

# Working Class Students Election Workshop

YUSU  DEVELOPS

# Agenda

1. Explore the roles available to you and what running for election involves.
2. Hear from the inspiring Connor Drake, YUSU's first Working Class Officer
3. Explore the barriers to participation in YUSU democracy and also the opportunities.

# Why are we doing this workshop?

- Working class students are underrepresented in YUSU officer roles - particular Sabb positions.
- We want to proactively encourage working class students to run in YUSU elections - it will make YUSU better for everyone!
- But, we don't want to be tokenistic, we want to better understand the barriers to participation and how we can address them in the long-term.

# Access and Participation: Data, Targets and Cool stuff

## Data

- **Access** - in 2017/18 the % of York's students from POLAR4 Q1 and Q2 (students with the lowest household income) was 20% - 6% below the Sector average. York does well on the % of students from state schools - but the vast majority of those students are from Q4 and Q5.
- **Continuation** - Q5 (the most well off) have consistently higher rates than all other students - 97%. Rates for Q1-2 students is 95%.
- **Attainment** - For the least well off students (Q1,2 &3), York performs above the Sector. However, there is an attainment gap between Q1,2,3 and Q5.
- **Continuation** - There is a progression gap between the least and most advantaged students at York, but it is only small and York is in the top quartile for the Sector.

## Targets

- Increase the proportion of young, full-time, first degree entrants from LPN POLAR4 Q1 by 2.5% - from 7.8% to 10.3% by 2024/5 and from Q2 to 14.7% from 12.2%.
- Reducing the ratio of the most and least well off from 5:1 to 3.6:1.
- Raising the attainment of LPN Q1-3 students by 2% from 79.7% to 81.7% by 2024/5

# Cool Stuff

1. Working Class Network
2. Funding for Network development - Working Class, BAME, Disabled
3. Funding for a student-staff member to support Network development
4. Funding for a full-time staff member (from Autumn 2020-2022) at YUSU to work on widening access and participation activities
5. Student Expert Panel
6. University's First Gen Network

# What's all this election stuff about?

Roles, nominations and support

# Roles available to you

## Full-time Sabbatical Roles

- Union President
- Academic Officer
- Activities Officer
- York Sport President
- Community and Wellbeing Officer

## Part-time Officers

- BAME
- Disabled
- Mature
- LGBTQ
- Women & Non Binary
- International
- Working Class
- Volunteering
- Environment & Ethics
- RAG

## Non-Officer Roles

- Arts and Humanities Faculty Rep
- Social Sciences Faculty Rep
- Sciences Faculty Rep

<https://yusu.org/elections2020/positions>

# Timeline





# Nomination and Campaigning

- **Manifesto** - after you have submitted your manifesto you have a whole extra week to develop your manifesto. The best manifestos are simple - Just think about what matters most to you, what change you want to make and why you want to do the role.
- **Workshops**
- **Campaigning** period - Challenging, but lots of fun! Online campaigning begins on the 12th Feb and then physical campaigning begins on the 17th.

[FAQs](#)



# Support

**Workshops**

**Useful  
Reading**

[Candidate Hub](#)

**Staff  
Support**

**Guides**

# Connor Drake

The life and times of YUSU's first Working Class Officer

# Why **you** should run in the YUSU elections

**Connor Drake**

My background

Spent time in college after doing badly at school.

Began to notice that others felt the same as me and backed a motion for a working class officer at York.

Organised the UK's first student led conference on social class.

I made a difference.

2012 - 2016

2016

Early 2017

Late 2017  
- 2018

2018 - 2019

Came to York and moved from Bradford - felt like I didn't fit in.



Successfully campaigned for the officer position, before becoming part of the first working class officer team at York!

