Abi Dalby Bowler

#1 Co-Pres Democracy + Education

Are you being Represented?

My name is Abi; I’m a third year history + geography student here at SOAS. I love SOAS and I want to make sure that everyone feels represented, create an inclusive student union, and help make SOAS a better place to study and engage in debate.

Inclusivity: Whether students are mature, international, postgraduate or just new to London. I think it’s vital for students to find their place and express their views in the union.

Definition of Union Space: Whether students are mature, international, postgraduate or just new to London. I think it’s vital for students to find their place and express their views in the union.

Representation: The rep system needs to be grown into a clear structure so that students feel that they can use their reps and the union to bring up issues with departments. I want to fight for more training for our reps, make them more visible within the union and create a network between reps.

UGM outreach: I would like to see the UGM opened up to all students, to explain this as the place to stimulate discussion and action on issues/campaigns/debates. Development of how students can come together with exec and staff to enforce our policies.

Exec access: I want the union to be a place were all students feel connected to exec. I will fight for all part time officers to have regular office hours to give the student body an access point and friendly faces to approach!

Education prioritisation: 2015 is a crucial year for SOAS as it enters north-block and leaves Vernon square. I want to continue the union’s role in fighting for our students claim to this space.

Reasons to vote for me:

With a track record as a student rep and activist at SOAS, I’m going to work to achieve:

- A policy of representation and inclusion in our union
- Support those who feel isolated such as mature or international students
- Creation of a defined safe and enabling space for all members

I have the experience and knowledge of working within the union and with SOAS management so I know how to get results for students.

I will proactively defend and ensure student representation at all levels of the union and SOAS system

Experience:

Course Rep: Regular communication with the students I represent, ensuring all issues are properly listened to. Running an online forum for feedback and complaints throughout the year, ensuring rapid resolutions. Working with a broad range of academic, support staff and management to promote quality of teaching.

UGM: Regular involvement through submission of motions and debate on union policy. Ensuring that policy is acted upon through work with the union.

Justice for Cleaners Campaign: Involved in campaign organisation. Building momentum and support from students. Weekly planning meetings. Demos, press and public speaking. Planning of Latino parties, awareness events such as the Justice for Cleaners Day. Insight into the committee system through estates and facilities working group. Awareness into the management system at SOAS and understanding how this system can be improved.

Goals: my vision for the union and its exec.