

## Get to know your 2024 Student Representative Candidates!

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# AASHISH NEUPANE

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelors of computer science

## EXPERIENCE

I possess leadership experience as an executive member of NSWS, the Nepalese club at Western Sydney University. I've assisted numerous new international students in their studies, guiding them about available resources such as studiosity, pass programs, academic databases, and many more.

Hello Everyone,

I'm Aashish Neupane, an international student from Nepal currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science. When I first arrived at the university, I faced numerous challenges and had a hard time dealing with them on my own, so that made me realise the importance of proper support at the proper time in making this journey smoother and more blissful. So I'm here with a mission: to support new and current international students in every possible way. With a focus on improving university life, academics, and careers, I'll be your advocate. My role in the Nepali Club has shown me how to help all international students. As International Student Representative, I'll amplify my abilities to address your concerns directly with authorities. Trust me, and together we'll build a strong international student community.

Vote Aashish Neupane; Making Your Student Experience Better. Let's shape a stronger tomorrow.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I strongly believe in helping students speak up about their concerns . Through relatable campaigns, I aim to give them a voice, solve issues, and improve the campus experience for all.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Usually, my interests include watching web-series, playing cricket, and expanding my social circle.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If elected, my top priority would be to provide comprehensive support to international students in every possible aspect to ensure a well-rounded university experience. This would include focusing on mental and academic support, as well as creating an enriching campus environment.

Some key points:

1. **Study Assistance:** I would organize informative sessions to help new international students smoothly transition into university life. These sessions would provide guidance on navigating resources, study techniques, and effective time management.
2. **Cultural Engagement:** I'm committed to working with various student clubs across the university to plan and execute diverse events. This would give international students the opportunity to immerse themselves in different cultures, fostering a sense of unity and celebration of diversity.
3. **Accessible Support:** I will establish set office hours each week to make sure I'm available to all students. This will offer a dedicated space for international students to voice their concerns, ask questions, and seek guidance. Ensuring they have someone to turn to will contribute to their overall well-being.
4. **Monthly SRC Meetings:** In these meetings, I will consistently advocate for the needs of international students. By raising specific topics like monitoring food and drink prices at various outlets, I aim to address the financial aspects of their university experience.
5. **Feedback and Improvement:** I will actively gather feedback from international students regarding their learning outcomes and areas for improvement. This will enable us to better satisfy their requirements and improve our resources and assistance, resulting in a more productive and adaptable university environment.

Being an international student, I understand the issues they face firsthand. If I'm elected, my focus will be to give international students strong support in all areas - their mental and academic well-being, and to make their time on campus enjoyable.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

Working together with the SRC team, we'll use a variety of ways to gather input from students for university decisions. This will include different methods to involve everyone and make sure their voices are heard.

1. We will introduce a notice box method, whether physical or digital, allowing students to share their concerns anonymously. This ensures that every student, including international ones, can comfortably express dissatisfaction.

2. We will also improve the SRC website by adding a place specifically for voicing concerns or other issues. Students will have simple access to this easy to express their concerns.
3. We will maintain active and frequent updates on our social media platforms to keep users engaged. This will help students stay informed about university matters and encourage their participation.
4. We will set up discussions and make use of online forms in collaboration with several student clubs to gather comprehensive feedback. This cooperative effort will guarantee an in-depth understanding of student's opinions.
5. Furthermore, we will implement digital suggestion boxes, enabling students to share ideas and concerns anonymously, fostering an open and respectful environment.
6. To maintain consistent communication, we will send monthly feedback emails, encouraging students to provide input on various aspects of university life.
7. Lastly, I assure you that any issue impacting international or other students will be addressed diligently. I am committed to being their advocate, effectively connecting their concerns with university authorities.
8. Through these initiatives, we hope to establish a strong and peaceful environment that respects different viewpoints, upholds transparency, and accurately reflects the voice of the student in university decision-making.



# ANGELA TRAN

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Bachelor of Law and Business

## EXPERIENCE

During primary and secondary schooling I have been in leadership. From school captain, to house captain, to SRC, to peer tutor etc., I have the knowledge and foundation to thrive in any position I am thrown in since I've cultivated my skills throughout the years.

Like a flower sprouting through concrete, a leader is made through resilience and growth. Those who can stand and be a voice to the people are those who can contribute to change. If I am elected as editor, I can channel those voices into words for the people to hear. Whether it be through newsletters, podcast or pretty much any platform available, I will do it. Although being in SRC itself is a commitment, I will commit a portion of my time to endorse and promote goals and tasks to the best of my ability. If the group was a bouquet, then I wish to be the florist presenting their colours to the wider community. Furthermore, I will not be an idle stalk and petal waiting for plans to start, I will progress and develop along side my peers and tutors to bring the best experiences to Western Sydney Civilians and those who want their voices heard. As such, I will be the best candidate for this position.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe that kindness is a practice. A moment of consideration, a moment to smile, a moment to say please and thank you could make someones day better.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Mornings I read. Afternoons I hang with loved ones. At night its movies or sleep.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If elected I will dedicate a portion of my time to innovate and develop the WSU integrity by ensuring student voices are heard. These may include attending some functions or events that SRC may hold in order to interact with the student body. WSU publication and SRC are key players in order to obtain vital information about student voices while also creating coverage on a wider scale for students to be aware of the current affairs taking place at the university. Therefore, I would prioritise those moments to connect with the Western Sydney students and other groups that have needs to be addressed or are just genuinely interested in the association. I would work to advocate for improvements in campus life, academic support, and extracurricular activities, striving to create a positive and inclusive environment for all students and parties involved at uni.

I understand being part of the student body is sacrificing time that could be used for personal growth. However, it is also a privilege to work with other students who want to make a change in the university experience and advocate for the needs and concerns of the students in order to create harmony throughout the whole campus. As such, if I were to be elected, I will use my time wisely and time management like a professional in order to keep a healthy study and life balance, on top of attaining SRC goals that aid the community and impact the people. I would do so by using my trusty planner to plan and execute events that I would cooperate and collaborate with other council members, and ensure they are of the best quality. In other words, I would do my best if elected, by utilising both my oral and writing skills to communicate for the SRC body.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

There are various channels and forms of mediums to extract the student body's inputs, opinions and ideas into the decision-making process. If I were to be part of the student party, I would utilise what the previous council members have already implemented and seek for improvement if need be. For instance, to gauge concerns or improvements the university could implement with the quickest method to do so, I would utilise online forums or social media groups to retrieve this information. In order to make a seamless experience for all students and the wider community to enjoy, it is important for students to speak up on matters that they care about, therefore, by having surveys, focus groups, and online interaction, this can generate more precise and detailed analysis of preferences the student body have in regard to the university.

Pop up stalls during events are an engaging and convenient method in reaching a broader audience. This may be applied during open day, or perhaps random events the university may present at campus, that involve products and services as a whole. An advantage Western Sydney University has compared to other universities are their inclusivity and diversity. Therefore, I would be able to represent the Vietnamese community when presenting or communicating with this group of people, whilst other council members may do the same with their group ethnicity and culture. As such, by planning actionable responses to the student body feedback using the data collected and collated through these marketing channels, I would meet back up with the rest of the student body and

discuss tangible ways to implement these findings into the University decision making process, to achieve student voice being heard.

**3. Student Publications specific question: What do you see as the primary purpose of a student run publication at Western, and what will be your priorities should you be elected? (between 250-500 words)**

At the heart of Western Sydney University are the students. Students pump life into the university as they make up what Western Sydney University is all about, diversity and the chance to take on opportunity. However, with unique individuals in different faculties, ranging from law, medicine, teaching, business etc., it may become difficult for each discipline to meet and understand one another on a larger scale. Thus, a student-run publication bridges these faucets together. In a symphony of integrated goals and aspiration - this provides not only a greater sense of community throughout the Western Sydney University, but also a greater depth to the voice of the students and people. By allowing the heart of the university to innovate, pioneer and establish original work of art by focusing on a range of topics of interest, this allows other students to be engaged with new subject matters that they may not be familiar with. This will then build a culture of opportunity and positive insight into other groups enjoyment, promoting a chance to understand others and in turn - manifest meaningful connection.

By having students write articles, make reviews, and create artworks, this gives a closer comprehension to what the wider community wants published and encourages to circulate unity as a way of university life. Without the notion of harmony and enthusiasm, life at university may become boring, therefore, by having a platform for students' voices to be heard, through mediums made by other students themselves, this will ultimately improve future bonds with others on a deeper level. As such, the student-run publication is not only a form of network connecting others together, but also a method to promote and develop positive change at Western Sydney University.



