



# **Junaid Sipple**

## **Vice President Education**

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City University has a multitude of reputations across its various institutions and depending on the school which you study in, you'll know what these are. As a second year Mechanical Engineering student, I have a lot to say about my department but at the same time, I've been involved with university affairs long enough to know what else is going on outside the walls of the engineering lab!

### **Why you should vote for me...**

Over my time here, I have been a member of the Union Council and have worked closely with previous sabbatical officers at the forefront of resolving university issues. Also having worked at the Ten Squared venue for the past two years, I've had the chance to meet a lot of you and speak to members of union staff; all of which has spurred on my enthusiasm to participate with the university.

My belief is that a person's time at university can be enriched by the level of involvement that he or she endeavours to pursue outside of a classroom. It is not only a technical qualification you should be seeking, but a degree in "life experience", shaping you into a productive, creative and sociable person who would be attractive to employers.

If you're now wondering - "What avenue do I have to find these experiences at university?" – then the Students' Union is your platform to engage with other students and of course by making an effort to convey your interests with others, the experience inevitably becomes better for everyone! As sabbaticals, our role will be to liaise and organise events which are structured by union staff to convey a sense of belonging, identity and personal development. I am confident that with my experience working at the Student's Union and my involvement up to this point, I can confidently deliver the points which I have outlined below.

## Key Policies

**Academic engagement** – Every student requires the motivation for a high level of genuine engagement with teaching staff, however, if you feel that a lecturer is not interesting or is simply “reading off the slides”, it is less likely you’ll feel that motivation and most probably disengage from that module.

Initiatives to place emphasis on quality of teaching will be supported to ensure a consistency amongst lecturers. As well as this, a structured feedback system between SRO’s and course reps of all schools will be upheld to ensure that issues are dealt with effectively from the moment they are identified by YOU.

**Feedback on your work** – Hearing about how you did in a coursework two months after submitting it is not likely to help in the development and understanding of that topic. Likewise, not being given feedback on examinations will have a negative impact on your studies, especially if that module follows on into your next academic year. I will push proposals to provide uniform feedback to help you understand what is required from you, before and after you do your assessments.

**Academic structure** – each department makes their own decision on the number of teaching weeks and when your start and end points are. To improve the student learning experience, the delivery, content and organisation of each course should account for a suitable amount of time that supports depth of learning and time for reflection.

**Timetabling** – Workloads can be too much and too soon at the wrong times of year; a more balanced approach to timetabling will see you have the chance to maintain a good work and play balance.

**Access to learning resources** – It isn’t fun when you’re struggling to do your required reading because you’re competing with fellow students for books. So more focus will be put on solutions such as E-books, allowing you to study with the utmost convenience.

**Student engagement and university culture** – We’re missing out on a university spirit that we can all be proud of; by communicating with students effectively and demonstrating that our actions as one can bring greater enjoyment, I plan to manage enhanced integration between our clubs, societies and different schools; so that students can thrive amongst like-minded peers.

**Tuition fees** – Education is an important factor in ensuring future generations of skilled adults, yet if the cap for tuition fees is lifted, the opportunity for people from less fortunate backgrounds to a higher education will cease to exist. We must strive to ensure future students get access to the same qualifications we are - at no additional cost!

**I have done my best to make the words in this manifesto convey my commitment I am prepared to put into this upcoming year, but if there are questions you have then it is worth knowing that I and my colleagues are here to answer them, for which you are welcome to ask at anytime. Cheers!**

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