

Who's YUSU?

Profiles of the main players and analysis of the key issues facing this year's Students' Union Executive

ANNE-MARIE CANNING

PRESIDENT



- Former James Chair
- Graduate in English and Related Literature with 2:1
- Promises to restore YUSU's "charisma"
- Responsible for organising NUS referendum

PROFILE

Anne Marie Canning came to the post of YUSU President promising to restore "the charisma" of the sabbatical team. As well as being a highly effective campaigner, she hopes to bring a pharmacy to campus. Seen as being less prone to gaffes than Service and Finance Officer Matt Burton, with whom she was in a relationship at the time of the election, Canning is a unifying presence on the Executive. She is seen as savvy and efficient, having brought together the range of ideologues and pragmatists that currently make up the sabbatical team. Canning is hugely ambitious; having been Head Girl at her senior school, she became involved in the running of YUSU as a first year without an elected post.

MATT BURTON

SERVICES & FINANCE



- Former Goodricke Chair
- Graduate of Management with unknown degree class
- Spent £800 of JCRC money on a Hasslehoff impersonator
- Ambitious financial policies sometimes poorly realised

PROFILE

Despite his brief stewardship as Service and Finance Officer, Matt Burton has already been at the centre of a number of controversies. On election results night he publicly accused opponent and former Vanbrugh chair, Mickey Macefield, of "playing dirty" and claimed to have "wiped the floor with him." Burton has a sharp business mind, and is capable of managing YUSU's financial assets, although he is sometimes over-ambitious in his proposals. His manifesto pledge of opening a student venue in the city was met with derision by some, and the plan of having his own internet company B3 host YUSU's website was thwarted. Burton's controversies are seen as a potential source of embarrassment for the President.

SAM BAYLEY

SOCIETIES & COMMUNICATIONS



- Former Halifax President
- Accomplished football referee and ex-Harrods sales executive
- Graduate of Management with unknown degree class
- Long-running feud with ex-Halifax Chair James Flinders

PROFILE

Running successfully on an electoral ticket that promised streamlining, efficiency and experience, Sam Bayley is well set to carry out his responsibilities as Societies and Communications Officer. He has already acted upon his manifesto promise to update the YUSU website. A stickler for efficiency, he has pioneered a new system for running the YUSU office on an appointment-only basis. Compared to the expansive personalities of Canning and Burton, Bayley's style is more reserved. However, he has been one of the driving forces behind the new smartening-up of the YUSU office, and insists upon wearing a suit every day. His move to ban jeans from the YUSU office was met with resistance from other sabbs.

JOEY ELLIS

DEVELOPMENT & CHARITIES



- Former Student Action Chair
- Ex URY Station Manager
- Graduate of English Language and Linguistics
- In a long-term relationship with former YUSU President Rich Croker

PROFILE

Unlike her Executive colleagues, Ellis is from a largely non-YUSU background. Her position as Student Development and Charities Officer was the only uncontested sabbatical position, though she is generally seen as a well-qualified candidate for the job. Ellis has an extensive charity and fundraising background, having served as both RAG and Student Action rep for Vanbrugh College, going on to become YUSU Student Action chair last year. She played an important role in helping to achieve RAG's record-breaking £33,000 total for last year. Promising to "raise the profile on campus of Student Action and RAG", Ellis is optimistic that RAG can again exceed last year's total.

GRACE FLETCHER-HALL

ACADEMIC & WELFARE



- Former Policy & Campaigns Officer
- Graduate in Politics and Philosophy
- Poor relations with Rich Croker
- Shaved her head after defeat in York council elections

PROFILE

Academic and Welfare Officer Grace Fletcher-Hall provides an ideological counterpoint to some of her more pragmatic Executive colleagues, coming from a background of high-profile student activism. She ran as Labour's candidate for the local council ward of Heslington, but was beaten by the incumbent Liberal Democrat despite energetic campaigning. A strong feminist voice, Fletcher-Hall is sometimes accused of taking political correctness to unnecessary extremes, having at one point attempted to remove 'lads mags' from the shelves of Your:Shop. She has already broken ranks with her fellow Sabbatical officers this year by refusing, for ethical reasons, to wear their Fruit of the Loom t-shirts

JO CARTER

AU PRESIDENT



- Former AU Press & Publicity Officer
- English and Related Literature Graduate
- Former Hockey Club President
- Took part in a sponsored bike ride from York to Amsterdam

PROFILE

Jo Carter beat the former AU Vice-President Nick Hassey by a narrow margin to obtain her position as AU President. She has followed in the footsteps of her predecessor, Tom Moore, setting herself the task of creating a more efficient, coordinated and accessible AU which has the potential to be an effective charity fundraiser. Carter has also promised to do more for low profile clubs which don't receive the same levels of sponsorship as the major sports clubs and aims to better York's position on a national level. Until the recent Fruit of the Loom incident, when she sourced unethically produced t-shirts for the sabbatical officers to wear during Freshers' Week, Carter has kept a relatively low profile.

WEB-CANNING

This week's snapshot from YUSU's web-cam



In the interests of accountability, and moderate voyeurism, Nouse

will be monitoring the comings and goings in the YUSU office via

webcam. The best moments will be brought you in these pages.

Fairtrade, NUS and Heslington East likely to top union agenda this year

MICKY ARMSTRONG famously announced that the year of his YUSU Presidency, 2006-07, was to be a 'Year of Reform'. Things did change, but Micky's reforms left YUSU battered and on the verge of a constitutional crisis. Incoming President, Rich Croker, declared a 'Year of Consolidation' in response, designed to restore YUSU's confidence and allow it to regroup.

Societies and Communications Officer Sam Bayley has cautiously

avoided giving this year any such title aside from, "A really good year, hopefully." Initially, a 'Year of Expansion' seemed fitting with the prospect of a Union venue in the city and negotiations for student facilities on Heslington East likely to be a main focus.

Recent developments make that title less apt. The city venue seems all but forgotten in light of the University's claimed commitment to a central student venue on the new campus, while plans for a YUSU

juice bar have been scrapped after the University announced a nearly identical venture in the Roger Kirk Centre. Still, lobbying for student facilities on Heslington East will remain a priority for this Executive team and probably for many to come.

Much time will be spent in the first term organising the NUS referendum and working to inform students on the issues surrounding the question of disaffiliation. While there is little organised opposition

to the NUS on campus, the issue will still have to be handled carefully if YUSU's commitment to direct democracy is to be demonstrated. A low turnout is likely to be seen as a failure to overcome voter apathy.

The issue of ethical merchandise has already flared up this term and YUSU will be keen to avoid another embarrassment. The Ethical Merchandise motion passed in March is a step forward and some elements in the Union may push for further measures.