# ANTHONY “JULIAN” GONZALEZ

Penrith (Kingswood)

## COURSE

History and Political Thought

## EXPERIENCE

As a neurodivergent person, I have lived experience with disability. I understand that campus aren't that accommodating for students who identify as disabled. I have worked with many disability organisations that helped people get a job and to ensure their workplaces are inclusive and accessible for everyone.

Hi WSU students, my name is Julian and I'm running as your Disability Collective Candidate for 2024. I am a third year student studying a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in History and Political Thought.

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' who identify as disabled voices and fighting for disability rights. I will fight to ensure that students feel safe and welcomed on an accommodating campus and are free from ableist harassment and bullying. As a student I believe in uniting our student voices, to ensure that students have more accessible safe spaces, providing more AUSLAN interpreters in lecture pods, and are working toward lowering the age of independence and delivering real reforms at both the university and national level.

I've held a number of positions both in and outside the University; I was the Kingswood Campus Representative last year and was also a member of my high school's SRC. I was also Vice-Captain of my high school where I was the leading student voice of my high school during COVID-19 and lockdowns.

I am keen to listen to all opinions in the disability collective to make WSU the most inclusive university in NSW!

## I BELIEVE IN...

I will strive to put more disability rooms safe space in more accessible locations on campuses, provide AUSLAN interpreters in lecture pods and audio versions of books

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I love to indulge in my special interests! I love history and nintendo (Pokemon specifically)

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

My priority would be to be a true representative of the Disability Collective on the SRC. That would mean having regular meetings with the Collective, listening to their concerns, and working with other members of the SRC to make WSU a safer, more inclusive place for every student that identifies as disabled. This would include making classrooms more accessible for wheelchair users, more accessible and visible disability safe space rooms, making AUSLAN options a priority in the classrooms and on online lecturing and many more. WSU has the opportunity to become a safe haven for students with disabilities, and it starts with the collective itself.

As people with disabilities, we must constantly try and fit into a society that will not accommodate for us. With a true representative from the collective, we will have a voice on the table making the decisions that affect us. With a true representative, the collective will have a seat on the table on all decisions. Because any motion that is brought forward to the SRC must be consulted with the collective first, it is as simple as that.

Ableism, no matter how subtle, is so enriched in everyday society. Institutions do not think twice about our needs and fail to make places more accessible for people with a disability. People with disabilities are forced to comply with a society that refuses to adapt and change for us. This needs to change, and it is a change that can start at a student level.

We have an opportunity to make WSU more accessible and a more accepting and safer place for people with disabilities, and as a representative from the collective, my priority will be to amplify the voice of not only the collective, but all students who identify as disabled. By making classrooms more accessible for wheelchair users, more accessible and visible disability rooms, AUSLAN a options in classrooms and online lecture pods, audible versions for readings and anything else the disability collective wants to be put forward, we can get the process started of making WSU a more safer and accommodating university for students with a disability.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

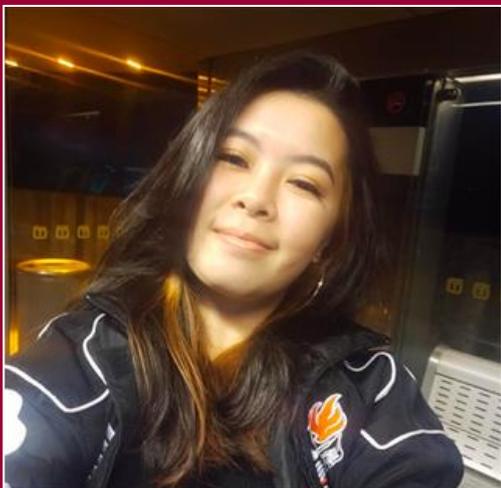
I will work with the student body and all sides of factions and groupings on the Student Representative Council to negotiate to make Western Sydney University more inclusive and accessible. It is a basic right that people with disabilities should be in an environment that will accommodate them.

I will organise regular meetings and be in constant communication with the disability collective to make sure their needs and priorities come first. In addition, I will also make sure to be constantly discussing with my councillor colleagues about what the disability collective needs and deserves. I

will also encourage members of the collective to come to regular SRC meetings so the SRC can get regular input into decisions and event making choices from the disability collective.

The feedback given by myself and the collective will be carefully analysed and considered by the SRC to inform future actions, events and policies. By having students directly involved in the SRC, we will ensure that their perspectives and needs are taken into account when shaping university policies and initiatives that will heavily affect disabled students.

These strategies are made to make sure the student's voices are heard, valued and taken into consideration, and the disability collective must be sitting at the dinner table to partake in fostering a culture of inclusivity, collaboration and safety to make decisions that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of the disability collective and other disabled students in Western Sydney University.



# ASHLEY LESLIE

Hawkesbury

## COURSE

Bachelor of Science

## EXPERIENCE

I am a student doing a Bachelor of Science. Majoring in Forensic Science, Anatomy and Physiology. I am currently an ECG mentor for Autumn and Spring 2023

As a member of your student council, my goal is to create more events and ensure students are aware of the opportunities available to them. Through my experience of being an ECG mentor within the university, I have developed strong communication and organizational skills that I believe will be essential in this role.

I believe this will help students connect with each other and build a network for post-degree work. I am dedicated to improving our university experience. To listen to your needs and work together towards achieving these goals. I am excited to take on this challenge and work towards making the university a better place for all students!

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe in getting the students connected with one another and university life. For the university to communicate clearly with students giving them as many opportunities as possible.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy getting lost in a good fantasy book, playing games and experimenting with new recipes.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If elected, my top priority would be to create a more inclusive and supportive community for all students on campus. To achieve this, I would focus on organizing more events and activities that promote student interaction and collaboration.

I want to make opportunities for students within the same degree path to meet up more regularly for them to connect their fellow peers who share similar interests. I want everyone university experience to be more than going to a tutorial then travelling home straight away. These events are opportunities to have a sense of community at the university, for students to network with one another and build relationships that can help them succeed both in school and beyond.

Furthermore, I want to utilise social media more, to have a one stop shop to access information easily about what is happening around the university. This would provide information about upcoming events, deadlines, workshops, and helplines. My goal would be to ensure that students are aware of campus activities. This action would improve communication between the student body and the university administration which ensures that student voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process. Student opinions are crucial because these decisions have the greatest impact on students. This would further be done by working closer with student organizations and creating online surveys to gather feedback.

By working to improve communication and gather feedback from students, we can create a more inclusive and supportive community for all students at the university. I believe that by focusing on the needs and concerns of students, we can create a campus that is welcoming, safe, and supportive of all students.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

We need to make the Student Body aware of the important decisions being made by the University and how that would impact them. Next, we need a first line of clear contact which would be the University social media pages. This is because the student body needs a simple way of contact that is not there every growing email inbox. Furthermore, they need straight forward questions that they can answer and a lot of constant reminders for them to do it.

To incentivize student input into university decision making, we need following strategies:

ONLINE:

- Multiple choice and short answer questions are our friends. To make the survey questions less time consuming and hard to response to. Fast questions that the student body can easily interact with such as a poll on the most popular suggestions or answer Yes or No questions.
- For every social media platform we need to have regular communication updates and progress on decisions made based on student input, to show that their opinions are being taken seriously.

IN PERSON:

- Conducting semi regular town hall meetings where students can raise their concerns and discuss potential solutions with SRC team.
- Simple acts like such as an answer box always being in the Student Centre.
- Fun Activities around campus such as voting board with stickers of which idea you like better or fill in the blank posters with hanging markers or sticky notes.
- Posters around campus of QR codes for surveys they can quickly fill out. Posters will contain how long it will take to do and how easy it is to answer while waiting for food at the café or time before class. Also, how helpful it is for SRC to understand your concerns.
- Also, for SRC can be like Areyoukiddingtv TikTok Videos to get greater number of responses. For Representatives to stand in more highly traffic area like the Library or Square with a question poster with incentives like vouchers or candy.

#### INCENTIVES

- Providing tangible rewards such as gift cards, discounts, or other perks for students
- Offering opportunities for students to gain valuable experience or build their resumes by participating in university committees.



# BIBEK SHAKYA

Parramatta City Campus Precinct (1PSQ & Hassall Street)

## COURSE

Master of Research

## EXPERIENCE

I am currently serving as the Vice Secretariat of Nepalese Students in Western Sydney University. I have been engaged in various social causes and campaigns back in Nepal.

Dear fellow students, I am Bibek from Nepal. I am international student studying Master of Research. I feel I can relate to many as I too am terrible at writing self descriptions. I am passionate about advocating student rights, student engagement activities and strongly believe in peace, harmony, collaboration between the university and the students. I believe that every student deserves a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters growth and learning. I am committed to ensuring that the concerns and issues are addressed. I will work tirelessly to bridge the gap between you and the university administration. I urge you to use your voting rights carefully and choose the right candidate.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe in collaborative and inclusive approach to solving any issue.

