

# LET'S KEEP WINNING For STUDENTS

Re elect **AMATEY** VP HE

It's been a huge privilege to be the VP HE and Deputy President for NUS at such an important time for the Higher Education Sector over the last year.

But with Brexit, funding crises, chaotic politics, and persisting disparities in HE, the need for leadership is more important than ever before.

There is still so much more to do, and with your support, we can continue to win for students.

*Amatey*

Your VP HE in numbers!

**30**  
TIMES QUOTED  
IN NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPERS  
on issues affecting  
STUDENTS



**3** PARLIAMENTARY  
SELECT COMMITTEES  
ADDRESSED  
getting the  
student voice  
to the heart of  
WESTMINSTER



**70+**  
HOURS

REPRESENTING  
YOU ON NATIONAL  
SECTOR BOARDS  
including in  
HEFCE, the QAA,  
OLA and UKSCQA



**400+**

STUDENTS' UNION  
SUBSCRIBERS  
TO THE FREE  
WONKHE DAILY  
BRIEFING



**500+**

PAGES OF  
GOVERNMENT  
CONSULTATIONS  
responded to



**52**

HOURS  
OF SMOOTH JAZZ  
LISTENED TO



## #AMASTAY

### 1. BREXIT PHASE 2

In April, I promised to deliver a robust plan on Brexit - one that rejects isolationism, & protects students' rights. We've started to see progress, but the next year is even more important as the negotiations hit the next phase. I have:

- Briefed student leaders across Europe, secured a European Students Union summit in Cardiff, & passed a Resolution at ESU's Board to stand in solidarity with the UK on Brexit.
- Taken a leading role in the NUS Brexit taskforce, coordinating the #StudentsOfTheWorld Campaign & publishing a campaign guide for SUs.

#### THE PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

- Bid for a European Students Union Board meeting in the UK.
- Arrange for NUS to meet directly with DExEU and negotiators in Brussels, alongside ESU, to protect our interests.
- Build a coalition of organisations working with young people to protect students' rights and interests across HE and FE.

### 2. THE BLACK ATTAINMENT GAP PHASE 2

At every speech, committee and parliamentary appearance I've made, I've argued that the Higher Education sector needs to get to grips with tackling the 26% Black Attainment Gap. The sector are listening: it's time to act. I have:

- Released a guide for Unions to lobby their universities to sign up to the Race Equality Charter Mark at Zones Conference
- Run several workshops and been invited to speak at over 6 panel events
- Developed a priority motion for National Conference.

#### THE PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

- Work with UUK & ECU to launch a Black Attainment Gap Commission.
- Run a Campaigns Hub series on the topic so SUs can share what works.
- Launch a nationwide "Why is my curriculum white" campaign, alongside black academics.

Amatey is a hard-working, committed & proactive VP HE. As an international student, I've found his collaborative international work on getting students the best deal post-Brexit fundamentally important. He has also continuously championed student voice in the public debate on HE funding. I'm backing Amatey for a focused, strong and collaborative HE Zone.

- Shraddha Chaudhary,  
Exeter Guild President







### 3. GENERATION AVALANCHE

NEW

This year has seen an unprecedented attack from the right-wing media and from government - smears about "generation snowflake" and a complete misrepresentation of our no-platform policy. It's time to fight for safe spaces, no-platform racists and safeguard real free speech.

#### THE PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

- Launch a campaign in response to "generation snowflake", expressing what students in this country value, & the public good of higher education.
- Brief all SUs, outlining clearly our policies on safe spaces & no-platforming, and how to protect activists targeted by right-wing media.
- Launch an online guide debunking myths & giving students on the ground a toolkit to tell their side of the story
- Ensure that our No Platform list is up to date to ensure that organisations that promote violent hate speech are driven off our campuses
- Campaign to remove 'regulating free speech' from the remit of the OfS.

### 4. THE ROAD TO FREE EDUCATION

NEW

The last general election saw students speak out and their voice has secured an independent review into HE funding. Now is the time to act, with a robust & practical plan.

#### THE PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

- Publish a masterplan informed by the National President's Poverty Commission, which outlines our targets on the road to free education.
- Include: clear guidance for universities on hardship funds, so that money is released immediately to students in need; rationales for officers on remuneration committees; the necessity of maintenance grants & support.
- Continue to ensure there is no link between TEF and tuition fees.

### 5. A STUDENT RIGHTS REVOLUTION

NEW

Whether we like it or not, the government has established a new regulator for universities in England which has huge ramifications across the nations. But after a year of arguing about who is or isn't on its board, we need a renewed focus on what it should be doing - delivering student rights and protections that we know students need. So far, I have:

- Set out clearly to parliament, ministers and sector committees that the OfS' priorities must be aligned with students, and outlined a positive vision of teaching excellence ahead of the independent TEF review.
- Ensured NUS responses to hundreds of pages of consultations on the new frameworks, and mobilised unions to support our key messages.
- Appointed current and former officers to the OfS Student Panel to give the movement a strong independent voice *within* the regulator.

#### THE PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR

- A clear statement of student rights, and independent, fully-funded advocacy for every student in HE that needs it.
- A revolution in transparency that reveals hidden costs, and a campaign on cooling-off to ensure no student incurs any fee until at least 12 weeks into a course.
- Fighting for baseline student representation - ensuring that:
  - all students on all courses in all providers have the right to be represented in HE
  - there is permanent student representation on the OfS Board
  - students sit on University remuneration committees
  - advisory groups are established for HE Students in FE Colleges, Mature Students, Part-Time Students, TNE students & postgraduates to ensure their interests are addressed.

A symbol of professionalism, competence and dedication, Amatey will be the anchor to keep the movement on its feet during turbulent times. It's truly commendable that despite holding a senior post in the organisation, he still manages to keep his ear to the ground and offer support to even the most niche of concerns. For these reasons, I support Amatey's re-election.

- Busayo Twins, NUS NEC



Your VP HE in numbers!

8 MEDIA INTERVIEWS



including primetime slots on Newsnight and Sky News

20 PANELS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

representing the STUDENT VOICE



20+ WEEKS IN PICS

updating members directly



8 NATIONAL HE SECTOR COMMITTEES

your voice was represented on



### Other wins this year:

- Secured a deal with Wonkhe, with over 100 unions receiving daily HE Briefings saving them thousands of pounds.
- Secured a greater voice for students with a Board position at Advance HE, the new sector 'mega-agency'.

I've found working with Amatey supportive & empowering. As president of a small arts union, the problems faced by the students I represent are bespoke & don't always fit conveniently with the issues of the sector. Yet Amatey still dedicated time to us, observing, listening and understanding how he can use his influence to advocate for us. Amatey is a wonderful leader - he cares about individuals & always makes sure he fights for all students, no matter how small they are in the greater HE picture. I have every confidence that Amatey will continue to speak up for Small & Specialist unions and that's why I'll be voting for Amatey #1 for VP HE!

- Xenia Levantis,  
NUA SU President & GuildHE Chair



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