



GEORGE BLAKE

MRES HUMANITIES | RUNNING FOR KPA VICE-PRESIDENT

About Me

Currently studying an MRes in Comics and Graphic Novels, I've been involved in student representation on and off for the last 6 years. I Completed my BA at Keele in 2015 and am hoping to stay on to do a PHD in the coming years.

Previous Positions

Where to start! I've been Open portfolio officer at the SU and Keele's representative at NUS and NUS LGBT conference. I've been involved in several societies from Production Manager at Keele Drama to a committee member of Think Green.

I've also run campaigns across the university, encouraging people to vote, protesting the rise in PG Fees and for increased university transparency on planning issues.

I am currently the equality and diversity officer at the KPA.

The Role: Vice-President

The Vice-President role within the KPA is relatively new with responsibilities varying depending on who has filled the role. It will be important for the incoming President and Vice-President to delineate responsibilities as the constitution does not. Over the course of the next year, I hope to codify these responsibilities to increase accountability for the role and help members better appreciate the work being done. Some flexibility should be retained so that future officers can develop the role further.

Plans and Ideas

Voluntary Officers

As a part time officer I am sad to say that the current structure of the part time officer roles isn't working. The remit of the roles is unclear and officers lack responsibilities and power to instigate change. This year's team have begun the process of re-invigorating these roles and I want to build on this. Last year's introduction of a budget for voluntary officers was well intentioned but underutilized. By giving voluntary officers more responsibility and adding a reporting structure I hope to increase officer's productivity, improve engagement and diversify representation.

Equality and Diversity

As the KPA's equality and diversity officer I have been varyingly surprised and disappointed at diversity within the KPA. While the enthusiasm for diversity among members and Officers is undeniable, there is a lack of understanding of key issues and little knowledge of what needs to be. I will be publishing a report towards the end of this year outlining recommendations as to how we can turn enthusiasm for change into tangible results for KPA members.



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