I will advocate for more career development programs, networking, student engagement and activities

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

listening to Podcasts related to cryptocurrencies, stock and value investing.



# BOWEN FUCILE

Penrith (Kingswood)

## COURSE

Bachelors of Engineering Majoring in Mechatronics and Robotics

## EXPERIENCE

I am current General Secretary of the SRC, Team Lead of the Formula SAE team, Undergrate Representative on the Academic Senate and club leader.

I believe that these unique experiences have provided me the necessary skills in order to change and elevate the current student experience here at Western Sydeny Univeristy.

I wish to support the SRC as General Secretary again and continue our work implementing institutional change elevating our student experience at Western Sydney University.

As a mature age student who started engineering studies five years ago, I am heavily involved in the university community being a club leader in all engineering clubs, Team Lead of the Formula SAE team and Undergraduate Representative of the Academic Senate. These experiences have provided me a deep understanding of the academic and engagement issues that affect us students and most importantly, how to make the necessary changes to rectify them.

During my first and current term as the General Secretary, my role focuses on supporting members of the SRC ensuring their success in representing their cohorts. As such, policies and procedures have been revised for improvement along with an increase in meetings involving budget expenditures enabling further transparency and the expedition to use the approved funds for students wellbeing.

Continuing next year the work we have started will be no less arduous than it was this year, and is a opportunity I am welcome.

## I BELIEVE IN...

- Increase practical based learning opportunities providing students with real-world experience and skills preparing them for the workforce.
- Reduce red-tape halting campus engagement within extra-curricular spaces to promote wellbeing for students.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Weightlifting in the morning, black coffee with breakfast and afternoon walks with my Cavoodle, Penny.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If honored with the privilege of being elected as your General Secretary for the year, I am dedicated to advancing two pivotal policy initiatives: uplifting student clubs and societies, and elevating safe spaces while celebrating diversity.

My foremost focus will be on uplifting student clubs and societies by initiating a series of vital measures. To bolster student representation, I will establish independent student frameworks, ensuring that the voices and aspirations of our student body are not only heard but also integrated into decision-making processes. Furthermore, I recognize the significance of financial sustenance for these groups. Therefore, I will work diligently to enable clubs and societies to forge financial agreements with sponsors, providing them with the means to organize impactful events and initiatives that enrich the student experience. Additionally, I am committed to providing essential resources to student teams representing our university, ensuring they have the tools and support necessary to excel in their endeavors.

Simultaneously, I am resolute in my mission to elevate safe spaces and foster an atmosphere of celebration for our diverse student population. Through my tenure, I will unlock opportunities for workshops to be conducted in safe spaces, fostering inclusive dialogues on a range of pertinent topics. Recognizing the need for accessible and inviting spaces, I will prioritize the enhancement of existing areas, making them more accommodating for all students. I will also champion a proactive approach to awareness, making certain that these safe spaces are not only widely known but also celebrated for their role in promoting a sense of belonging and security.

Furthermore, my commitment extends to ensuring that our safe spaces truly encompass the rich tapestry of our student body. To achieve this, I pledge to include all collectives, religious groups, and student parents within these safe spaces, thus guaranteeing that every student finds representation and support within our university community.

In conclusion, if elected, my paramount priority will be to uplift student clubs and societies through the establishment of independent student frameworks, facilitating financial arrangements with sponsors, and furnishing essential resources for student teams. Concurrently, I will elevate safe spaces by facilitating workshops, improving accessibility, raising awareness, and broadening their inclusivity to encompass all segments of our diverse student populace. My steadfast dedication to these policies stems from a desire to create an environment where every student thrives, celebrates their identity, and actively contributes to our vibrant academic community. Your trust and support will empower me to turn these commitments into tangible realities, shaping a more enriched and inclusive university experience for all.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

In response to the question on how to integrate the invaluable input of the student body into university decision-making, I present a comprehensive approach that aligns with my policies and builds upon my track record as General Secretary.

#### Uplifting Student Clubs and Societies:

To enhance student representation, I propose the establishment of independent student frameworks. These frameworks will empower students to voice their opinions and concerns effectively. Student clubs and societies will serve as crucial channels for engagement. By enabling these entities to form financial agreements with sponsors, we ensure their autonomy and enhance their capacity to influence university decisions. Moreover, I intend to allocate necessary resources to support student teams that represent the university. This will ensure that students have the means to voice their collective aspirations and contribute to institutional decisions.

#### Elevating Safe Spaces and Celebrating Diversity:

To promote inclusivity, I will work to create and maintain safe spaces on campus. These spaces will serve as venues for open dialogues and workshops, facilitating meaningful conversations on a range of topics. By ensuring these spaces are accessible and well-maintained, we provide an environment where every student feels valued and heard. These spaces will be advertised and promoted vigorously to ensure students are aware of their availability and encouraged to participate. Importantly, these safe spaces will cater to the diverse needs of all students, encompassing religious groups, collective identities, and even student parents.

#### Enhanced Communication Channels:

Building upon existing communication avenues such as emails, surveys, on-campus posters, and face-to-face conversations at events, I intend to introduce an even more streamlined communication system. This system will prioritize capturing student feedback, opinions, and concerns efficiently. Leveraging technology, we will develop a digital platform that not only gathers input but also provides a direct line of communication between students and decision-makers. This will help bridge the gap between students and institutional leaders, enabling real-time information exchange and responsiveness.

#### Network of Influence:

Drawing from my experience as General Secretary, I have cultivated a robust network that enables me to effectively convey student concerns to the appropriate stakeholders for impactful institutional change. This network will be leveraged to ensure that student input reaches decision-makers promptly and garners the attention it deserves. Furthermore, I will work to establish regular meetings or forums where student representatives engage directly with university leadership, fostering a culture of transparent and inclusive decision-making.

In conclusion, my approach to integrating student input into university decision-making is centered on empowerment and inclusivity. By uplifting student clubs, creating safe spaces, enhancing communication channels, and utilizing my established network, I am committed to ensuring that every student's voice is heard and respected. I firmly believe that a collaborative approach to governance will not only result in positive institutional changes but also foster a stronger sense of community and pride among the student body.



# DANIEL BONATTI

Parramatta South

## COURSE

BALCT

## EXPERIENCE

I am currently the SRC President allow me to finish what I started. I am involved WSU governance STEM Cluster Board, APCAC, STEM MTaLC, SAC SoEDBE. I had been VPPE for two terms. I recently went to Senate Education Committee to argue to abolish standardised exams 3 hour invigilated.

I Daniel Bruno Bonatti, currently the SRC President. I recently graduated in my Bachelor of Construction Management Hons. with university Medal. In first semester completed Postgraduate Master of Building Surveying. Now applying to do PhD and in Bachelor of Applied Leadership and Critical thinking. Plus studying a Diploma of Governance from Institute of Community Directors Australia and have a Master of Business administration and other degrees. I am active and reliable going to every meeting possible to advocate for students. I am on Grievance Panel Welfare and Wellbeing role. I took leave of absence from studies to pursue President's role. I want WSU to be a leader of Australia University landscape. More postgraduate representation, more inclusiveness and equity for all students. Better services and facilities, Disability Action plan. Student Partnership Agreement with a strategy as per student perspective, right to protest or do campaigns on campus without fear of arrest, Sustainable Development Goals action, Quality Management, better review of grade procedures. We need better communication. With National Union of Students, Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations, Council International Student Associations and Student Voice. Allow me to finish what I have started.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I have started groundwork for Student Partnership Agreement this is a formal agreement with students and WSU. I want a true student voice with engagement from full student community.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I am avid supporter of soccer and cycling.

# GARISH "LUCI" KUGATHASAN

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

## EXPERIENCE

I have dabbled in creative writing back when I was in high school both whilst completing my high school education but also as a hobby I really enjoy.

My name is Garish Kugathasan (preferred name is Luci), and I'm currently studying a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy. I'm applying for the Student Editor position for W'SUP to garner experience in writing, express myself creatively in the stories I write and collaborate with fellow writers to provide the students of Western Sydney University with fun, creative and insightful stories in our not-so-perfect world.

