a fantastic institution that more people should be involved with. I would also welcome the chance to branch out from a role that I am already familiar with and diversify my experiences and work with more people who are as passionate as I am.

### **Stella Maris:**

If elected as Senior Officer, I am confident I would make a very valuable contribution to the Executive Committee and Students' Association Board. Apart from my determined and considerate approach to the issues most salient in our St Andrews community, I have the personal and volunteering experiences that are most beneficial for this role. I have significant experience steering committees, participating in local campaigning, working with Student Services, and sitting on a variety of working groups established to improve the student experience at this University. I have extensive knowledge of running committees and chairing meetings, including St Salvator's Hall Committee and the Rector's Committee and would love to apply this knowledge to a role as Senior Officer. I am incredibly passionate about promoting recognition for student representatives in St Andrews and would do everything within my power to ensure safety and sustainability within the Association. I know the diversity of my experiences would be a true asset to the Executive Committee. Due to my status studying part-time, I would also provide the long-term vision the Students' Association sometimes lacks and be able to ensure a level of continuity and stability we need.

Additionally, I sit on University Court as Rector's Assessor and therefore have insight into the high-level governance procedures of the University that would complement a role on the SAB. Creating synergy between issues raised on Court and at the SAB is something I would prioritize if elected.

## **SRC Secondary/Tertiary Officer**

**Ananya Jain, Stella Maris, Sandra Mitchell have requested to be considered for the Secondary/Tertiary Officer race if they lose the Senior Officer Election**

### **Sarah Johnston:**

Over the past 4 years, I have been an active and engaged member of the Union. This includes involvement over 2 years as a Class Rep, followed by a year as School President, and now coming into my role of Science and Medicine Faculty President. As well as this I have held roles in Union subcommittees like OTR, Charities Campaign, and Mermaids, which have all given me great experience in representation and holding positions of responsibility.

I would be a good secondary/tertiary officer because I have experience in leadership from my School Presidency and RAG Week Coordinator, as well as positions on the committees of various societies. I bring a wealth of experience, and determination to every role, as well as being very reliable and hard-working. Having led committees, I would feel comfortable chairing the SRC meetings if necessary, and my experience in providing weekly reports for EduCom would make me well placed to deliver updates from SAB.

I am always looking to improve the student experience, and support those around me, which I would apply wholeheartedly to this role. I have experience in providing a strong voice for students, and for driving and delivering change which I would hope to continue. I feel passionately about making sure that everyone's experience in St Andrews is as good as possible, and maintaining a good focus on wellbeing, diversity, and inclusion in our practices as a Students' Union.

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## **SAF Senior Officer**

### **Amy Feakes:**

My name is Amy, and I am a third-year marine biology student. This will be my second year on SAF as Charities Officer. Alongside this, I would like to become your SAF Senior officer.

Sitting on councils has allowed me to hear a variety of student voices: from concerns over the closure of the Barron theatre, to the creation of the BAME students' network. As Charities Officer, I have overseen a committee of 80 members, managing budgets, liaising, and worked closely with permanent union staff and Sabbaticals in a variety of formats. I now wish to be more directly involved with management and larger union decisions through a board position.

My role as the carve-up for the Societies Committee has expanded my knowledge and experience from a new angle of student participation. I understand the union processes, affiliations, and the issues that societies face. I believe this knowledge is vital to the role and will ensure I provide informed contributions to the board.

If elected as your SAF Senior Officer, I want to ensure the association is more communicative and easier to navigate. I will empathise with the concerns of students and fellow councillors and ensure it is relayed back to Board. Learning from this year, I think councillors should understand how management works and be informed of any important information or issues – I believe I can be this link.

I hope to gain your vote as your Senior Officer. I will ensure all voices are heard. Thank you.

## **SAF Secondary/Tertiary Officer**

### **Andrew Longworth:**

Hi, I'm Andrew (he/him), and I'd love to be your SAF officer for the executive committee. During my tenure as communications secretary for the Union Debating Society, I helped to draft a constitutional amendment restructuring the debates board. I found the process of taking a motion through councils a really interesting experience to follow and I am incredibly keen to learn more about how councils operates. I would love to be able to represent you and your views upon the exec and help you to steer motions for your own sub-committees. Whilst I am new to councils this year, I have been a close follower of their operation this past year and I would love to be more involved!