# Why should you run?

As I said in my previous slide, **everyone has their own interests, passions and ideas for the role.**

This is precisely why you should run for an officer position - ***no matter what position you run for.***

# What can running give you?

Through running in the elections twice (and winning once), I gained a **wealth of skills, including:**

- **Communication skills, including public speaking and social media skills;**
- **Experience of building coalitions and forming a coherent manifesto;**
- **Events management skills;**
- **Built a varied network including academics, campaigners, creatives and charity professionals.**

Perhaps most importantly however, **I made friends for life; people I know are there for me when I need them (and vice versa).**



# Summing up...

Everyone has their own individual passions, drives and interests and with that, their own visions for where to take the role.

These differences should be celebrated - particularly when considering that everyone will be united by a common vision to make lives better.

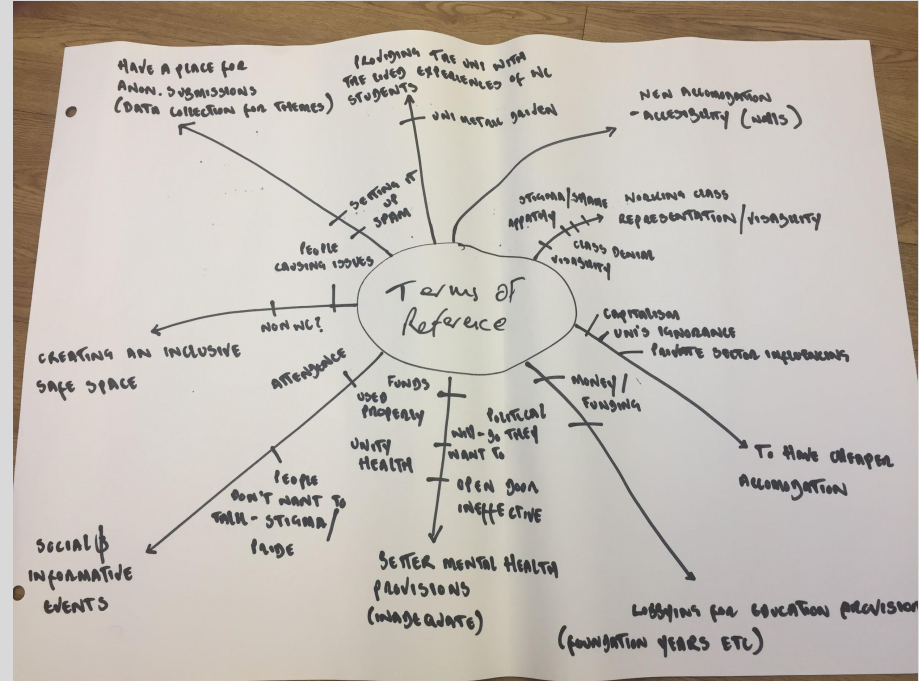
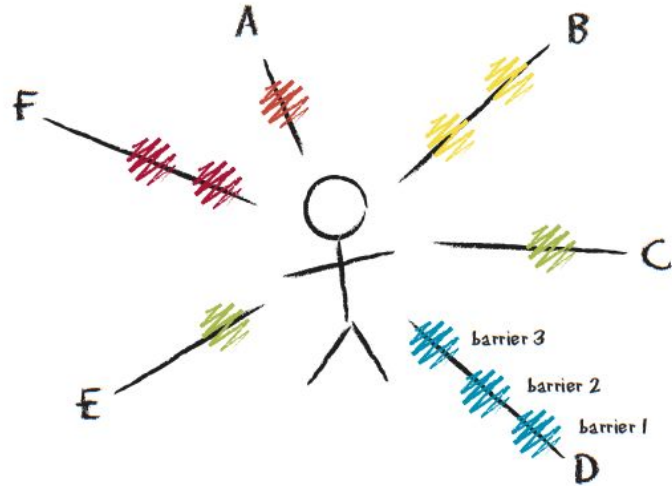
You will gain a wealth of experience that is useful for future positions.

Students need people like you!

# Activity

Exploring barriers and opportunities

## Spider Diagram



# Questions