I'm passionate in wanting to craft stories to lift the spirits of others. The kind of stories I would want to write about would be authentic and interesting stories that students would be able to relate to on a deep, emotional level. Specifically I would want to focus on expressing my culture and the ups and downs in the journey of self-discovery as a twenty-something individual in university.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe in that everyone deserves to have their voices heard and their stories told, no matter who and what they are as individuals.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Reading, writing stories and socialising with my friends.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If I was elected as an elected representative for the year 2024, my priority would be trying to create pieces as a student editor that allows for those in the student body to have a lens that they can belong in Western Sydney University and feel less alone in their experiences whilst being their own individuals with unique stories in a beautiful community. I would work alongside other student editors in W'SUP and members of the SRC to produce engaging content that relates to the readers. As a student myself, who knows how most students who just graduated high school would feel, and how it feels to be a twenty-something in university navigating their own life. I'd be able to allow them to produce content that would relate to them and fellow peers, and let them know that they are supported and not alone in their experiences, even if it feels like the end of the world and their life is a mess that they can't ever get out of because of how hopeless it can feel.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

I would work to get input from the student body by putting up surveys to get feedback and opinions from them about our works, and what they would want to see from W'SUP, and working alongside other student editors in the team to use our collective talents together to produce relatable and engaging content for students. Through putting up surveys, I along with fellow student editors would see how students of WSU truly feel, experience, and think about themselves, the world around them, and how W'SUP is currently performing and for ratings and feedback for improvement on later issues that would be released.

**3. Student Publications specific question: What do you see as the primary purpose of a student run publication at Western, and what will be your priorities should you be elected? (between 250-500 words)**

What I see as the primary purpose of a student-run publication is to create relatable and engaging content that allows for the readers (the student body) to feel less alone in their experiences as university students trying to navigate their professional, personal, and academic lives as university students. If I were successfully elected, my priorities would be trying to create engaging pieces and possibly and ultimately a sense of acceptance, belonging and relatability. I'm aware it is easier said than done, but I will still strive to at least try, which is more than doing nothing at all. I would also produce content that students will possibly be interested in such as movie reviews, experiences in university events such as Open Days and Free Pop Ups and more that would appeal to the student body.



# EMILEE MEIN

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts

## EXPERIENCE

As previously mentioned, I have been Queer Representative for the past year. I also have connections with other university sectors which would be very beneficial to ensuring the Queer Collective is included in university involvement in the queer community, such as Mardi Gras.

Hiii everybody, I'm Emilee and I am running for Queer Representative for the SRC for 2024. I current hold this position, and would love the opportunity to represent the queer community within the university even more.

In the year that I have held the position, I have worked with various university sectors to ensure that queer involvement is seen not only in the student body, but also within the university staff teams. This includes working with Equity & Diversity on counselling card resources and gender-neutral bathrooms, as well as working with Campus Living Villages to make sure new residents in university villages have opportunities to engage within the queer community.

If I am re-elected, I plan for the Queer Collective to continue to host monthly events, which will allow for the queer community to continue to grow, and give students opportunities to socialise in a safe and supportive group. I also plan to help Queer Collective get in contact with W'SUP to help amplify queer voices and issues to the greater university body. My final goal is to have the Parramatta South Queer Room updated to accommodate for more students at any given time.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe in both making sure that the queer community in WSU have their voice heard in university decisions, as well as giving queer people social opportunities within WSU.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

In my free time I enjoy reading, and playing Pokemon

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If elected, one of my main priorities would be to ensure that the Queer Collective would be working with other university sectors. I have begun to do this during my time as Queer Representative already, and QC is often communicating with Equity & Diversity, Inclusive Communities, and most recently, Campus Living Villages. It is important to have these connections so that any events or issues relevant to the queer community are communicated to the entire university network, as well as just the student body. With this goal, I also aim to start communicating more with WSUP, to ensure that the university paper has queer involvement in it.

My other high priority as Queer Representative is to make sure all the Queer Rooms are being updated and maintained, and in the case of the Parramatta South queer room specifically, moved to a better location. These have been issues in the past, and I intend to make sure each room is inviting, with posters, furniture, and resources that make the area feel like the safe spaces that they are supposed to be. This will include giving all queer rooms essential items such as bins, shelves, plushies, as well as a food pantry for our more active campuses.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

I am fortunate in this position as to how to get input from the Student Body, as the position comes with a collective for it to oversee. Within the collective, there are a number of ways I intend to get input from the queer community. The first of which is hosting the Cross Campus Equity Network meetings, where students are invited to attend and speak on matters they deem important to the collective. These meetings will be held quarterly and be open to all members of the queer collective who wish to attend or speak.

Even without these quarterly meetings, I intend to continue the system of having the minutes from all of the queer collective officer meetings open to the queer body, published on the queer collective WESTERNLife and some of our social medias. Having the minutes public allow for the collective members to see exactly which behind-the-scenes things are happening, which they might not have been aware of beforehand.

One change I intend to make should I be re-elected is to make the meetings themselves public, not just the minutes. I believe members should be able to attend the meetings in real time, and have a platform to voice their opinions on the decisions being made in the meetings, allowing for greater member input within the collective's decisions.



# JULIA BELL

Parramatta City Campus Precinct (1PSQ & 6 Hassall Street)

## COURSE

Masters of Marketing

## EXPERIENCE

I have been a part of the W'SUP team throughout 2022 and 2023 and have completed a Bachelor of Screen Media at Western Sydney University. I have written stories for both our W'SUP Print Editions and website.

Hi students! My name is Julia Bell, and I am running for the position of Student Editor as a member of the ELEVATE ticket.

I have been an editor with WSUP throughout 2022 and 2023, I have gained great experience in developing stories and projects such as the completed print issues Resilience and Wellbeing, as well as our current working projects for Diversity Fest and our upcoming issue for subculture. This role has provided me with a solid foundation in editing, critical thinking, and organisational skills as well as completing a Bachelor of Screen Media from 2019-2022 at Parramatta South and Kingswood Campus and continuing in a Master of Marketing at Parramatta City. I would be excited to continue working with W'SUP in its future to help promote our voices as Western Sydney University students.

## I BELIEVE IN...

Mental health and autism are areas that are personally important to me, as well as making W'SUP more accessible, and staying ethical in reporting in a changing media landscape.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Cats, coffee, and whatever my current hyper fixation is. But mainly cats.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

Working with WSUP to create ongoing news from the university for students would be the top priority in being re-elected as an editor in 2024. We have already worked in developing stories and projects such as the completed print issues Resilience and Wellbeing, as well as our current working projects for Diversity Fest and our upcoming issue for subculture in the past 18 months and are continuing to plot out our future endeavours for WSUP.

We have worked strongly to further integrate student contributions with the WSUP team, creating a contribution hub on Western Life and approaching communication and journalism classes to show our capabilities to coming students.

Working closer with university events, such as Orientation Week, Clubs Day, or Diversity Fest has been a large goal of this year that we are looking forward to continuing, as well as creating more print editions to share on campus.

WSUP aims to create independent journalism while maintaining and promoting ethical journalistic standards, avoiding biased reporting and fact checking thoroughly. We always aim to pay out contributor's fairly and engage with different schools of the university, so all have access to share their views on the university or sharing aspects of their lives.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

This year we have created creating a contribution hub on Western Life to connect with students who may want to be commissioned on a topic or submit work regularly.

Our social media engagement, and our engagement on the website wsup.news has increased this year due to our efforts on orientation week and clubs day. Donuts are very effective in getting more followers on social platforms and Western Life. This engagement has resulted in,

More submissions from different schools of the university and at different experience levels.

More readership of our online articles, particularly Ruby Ritchie's article on The Voice.

Increase of readership of our printed editions, as we ran out of our Wellbeing printed edition within 3 hours on clubs' day as well as our other merch items.

In semester 2 of 2023 we have been approaching communication and journalism classes to show our capabilities in receiving and publishing their work, as well as advertising the open positions that will be available in 2024, as we expect approximately half of our team to be newcomers as students are graduating onto new things.

**3. Student Publications specific question: What do you see as the primary purpose of a student run publication at Western, and what will be your priorities should you be elected? (between 250-500 words)**

WSUP aims to create independent journalism while maintaining and promoting ethical journalistic standards, avoiding biased reporting and fact checking thoroughly. We always aim to pay out contributor's fairly and engage with different schools of the university, so all have access to share their views on the university or sharing aspects of their lives.

We have worked strongly to further integrate student contributions with the WSUP team, creating a contribution hub on Western Life and approaching communication and journalism classes to show our capabilities to coming students.

Working closer with university events, such as Orientation Week, Clubs Day, or Diversity Fest has been a large goal of this year that we are looking forward to continuing, as well as creating more print editions to share on campus.



# JULIE GAO

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Bachelor of Physiotherapy

## EXPERIENCE

I am currently serving as the Campbelltown campus representative. I previously held the role of prefect during high school, which involved much work and dedication outside of normal school work and active involvement within the school community.

Hi Western, my name is Julie Gao and I am currently studying a Bachelor of Physiotherapy at the university. Having recently graduated from high school, I am eager to continue my commitment to community service by embracing a new leadership role. During my time in high school, I had the privilege of serving as a prefect, which has instilled in me a deep desire to contribute positively to my community.

During high school I studied a Diploma in Communications and actively participated in various public speaking competitions. These experiences have helped me to improve my communication skills, which I consider to be an invaluable asset in leadership. Additionally, I achieved the Silver Duke of Edinburgh award, which has taught me effective collaboration within a group dynamic and the importance of resilience when navigating challenges.

