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NEAL BLACK

for VP FURTHER EDUCATION

I'M STANDING BECAUSE...

I'm standing to be the next VPFE of NUS UK because I believe that the power of an FE movement, properly united and supported, can deliver for students. Over the last 2 years as President, Edinburgh College Students' Association has been recognised for our achievements in strengthening the student voice and has received multiple awards for our work in becoming a strong, effective student union that delivers for its members.

I have been involved with and campaigned for the implementation of a national framework for effective students' associations, the Scottish Student Support review, and the Scottish Government's commitment to improve mental health services. I want to unite the expertise from my fellow students' associations and unions, as well as my knowledge and skills from the local & national successes, to develop a strong, united force for education across our movement.

Regionalisation of colleges is happening across the UK and it provides huge risk as well as a phenomenal opportunity for our members. Unions have the chance to reshape what institutions look like and enhance the student voice on our campuses and in our boardrooms, but they will need greater support and effective leadership to manage this risky period. I want to take the lessons learned as well as the major wins we've had in Scotland to support our members to get the best out of this period. Learning must be protected, and the student voice elevated, not silenced, ahead of any changes to our colleges.



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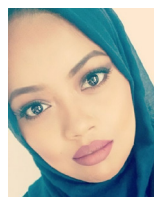


MY EXPERIENCE

- Edinburgh College Students' Association President (2016 - 2018)
- Class Rep & Executive Officer
- Community Councillor & Secretary
- Children's Hearing Panel Member
- Edinburgh 2050 City Vision Steering Group member

MY SUPPORTERS

"I support Neal, as to him my opinions matter and my voice holds weight. I want to see a diversified NUS, that supports its officers & represents all its students. I believe Neal to be a leader who will unite the students and associations that form the NUS"



Nurina Sharmin
VP Education & Engagement, HISA Perth

"Neal lives & breathes FE, his thirst for knowledge and understanding of what FE students need is second to none"



Luke Humberstone
NUS Scotland President

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I'M STANDING FOR APPRENTICES...

- Apprentices have once again been put on the backburner by our leaders, and now must wait until 2020 to be fully heard in our democratic structures. It's not good enough.
- Apprentice representation has come a long way since the creation of the National Society of Apprentices, but there's more to be done - I want better integration and representation of apprentices not just within NUS but also in our colleges and workplaces, ensuring they receive better opportunities & experiences.
- I want to work more closely with the NUS VPHE and ensure our approach to a seamless student journey on education can be realised. No matter what a student is studying on our campuses, or out on placement, whatever award they are working towards, they must be supported to achieve their full potential.

I'M STANDING FOR FE UNIONS...

- No longer is it acceptable for college student unions to be under resourced and forgotten, spending every year scraping together enough resource just to survive. If Student unions are to be truly strong and effective, they need the resources to be able to build capacity to ensure they can fully represent their membership.
- We need an expectation of standard within the sector when it comes to staffing, and the vision of where we want our organisations to be in the next 5 years. I've won those arguments at my own college, and as your VPFE I'll work with the membership to build up other Unions, so they can win for students.

I'M STANDING FOR WELFARE & LIBERATION...

- Elect me your VPFE and I'll argue for student-centred approaches to supporting students at colleges, to ensure that no one must pick between their studies or their health. Student mental health is at a crisis point, with an underfunded NHS, and the public sector forced to cut services anywhere they can, student mental health services aren't fit for purpose and are at risk of even further cuts to provision - this can't happen.
- If elected VPFE I will do my best to be an ally to the liberation officers, and let their opinions, campaigns and autonomy be respected in full, as well as building in consultations & impact assessments to ensure liberation is an intrinsic part of everything I and the FE campaign do.
- We have come so far as a student movement, and as a wider society. The students on and off our campuses do amazing work in breaking down barriers, I'll be standing right beside you, doing whatever I can to help you in the fight against hate that divides our communities. No student should ever feel unsafe because of who they are.

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