



Manifesto 2021-22

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Section 1: A Smooth Recovery from CoViD-19

1. An Enhanced Academic Safety Net for UWS Students (No Detriment Policy)
 - a. Proactive Student Support; Students should receive at least one call (at a time of their convenience) from the University to determine what support they might need and signpost them to the relevant support services.
 - b. Improved Communications; Students should have access to a 24hr helpline that addresses all enquiries that the hub normally deals with. Students are needing support out with the normal business hours currently on offer.
 - c. Adjusted Degree Algorithm; Students should be permitted to substitute up to 40 credits worth of their best module scores from level 9 for their worst 40 credits in level 10. This will allow students to potentially use work from level 9 that was unaffected by the Pandemic.
 - d. Reverse Academic Penalties; Students should have penalties that were applied in T1 for late submission reversed, bringing T1 in line with T2 when automatic 3-week extensions will apply. See section 4.5 of the UWS Assessment Handbook
<https://www.uws.ac.uk/media/6628/uws-assessment-handbook-v2-2020-21.pdf>
 - e. Recognition of Concurrent Learning; Universities routinely recognise prior learning when deciding at what level a student can undertake their studies. Coronavirus has presented students with extraordinary challenges for them to overcome. The university should look at these challenges as opportunities to award credits. Particular attention should be given to Healthcare Workers and Carers who have faced the Pandemic head on, Parents who have homeschooled, Key Workers in Retail and Logistics and other key sectors who have kept our country going. These students have already demonstrated the UWS Graduate Attributes of being 'Universal, Work-Ready and Successful'.
 - f. Establish a Key Resources Fund; Students should be able to apply for funding for key resources that they would normally be able to access. Students might need books, journal access, laptop chargers, specialised software etc. Things that they wouldn't normally need if they had access to campus.



2. Online & Physical Learning

- a. We need a smooth, safe and considered transition from online and blended-learning, but only once it is safe to do so.
- b. UWS must ensure that no student is forced back into physical learning until it is safe and they feel comfortable.
- c. Therefore, all classes must make use of lecture-capture technology to ensure that all students are still able to study at home if they are unable to attend classes in person.
- d. Lecture-capture should be available at all times in the future, not just during the pandemic.

3. Events at the Students' Union

- a. Once it is safe to do so, physical events should return to all campuses, following guidance from the Scottish Government and taking appropriate safety precautions.
- b. Events including Karaoke and Quiz Nights should be held as regular fixtures.
- c. Events should take place at *all* campuses. The Students' Union must consider innovative ways to take advantage of our unique spaces, including ensuring that events are able to be enjoyed by students at the Lanarkshire campus, who often seem to be forgotten.
- d. The Students' Union should consider ways to make events accessible to all students. This could include, for example, more alcohol-free events.
- e. Once Coronavirus is considered to no longer be a hazard, the Students' Union should hold a huge party to celebrate.

Section 2: Improving Transparency & Communication

1. Regular drop-ins and updates

- a. As President I will hold regular drop-in sessions and surgeries where any student can discuss anything they like with me.
- b. I will give weekly updates on social media to let you know exactly what I've been working on each week, and what progress has been made on our campaigns.



Section 3: Support for Societies, Liberation & Representation Groups

1. Recognising the work of our student group leaders
 - a. The students leading our student groups put in a huge amount of hard work and effort and make a massive difference to the UWS experience.
 - b. Therefore, all elected and active members of any student group committee should be recognised and rewarded, such as with discount cards for the Students' Union bar (like Student Reps received in 2019-20).
 - c. Student group leaders should also have their hard work recognised on their academic transcript.
2. Societies should be celebrated
 - a. There should be designated displays on each campus where societies can celebrate their achievements and make their own.

Section 4: Tackling Hidden Course Costs

1. Scrap Grad Fees - once and for all
 - a. No more students should ever be charged to graduate from UWS.
 - b. This issue has been prominent for several years now - it's time to finally close the door.
2. Name badges and student cards
 - a. Name badges for nursing students must be free.
 - b. Student cards must be free of charge to replace.

Section 5: Sorting Out Timetables & Enrollment

1. Timetabling
 - a. All students should receive their timetables at least six weeks before the start of term.
 - b. Greater effort must be taken by UWS to ensure a lack of timetable clashes.
 - c. No student should be expected to be on campus for more than eight hours per day (i.e. if a student's first class of the day begins at 09:00, their final class should end no later than 17:00) except in exceptional circumstances.
2. Enrollment
 - a. UWS must fix the buggy enrollment system, and should take great care to ensure all students are properly enrolled well before the start of term.



Section 6: A More Radical Students' Union

1. We support the student strike
 - a. UWS has repeatedly ignored pleas from struggling students asking for a proper no detriment policy, refunds for unfair rent charges, ridiculous graduation fees and other areas of support during the pandemic.
 - b. If the university does not improve on these areas, then more radical action is required.
 - c. I support the call for a referendum on a student strike, and encourage students to vote "Yes" on a student strike.
2. Working with other Unions.
 - a. The Students' Union should actively work to support the work of trade unions representing employees at UWS.
 - b. This is to acknowledge that improved pay and work conditions for staff leads to an improved education for students, and that regardless of this, all staff deserve fair treatment by their employers.
 - c. The Students' Union should work with - and encourage students to join - tenant unions such as Living Rent, Greater Glasgow Student Tenants Union, etc.
3. Direct Action
 - a. The Students' Union must take a more radical approach to improving the lives of students when more traditional routes and methods of enacting change are not working.
 - b. Direct action including protests, demonstrations and strikes should all be considered as routes to change.