If I am able to serve as the Campbelltown campus representative, I am committed to cooperating a fresh student perspective into the role. My aim is to foster an inclusive and inviting university community, where all voices are heard and valued.

## I BELIEVE IN...

My beliefs and policy commitments are guided by inclusivity, progress, and the well-being of all. I hope to empower individuals, embrace diversity within our university setting.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

reading, baking/cooking and ice skating.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If I am able to serve as the Campbelltown Campus Representative, I want to focus on enhancing campus activity presence, amplifying student voices, and securing benefits for all of us. I am committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive campus community and wish to make a lasting impact.

**Vibrant Campus Activities:** Campus life should be a vibrant range of experiences that enrich our experience of university life. I hope to bring a fresh energy to our campus by working with student clubs and organisations to organise engaging events, workshops, and activities. I hope to create an environment where every student can find something that resonates with their interests, bringing a sense of belonging and shared enthusiasm.

**Amplified Student Voice:** Your opinions matter, and it is crucial to establish a direct line of communication. I will establish regular forums where students can voice their concerns, ideas, and suggestions. By ensuring transparent and consistent communication, we can work together to address issues that affect our daily lives and advocate for positive changes that reflect our collective aspirations. I will also try to promote my contacts around the school and also establish regular office hours for open discussions.

**Student Benefits for All:** I hope to introduce initiatives like a free campus breakfast program and a pantry stocked with essential items. These resources will not only alleviate financial burdens but also foster a supportive environment where every student can focus on their studies without worrying about their basic needs.

With your help I hope to bring a new found vibrancy to Campbelltown!

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

I believe the role of Student Representative is dedicated to ensuring that your voices are not just heard but actively shape the decisions that impact our university. I believe that a collaborative, inclusive approach to decision-making is essential for a thriving university community.

To bridge the gap between student and student representatives, I hope to provide clear paths for communication. I want to create a central hub for contact information, making it easier for you to reach out and share your insights. This action will ensure that your concerns are addressed promptly and your ideas contribute to shaping positive changes.

I hope to use social media as a powerful tool to connect with students who might be confused about student representation and how student representation can impact their university experience. I hope this will ensure that no student feels left out or unsure about the role and impact of our Student Representative Council.

I am dedicated to establishing regular office hours at the SRC space in Campbelltown. This will be an informal setting where any student can drop in, voice concerns, brainstorm ideas, or simply chat. Your concerns will be my priorities, and I hope to ensure that your campus experience aligns with your wishes.

Together, I hope to transform the university experience to a student focused experience where every student feels welcomed at Campbelltown. We can truly transform our university into a place where the voices of each and every student are valued, respected, and integral to the decision-making process.



# KAITLYN "KAISEY" SEYMOUR

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of  
Criminal and Community Justice

## EXPERIENCE

- Current Parramatta South  
Campus Representative
- Student member of the Western  
Sydney Law Students Association
- Part time work in a law firm,  
which has helped boost my  
communication and organisational  
skills.

Hi there! My name is Kaisey and I am the current Parramatta South Campus Representative for the 2023 term. I have found so much passion and pride in my role this year, and I am grateful to be able to hear student voices, and implement projects which reflect what students truly want to see achieved with their SSAF funds.

My primary purpose in joining the SRC last year was to help boost student life and satisfaction at Western. I have hosted a variety of events and initiatives throughout 2023 to achieve these aims, including organising a free Doughnut Day for students across four campuses; implementing hygiene items across six bathrooms at Parramatta South; establishing the Student Pantry in the Learning Commons kitchenette to provide free food to students; hosting forums with free goodies in exchange for student feedback; organising a free movie and pizza night and more!

I would be honoured to represent you for another term and continue to work on these exciting events and projects so your time on campus is the best it possibly can be. Let's have some more fun together in 2024!

## I BELIEVE IN...

I feel strongly about students being satisfied with their whole university experience, not just their time in the classroom. Students should see value for money in their experience here.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Physical Culture (Physie); the gym and listening to true crime and current affairs podcasts

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

My priorities as a student representative revolve around making campus life better for students. Students are better engaged when they are seeing their SSAF funds go to good use, and seeing tangible benefits to them on campus. In my tenure as Parramatta South Campus Rep for the 2023 term, I have had some great discussions with students about their desire for more events, free food on campus and social gatherings. I have made it my priority already to implement such feedback, hosting events such as Donut Day and a free breakfast event on a Monday, as well as providing incentives to students at my quarterly forums, including wellbeing colouring packs, tea and coffee packages and other food.

I have plans to continue providing such events so students can see their funds being used appropriately, and to their very benefit. In this age of the cost of living crisis, I think value for money spent at this University is crucial. I also have plans to continue the Parramatta South pantry, and hygiene items initiative to assist students, and lessen the burden faced while on campus. These things are little, but I believe they all add up to ensure students are satisfied in their time at this University.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

I think it is important to make various channels of communication available with students. As a current SRC Rep, I host quarterly forums, in which I collect feedback through online surveys (accessed through a QR code), through verbal feedback, and also through written feedback, or mindmaps which students can contribute their ideas through. It should ultimately be up to the individual as to how they wish to contribute.

I believe communication with students needs to go beyond simply collecting feedback, though. It is critical that as an SRC we act on what we hear from students, and push through motions at our meetings which reflect their feedback, in a timely manner. Sometimes these motions allow us to action student requests ourselves – for example, feedback about the lack of social events would encourage us to seek funding for, and host more events. However, sometimes there is a need to place pressure on the University to take action – for example in relation to shuttle buses, parking and other policy matters. I see it as important to find the appropriate Department or member of staff, and communicate collated student feedback in a more formal way. As an SRC, we can also share statements or calls for the University to take action through social media and newsletter channels to make students aware that their views are being presented to the University itself. It is this open and transparent method of communication which is critical to having student voices heard.



# LAINE FOX

Parramatta City Campus Precinct (1PSQ & 6 Hassall Street)

## COURSE

Bachelor of Business

## EXPERIENCE

Parramatta City Campus  
Representative [2022-2023]

Secretary of the Western SRC  
Budget Committee [2023]

Member of the Parramatta City  
Campus Provost

Regional Cadet Under Officer NSW  
Australian Army Cadet Brigade  
[2021-2022]

Battalion Cadet Under officer 23  
Australian Army Cadet Battalion  
[2020-2021]

School Captain and Student  
Representative Council President  
[2020- 2021]

Hi Western Sydney University students, my name is Laine and I'm running as your SRC Presidential Candidate for 2024. I am a third year student studying a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Marketing and Public Relations.

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' voices and fighting for students' rights. I will fight to ensure that students feel safe on campus and are free from racism, sexism, bullying and harassment. As a student I believe in uniting our student voices, to ensure that students have accessible safe spaces, access to free pantry items, and are working toward lowering the age of independence and delivering real reforms at both the university and national level.

I've held a number of positions both in and outside the University; I am the current Parramatta City Campus Representative and Secretary of the Western SRC Budget committee and a member of the Parramatta City Campus Provost. I was appointed as the Regional Cadet Under Officer NSW Australian Army Cadet Brigade 2021 - 2022 , Battalion Cadet Under officer 23 Australian Army Cadet Battalion 2020 - 2021, School Captain and Student Representative Council President 2020- 2021.

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' voices, fighting for students' rights and ensuring our students feel safe and welcomed across all Campuses.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy socialising and relaxing with friends, Cooking and doing anything to get me outdoors.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

As an elective representative, there is nothing more important than listening to our students' voices, thus it is vitally important that a large part of my priorities as a representative come from what students are saying. As a currently elected representative, I have been listening to what my constituents have been saying and have developed along with my team some key policy ideas and priorities for 2023.

My first priority would be to elevate safe spaces on campus and ensure that we are celebrating diversity university-wide. Safe spaces provide a key support for a large number of students including those part of the LGBTQIA+ community, Women, parents, Disabled students, and culturally and linguistically diverse students. Safe spaces on campus are currently in a state of disrepair, with many of them being too small, inaccessible for students, dilapidated, or all of these combined. It is vitally important that students have these safe spaces as a way to escape from the pressures of university life. They also play a key role in ensuring that students have a place to escape from sexual assault, harassment, and bullying of any kind.

My second priority would be to uplift our student clubs and societies. Clubs and societies play an unimportant role in our university's overall campus culture. When students can be a part of something that they are interested in, it allows a student to better develop interpersonal skills and harbours a culture where learning is more enjoyable and productive. Campus culture has been a big issue in recent years as students on our campuses are becoming more and more disconnected from university life. When students come to university it shouldn't be just another day of learning, it should be an experience. To better develop and uplift our student clubs and societies students must have an independent body that will allow them to better regulate and decide what their clubs and societies can do.