## **Statements for Societies Committee Carve Ups**

### **SRC Carve Ups**

#### **Sarah Johnston:**

Over the past 4 years, I have been an active and engaged member of the Union. When I'm not busy representing schools, I spend a lot of time working in my roles in various societies. I think my experience across lots of different societies like The Just So Musical Theatre Society, Dance Club, PhySoc, AstroSoc, and working with charitable societies as part of RAG Week would give me good knowledge to be able to contribute to the Societies Committee.

I have held roles in the general and executive committees of multiple societies, and in my previous position as School President I worked closely with lots of academic societies to run joint events or include them in widescale initiatives.

I think it would be useful to create strong bonds between the academic schools and societies. With so many collaborative events, I think a connection could be highly beneficial and would allow a more varied and supported program of academic and careers-based events. As Faculty President, I could help form relationships between relevant societies and schools which could work together and contribute to some of the larger faculty events like careers fayres, and diversity initiatives like LGBT+ STEM Week and DiverSTEM.

Having worked in societies already, and with experience in academic representation, I think I would be a useful addition to the Societies Committee as I can help with the many existing roles on the committee like publicity and budgeting but can also help support academic and career focused societies.

#### **Sophie Craig:**

As the new widening access and participation member, I'd love to be more involved with university societies, as I feel they are crucial parts of the university that can offer students great experiences, no matter students backgrounds. As looking at resources and funding is already part of my widening access role, I think this is an excellent fit in terms on looking at grants and funding for societies too, and a great opportunity to link these jobs together. As someone who has been on society committees previously, I have experience in knowing what resources societies need, but importantly I have a grasp on what is missing and I'd like to pursue this side of the role and talk with societies about what can be improved. Furthermore, I have a background in publicity through previous committee roles, so promoting societies and events is something I am well versed in doing and I am confident id be a good fit for helping societies with anything they need.

### **SAF Carve Ups**

#### **Amy Feakes:**

My name is Amy, and I am running to be a carve up on the Societies Committee. This will be my second year on SAF as Charities Officer and I hope to become a carve up again for the second time. I have had a really rewarding experience over the past year and it is something I am really keen to be part of again.

I have been a keen and active member of the Societies Committee this year. I have enjoyed offering my opinion and often bring a different more charitable perspective to the discussion. The experience has taught me lots from the grant process, the challenges faced with re-affiliation, with member sign-ups and the inner workings of another union subcommittee. I would like to build on my role this year and hope to bring new uses to the carve-up role – with the suggestion of certain smaller tasks being delegated to the Carve-ups to release the pressure on some of the larger committee roles.

I believe my considerable amount of experience within union subcommittees and as a councillor will be useful for the Societies Committee and will allow me to support Laura and her committee to the best of the ability that a carve-up can.

I hope I can gain your trust and confidence that I am right for the role as a Societies carve up and that I will gain your vote. Thank you.

## **Statements for Discipline Committee Carve Ups**

### **Laura Connies-Laing:**

My name is Laura Connies-Laing and I am the SAF Societies Officer. I am running to be a SAF Member on the Discipline Committee.

Whether attributable to my star sign as a Libra or my academic habits as a History student, I believe that providing a balanced and analytically considered handling of all discipline matters is the bedrock of a well-functioning Students' Association. I want to help make that possible.

Before becoming Societies Officer, I served as Elections Officer in the Societies Committee. In this role, I led an investigation into an accusation of electoral misconduct, working closely with the Director of Student Activities and Development and the former Societies Officer throughout. This involved reviewing evidence, conducting interviews with sensitivity, and formulating a resolution. My primary focus was striking a balance between finding a fair and workable solution, whilst operating within the Arm's Length Policy of the Societies Committee. Therefore, I could collaborate with colleagues on the Discipline Committee in reviewing, assessing, and responding to any matters brought before us.

Beyond the Association, I have previously been involved in Model United Nations, both as a Delegate and a Chair. Diplomatically negotiating my way through contradictory policies and managing heated debate within a committee of experienced delegates have instilled me with the right mindset of a Discipline Committee member. That is one of patience, measured assertiveness, and fairness in the face of conflict.

I would hugely appreciate this opportunity, so thank you for your consideration.

### **Andrew Longworth:**

Hi, I'm Andrew (he/him), and I'm running to be one of your SAF officers for the discipline committee! I would love to assist the committee in hearing cases of alleged misconduct and help to assess them. I'm very educated on the laws of the association and pride myself on being a firm but fair mediator. I would help to steer the committee towards reasonable judgements that uphold the association laws but would discharge my duties with an air of tolerance. Many people are



unaware of the association laws, whilst that doesn't give people a free pass to break them, I think an element of leniency should be used when judging first time defendants who genuinely unintentionally break them. I would love to have your support!