My final priority if elected would be to alleviate cost-of-living for students on all campuses. In today's economic state students are suffering more and more and it is the job of representatives to ensure that our students are being looked after. There are several ways that as representatives we can provide support for our students and help alleviate the cost of living that so many of us are going through. Representatives can look at opening further food bank programs for our students to ensure that no student goes hungry, developing strategies to provide students with emergency housing when there is nowhere else to turn to, and pushing the university to ensure that accommodation is cheaper and not placing the burden on our students, and joining with the NUS to campaign for lowering the age of independence and ensuring that SSAF goes directly to supporting students.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

As an elected representative there is nothing more important than representing the interests of my student constituents. It is vitally important that as representatives we work collaboratively to gain

key insight from the wider student body. If elected, I would ensure that students know who their representatives are as soon as they are elected. I will ensure that as a representative, I'm accessible every day of the week and ensure that the students I represent know exactly how and where to contact me.

Ensuring that students feel comfortable discussing their concerns is incredibly important, and I'll achieve this by providing students with the social and safe spaces they need to be able to do this.

There are many key ways that as representatives we can gain further insight from our students, and make sure that events are seen by our students. Student forums are one of the primary ways of getting engaged with our students, they provide an open and comfortable place to hear from students. Promoting these forums and other events is also vitally important. The current SRC has begun the process of making our Western SRC more visible to the student, and if elected I would build on that to ensure that all students know about the important events designed for them.

Furthermore, Working collaboratively with the University, the National Union of Students and our student body is vitally important. Without these important insights, we would have the important policies and campaigns we have today. By working with the University and the National Union of Students we as representatives can begin to get a macro view of the issues affecting our students. And, with the support of the University and the NUS, we can begin the process of developing key changes and campaigns on the issues that will provide our students with the best outcomes.



# LAZMI BINTE KABIR

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Medical Science

## EXPERIENCE

- SRC International Representative  
[2023 July - ]

- International Students  
Association Executive Team [2023  
July - ]

- UN Youth NSW Education Officer  
[2023]

- UN Youth NSW Facilitator [2023]

- UN Youth NSW: Evatt NSW 2023  
(Judge)

- UN Youth NSW: NSW  
Negotiations Competition 2023  
(Judge)

Hello,

My name is Lazmi Binte Kabir, and I am running for the International Representative!

I was elected as the International Representative early this July, and my focus this year has been to build the foundation of the International Student Association (ISA). In my first month in office, ISA reported a 14% increase in student memberships.

If elected again in 2024, I will work hard to ensure the best interests of international students are represented in the SRC. I will work hard to ensure ISA achieves all its goals. I will work hard to ensure that funding is arranged for ALL ISA events because students should not have to pay for events organised by their respective collectives.

I am extensively involved both at University and outside. I am currently YOUR SRC International Representative, a part of the International Student Association (ISA) Executive Team. I am the 2023 Education Officer and a Facilitator at United Nations Youth NSW. As a UN Youth NSW Facilitator, I have judged Evatt NSW 2023 and NSW Negotiations Competition 2023.

All of the above are a testament to my capabilities which makes me confident in my ability to be YOUR voice.

Thank you!

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' voices, fighting for students' rights and ensuring our students feel safe and welcomed across all Campuses.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I spend time reading YA and watching crime documentaries.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

International students NEED academic support. International students NEED emotional support. If elected as the International Representative for 2024, I will work to:

- 1. Boost understanding of the Australian education system:** I will work to develop a program to bridge the gap in understanding the way assignments work. I will work to develop a handbook which includes all the support available to students and promote this handbook to increase awareness about different support services available at Western.
- 2. Amplify engagement with the fellow international student community:** I will work to introduce a highly subsidised end of year event exclusive for international students.

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' voices, fighting for students' rights and ensuring our students feel safe and welcomed across all Campuses.

Our Elevate policies are as follows:

- 1. Elevate safe spaces and celebrate diversity:** We will improve our current safe spaces to increase accessibility. We will promote safe spaces to ensure students are aware about the whereabouts of these spaces. We will hold workshops in safe spaces to engage students and ensure we work towards a safer and more inclusive environment for all students at Western.
- 2. Uplift student clubs and societies:** We will support student clubs and societies through establishing independent student frameworks. We will work towards increased collaboration between the Western SRC and student clubs and societies.
- 3. Alleviate student cost of living:** We will campaign for lower fees for residential students. We will campaign to lose the tender for residential students.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

To ensure I receive input from the student body into the University decision-making process, I will employ the following measures:

Firstly, I will run the International Students Forum every quarter. This Forum is a great opportunity for international students to voice any concerns and raise awareness about any pressing matters to their SRC International Representative and other international students.

Secondly, I will email members of the International Student Association (ISA) a feedback form through WesternLife. This will be done as many times as needed. Feedback forms will increase student engagement while providing detailed feedback about particular issues.

The feedback I receive from the International Students Forums and the feedback forms will guide the motions I put forward to the SRC and other initiatives I take as the International Representative.

Thirdly, some matters may not come up in the Forums and in the feedback forms but may come up in conversations. Therefore, I will maintain personal communication with fellow international students to keep an eye out for the changing needs of international students. I will also seek feedback from the ISA Executive Team since the team is composed of only international students.

Fourthly, I will work closely with the cultural student club executive teams as they work closely with international students and/or are international student themselves. I will be a point of contact for these executive teams and provide assistance when needed. This could include bringing the attention of the Western SRC to matters raised by the executive teams.

Finally, I will be flexible to new measures that may appear to be more effective at receiving and utilising student input in the University decision-making process.



# LIDYA RIVAI

Penrith (Kingswood)

## COURSE

Masters of Teaching Secondary

## EXPERIENCE

Previous and current work experience as a private tutor.

Currently holding the Vice-President Education Postgraduate role.

Work for the University as a Student Clubs Casual Assistant.

Hiii, I'm Lidya and I'll be running for the Vice-President Education Post-Graduate in 2024. I'm a fourth-year student studying a Masters of Teaching, majoring in Mathematics but when I'm not studying, I have my nose in a book or my headphones on and singing to Taylor Swift!

As one of the candidates within the ELEVATE ticket, I'm an advocate for amplifying the student voice and championing their rights.

My background as a private tutor in addition to my degree has given me both an informed and diverse perspective on how pedagogy is perceived and functions. Furthermore, I am currently employed by the University as a Student Clubs Casual Assistant, so I am deeply aware of the barriers that prevent change from an administrative level and am compelled to dismantle them. These experiences, in addition to my current position as Vice-President Education Postgraduate in 2023, have already resulted in visible and material action. In my short time in the SRC, I've already passed a motion to double the attendees at the Student Leaders Gala and am currently collaborating with Peer Programs, PASS, MATES, MESH & Inclusive Communities to broaden the highly successful STUVAC Study Camp in Spring.

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' voices, fighting for students' rights and ensuring our students feel safe and welcomed across all Campuses.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Reading books, watching animated shows & movies and jamming to Taylor Swift.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

As an elected representative for the Vice-President Education Post-Graduate, my priority would be to liven up the library spaces. While university offers social and professional experiences, at its heart, it is undeniably an academic institution. No space embodies this core identity more fully than our libraries. By making the libraries more accessible, vibrant & visible, this will have a compounding effect on all other facets of the University. It is not a guarantee that every student has access to an area fully dedicated to working on assignments, group projects & studying for exams, nor experts in research or citations such as our library staff. By making our libraries more accessible through longer opening hours or more visible through events such as the STUVAC Study Camp, it'll go a long way to ensuring our student body has a place they can access internet, focus on their work with no distractions and request for help when needed.

Furthermore, as part of the ELEVATE ticket, my additional priorities are to elevate safe spaces & celebrate diversity. With the demands of study and the frequency of students being on campuses, as residents or otherwise, it is critical for us to improve and promote the facilities that are available to not only secure students' safety but empower their growth and success. This includes improving our current safe spaces to make them more accessible and visible as well as holding workshops to promote the use and importance of these facilities which are especially important for our collective & religious groups as well as our student parents.

In addition, as an integral part of vibrant campus life, I will make it a priority to uplift student clubs & societies. Volunteering your time to run a student is no small feat. Not only do clubs have to manage the relevant governance & processes, but also engage with and host events to improve the student experience. Hence, they need to be supported to empower themselves to be the best leaders & peers they can be, especially with the excessive red tape that impedes them currently. With the nature of our multi-campus university, supporting student clubs is especially important as they can have reach that other university bodies lack in.

Finally, if elected representative, I would make it a goal to alleviate student cost of living. The cost of living, especially for our residential students, is unacceptable. Residents of the university are often international students, too, and, as such, we need to be a voice for those whose circumstances may be jeopardised otherwise. There have also been long-standing criticisms about the quality of our on-campus accommodation and it is deplorable that our students are paying exorbitant costs for facilities that don't meet the price.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

With the vastly changed landscape that COVID produced, having both online and offline methods of receiving input has become the most important facet when considering students' input in University decision making.

For in-person student input, I will be advocating for more citizen panels in circumstances where a large overhaul of current processes is required. As the main consumer of university goods &

services, it is essential that they are the ones we go to first for recommendations. Additionally, due to the nature of citizen panels, this will encourage long-term and measurable change as the university will be held accountable for enacting the change requested due to the visibility of the panel.

Additionally, with more and more classes being returned to campus, it's imperative that the SRC, and I included, increase our visibility in person. Three ways I aim to get input from the student body is to create a schedule for representatives to be on campus at the SRC offices, having more SRC stalls & inviting students to be observers during general meetings. The first two will allow for organic discourse to be facilitated between the SRC reps & the rest of the student body in environments that are casual enough where they feel comfortable to speak truthfully. While student observers aren't allowed to speak during SRC General Meetings, by encouraging attendance, more people will be cognisant of how their input gets translated into actionable motions and policies.

For a more structured event, promoting and facilitating the Quarterly SRC Forums is one of my biggest priorities. I'd utilise the mandatory duty to not only gain feedback from students but also update them on the current projects I'd be working on. All of the above methods would be surveyed so that those who prefer to give their criticisms anonymously and/or online, would be captured.

Once I've collated students' feedback, I'd reach out to relevant bodies of the university and pass motions through the SRC to bring the requested change to fruition. Additionally, as a member of the VC Gender Equity and Respectful Relationships Advisory Committee, I'll have the opportunity to escalate issues to higher levels of the University and bring about student input into University decision making more rapidly.



# MAYA SALIM

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Psychology

## EXPERIENCE

I have been a Student Editor since March 2023, working on pitching, presenting and publishing exemplary articles for W'SUP. Part of my role is also editing incoming submissions to publish online or for print.

I am very passionate about sharing stories from every lens, whether it be social, cultural, political or psychological. Indeed, I utilise psychology to understand the complexities of human behaviour and motivations, and it is fundamental to my approach. I thrive on my interactions with the world around me and its unique inhabitants, all who carry around their distinct individual wisdom. I am a life-long learner, intending to collect and present whatever I come across for everyone else to relish in. My goal is to share my passion and insight with WSU and provide a transdisciplinary platform for all to engage with.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe in creating a lively social atmosphere whereby creativity can be fostered within the WSU community. I hope to bring more practical initiatives and activities that welcome all.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Reading positive psychology handbooks.



# MOHAMMAD "BAYAN" RAZA SOHAILEE

Parramatta South

## COURSE

B International Relations

## EXPERIENCE

I was elected the SRC President and Vice-President in 2023. I am also the current undergrad BoT Representative. I was also elected as an undergrad student representative on the Academic Senate.

Hello, I hope all is well!

My name is Bayan Sohailee, and I am a final year student studying International Relations, Social Science, and BCL (Academy). This year I am stepping away from student politics and wishing to take another approach to student voice. I am running to be a WSUP Editor for 2024. WSUP is a great way of giving stage to amplify student voice and showcase our WSU Community. I would love to be one of your WSUP Editors for 2024. I have some great ideas to bring reform to the publication space and to improve on current practise. One such example is to improve output and more local stories. I also want to cover the voice of the SRC and showcase their great work for 2024. I would love your support to take one final opportunity to help my WSU community and to represent the student voice.

If you ever see me on campus and would like to be potentially featured on our publication site...say W'SUP Bayan ;)

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe that student voice is important in balanced societies. If we do not speak up we are forgotten. Thus, one of my strongest beliefs is helping others be heard.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Sleeping and doing nothing.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If elected, my foremost priority would be to enhance the overall student experience by focusing on both on-campus and off-campus aspects. Through my platform, I would strive to make a tangible impact on student life by addressing their needs and concerns.

A central aspect of my role would involve utilising my position as an editor to write opinion pieces on a wide range of global and local affairs. These pieces would touch on diverse subjects such as finance, education, international relations, and even incorporate satire pieces to inject a touch of humour. This approach aims to keep students informed and engaged, while also fostering critical thinking and a broader perspective.

In addition, I'm committed to highlighting the inspiring stories of students who have triumphed over hardships and difficulties. By profiling these resilient individuals, I hope to motivate and encourage others, creating a sense of unity within the student community.

Crucially, I want my published works to shed light on the real challenges faced by students. With a particular focus on international students, low socio-economic status students, refugees and asylum seekers, and those affected by mental health issues, I intend to amplify their voices. Sharing their experiences will raise awareness about the unique obstacles they encounter, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and empathetic campus environment.

By championing the diverse narratives of students and addressing their concerns through my writing, I aim to enhance the university experience holistically. Through thought-provoking opinion pieces, uplifting success stories, and compassionate portrayal of hardships, I aspire to contribute to a university community that prioritises empathy, understanding, and the collective well-being of its students.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

To ensure meaningful student input in university decision-making, I would adopt a multifaceted approach that leverages my experience and positions to effectively advocate for the student body.

Firstly, I would gather direct input from the on-campus student population, a method I've successfully utilised in the past. Conducting surveys, focus groups, and open forums would provide a platform for students to voice their concerns, suggestions, and challenges. This approach not only ensures inclusivity but also fosters a sense of ownership and engagement in shaping university policies.

Attending town halls would be instrumental in gaining a deeper understanding of student struggles. By being physically present and listening to students' experiences, I could identify areas where the university's decisions might be falling short in meeting student needs. These town halls would not only serve as a platform for dialogue but also build trust between the student body and decision-makers.

Leveraging my position as an editor and my extensive involvement in student leadership roles, such as being a former SRC President, Vice-President, Academic Senate Member, and Board of Trustees Representative, I would amplify student voices through publications like W'SUP. This platform would allow me to articulate student concerns eloquently and passionately, influencing change at WSU. By shedding light on pertinent issues through well-researched articles and opinion pieces, I can ensure that the broader university community is informed about the challenges students face.

Importantly, I would utilise my networks and affiliations to facilitate direct communication with university executives and school administrators. Publishing my works in prominent channels and distributing them to decision-makers ensures that they are not only aware of the hardships within the student population but also have comprehensive insights to inform their decisions.

In essence, my approach revolves around data-driven input collection, active participation in town halls, leveraging my position in student leadership, and strategic dissemination of information through influential channels. This method seeks to bridge the gap between the student body and university decision-makers, facilitating a more collaborative and student-centric approach to shaping university policies. By building a comprehensive feedback loop, I aim to create a university environment that is not only responsive to student needs but also fosters an atmosphere of shared responsibility and mutual growth.

**3. Student Publications specific question: What do you see as the primary purpose of a student run publication at Western, and what will be your priorities should you be elected? (between 250-500 words)**

The primary purpose of a student-run publication at Western is multifaceted. It serves as a powerful platform to amplify the student voice, while also showcasing the rich diversity of experiences and perspectives within the WSU community. Through various mediums such as art and the written word, it sheds light on vital local and global matters, fostering awareness and informed discourse. Moreover, it provides an essential avenue for students to voice their opinions on topics that not only concern the student experience but extend beyond it.

If elected, my priorities as an editor for the student-run publication would align closely with the above fundamental goals. I would be unwaveringly committed to focusing on both on-campus and off-campus student experiences. This would entail championing stories that resonate with the student body, celebrating their triumphs and acknowledging their challenges. By sharing these narratives, I aim to foster a stronger sense of community and unity among students.

Furthermore, I am acutely aware of the hardships that many students face. With a specific focus on international students, those from low socio-economic backgrounds, refugees and asylum seekers, and individuals impacted by mental health issues, I would ensure that my published works amplify their voices. My aim is to raise awareness about the unique struggles they encounter, promoting a more empathetic and inclusive campus environment.

In conclusion, the primary purpose of a student-run publication at Western is to magnify student voices, celebrate diversity, and engage in meaningful discussions. If elected, my priorities align seamlessly with these goals. By focusing on student experiences, writing on global and local issues, and spotlighting inspirational narratives while shedding light on hardships, I am dedicated to fostering an inclusive, informed, and empowered campus community through the power of the written word.



# MOLLY QUINNELL

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Bachelor of Law and Social Sciences

## EXPERIENCE

I am a member of the Camden Youth Reference Group, am qualified in many community engagement areas such as TCI training, and have been involved in many social justice campaigns for reformation and change.

Hi Western Sydney University students, my name is Molly and I'm running as your delegate for Campbelltown Campus for 2024. I am a first year student studying a Bachelor of Law/Social Sciences, majoring in peace and development.

As a student I believe in the values of equity and empowerment, and creating an academic environment that is free from bullying, harassment, or any sort of discrimination. As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' voices and fighting for students' rights. I believe in uniting our student voices in order to facilitate real reforms on both a university level and on a national platform.

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket I believe in empowering students' voices, fighting for students' rights and ensuring our students feel safe and welcomed across all Campuses.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy reading, writing, and dancing.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

I believe that aligning my priorities with values such as inclusivity, accessibility, diversity, empowerment, and inclusion is integral to my campaign to be your elected representative, especially as a part of the ELEVATE team. If given the opportunity to serve as an elected representative, my focus would be on striking a balance across the following key priorities. Foremost, I would emphasise the importance of creating safe spaces and celebrating diversity, as these factors are integral to fostering a secure and welcoming environment for all members of the university community. This could involve facilitating workshops in safe spaces, enhancing the accessibility of existing areas, and actively promoting the presence of these safe spaces across campuses. These would include all of our collective.

In addition, I would work to elevate student clubs and societies, recognising the pivotal role they play in student engagement and campus life. To achieve this, I would prioritise the establishment of independent student frameworks that empower student representatives. This step is crucial in amplifying the voices of students who contribute significantly to the beating heart of our university.

Addressing the financial challenges that many students encounter is another core concern. The high cost of living can act as a deterrent to pursuing higher education and thriving academically. As a result, I would make it a priority to explore measures aimed at reducing the financial strain on students. This might involve reconsidering tenders for residential students, discontinuing the practice of listing accommodations on Airbnb, and implementing strategies to lower residential student prices.

In conclusion, my dedication to these priorities stems from a commitment to enhancing the university experience for all. By championing inclusivity, accessibility, diversity, empowerment, and inclusion, I aim to contribute to a more supportive and enriching academic environment for everyone.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

To foster a university environment that truly reflects the needs and aspirations of our students, I firmly believe in the significance of actively involving the student body in decision-making processes. My approach, if lucky enough to be elected as part of ELEVATE and your student representative, would work around several key strategies that prioritise inclusivity, empowerment, and representation.

One essential avenue through which I would cultivate student input is by championing and promoting student clubs and societies. These groups serve as dynamic hubs of engagement, allowing students to voice their opinions and concerns collectively. By uplifting these organisations, I aim to

create platforms for open dialogue and constructive feedback that can directly influence university decisions.

Empowerment lies at the core of my approach. To this end, I am dedicated to establishing independent student frameworks that lend legitimacy to student representation. This step ensures that student voices are not only heard but also considered with the weight they deserve. By providing student representatives with the means to express themselves effectively, we can bridge the gap between student perspectives and university policies.

Recognising and celebrating the rich diversity within our student body is pivotal to fostering a truly inclusive community. However, for diverse voices to contribute meaningfully, it's imperative that students feel safe and welcomed. This is why I am resolute in prioritising safe spaces. By facilitating workshops and enhancing the accessibility of these spaces, we can create an atmosphere where students feel empowered to share their insights without hesitation.

In essence, my commitment to ensuring student participation in university decision-making is unwavering. By promoting student clubs, establishing independent frameworks, and prioritising safe spaces, I aim to create an environment where every student feels valued and where their perspectives contribute to shaping the direction of our institution.



# NATASA ASTER STATER

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Communication

## EXPERIENCE

Yes, to my huge delight, I was chosen to be an editor for W'SUP for the spring semester this year in 2023.

Also, I have completed a Diploma in Screen and Media (Journalism) at TAFE, where I conducted several interviews, some of which were published on a social media platform.

I think I would be suitable for this role as I have greatly enjoyed being an editor for W'SUP in this spring semester and would absolutely love the chance and opportunity to continue to hone my craft and improve in all aspects of writing and editing. I feel that it's an honour and privilege to be able to tell students' stories, interview them, and make sure that important events are being reported on, and heard about by a large, diverse community.

Of course, this does not necessarily mean that it will be my story, but one brought to W'SUP's attention by a contributor, and I enjoy that I have the option, right now, to work with people and help bring their story to an audience's attention - whether that be seen in print, or online.

I enjoy the fact that the journalistic skills I learned during my completion of the Diploma of Screen Media (Journalism) are now being put to good use. I've found that I love working in a team, as well as really value being able to talk to interviewees, ask them questions, to reach the heart of their story, and how they want it to be told.

## I BELIEVE IN...

When writing an article or interviewing someone, it's up to the interviewer to make sure they do all the necessary research and make sure they're being truthful, for the readers.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy reading books and writing, and I am also currently editing my first novel.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

I would want to make sure that every student who wishes their story to be heard is heard. As I aspire to be a student editor for 2024, I would want to make it my priority that students feel welcome to submit their work, and pitch ideas! I feel it would be my duty to always be interested in campus news and encourage anyone who wants to have their story or experience known, to do so. I feel like there's a lot of campus news passed between students, and I would feel it's my priority to make sure people know that there is an avenue and creative space for them to be heard and have their experience read by others.

It would also make it my priority to help make sure that the W'SUP publication remains diverse, and make sure it helps highlight students from all different backgrounds, walks of life, and all different ages. I would make sure that contributors of W'SUP feel encouraged to further pitch their ideas and would continue to want their work to be submitted and championed by the Western Sydney University student publication, W'SUP.

I would make it my priority to talk to students and inform them of information and any opportunities that are presenting themselves at any given time, such as informing them that W'SUP has an Instagram account, W'SUP News and that they are free to follow and comment, as it helps form a community at Uni also. It's also a safe, creative space where I feel it's my priority to hear and value any feedback from students.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

I would reach out to students, such as classmates, and make sure they're informed of campus news, any new policies, or opportunities that have arisen. Specifically, regarding the W'SUP publication, I would ask students on campus how they feel about certain aspects of student life, such as living on campus, parking, safety on campus, etc. W'SUP is a student-run publication, so its main aim is to represent students and their thoughts, ideas, needs, and opinions on different matters that apply to them.

Once I receive their views on certain topics, and whether or not they agree with changes or decisions being made, or disagree and have other ideas, I could then relate their opinions and advice to other editors of the publication, and even possibly to the director of student publications, etc, on their behalf.

I feel having their input known by other people in the publication should be a priority, as students have elected us to represent them. There could even be surveys running, such as online on the W'SUP News social media page, the Instagram page, for example, and students could comment and share the information and have their opinions heard that way too.

I feel in order to have students' input into university decision-making, the information must also be online on social media pages, as I feel that's where a lot of students get their information or news from, and share and speak their thoughts, ideas, and opinions and, that way, if it was on W'SUP's social media page, W'SUP News, for example, those on the W'SUP team could look at it regularly and know the views of other students, and seek to include those thoughts into the publication, for example.

**3. Student Publications specific question: What do you see as the primary purpose of a student run publication at Western, and what will be your priorities should you be elected? (between 250-500 words)**

In terms of primary purpose and priorities regarding the running of the student publication at Western Sydney University, W'SUP, I have a few:

Firstly, I believe the purpose of the W'SUP publication is to make sure every student's voice is heard, as well as their stories, ideas, thoughts and opinions. I believe it is vital to make sure the publication remains diverse and to make sure we, as editors, encourage students on campus to have stories be known. Western Sydney is so diverse, and I believe it should be a priority to ensure that W'SUP publications reflect that, reflect the students whose stories, poems, articles etc. are being shown in it.

I believe it should also be a priority that editors also reach out to students on campus, and should they have stories they'd like to pitch or have questions regarding the possibility of submitting their work, urge them to ask, to reach out to W'SUP.

It's also important, I believe, to give students information, such as if opportunities arise, such as when the publication is accepting submissions and idea pitches, the themes of next issues, and when we are having events, such as DiversityFest, etc.

I also feel that forming connections is important, and making sure that the students on campus, at Western Sydney University know that the student-run publication's main aim is to represent them; and showcase who they are, as they come from many different walks of life and, again, I believe it is vital that the W'SUP publication reflects that in all work that is shown, and also highlights their talents.



# NIRUBAN CHAKKARAVARTHY DHANASEKARAN

Hawkesbury

## COURSE

HDR

## EXPERIENCE

I have a strong background in working with student representative councils and various platforms to support growth and progress. Most of the time, I am making things happen into the picture and real action.

First and foremost, I am a dedicated and hardworking individual who is passionate about making a positive impact on our university environment. I have always taken pride in being an active participant in social events and community service projects, and I believe that my experiences have prepared me for this position.

Furthermore, I am an effective communicator who is able to articulate my ideas and concerns in a clear and concise manner. I am approachable and open-minded, and I believe that these traits will enable me to effectively represent the diverse needs of our student body.

I am committed to serving as a dedicated and effective representative for our student body. I promise to listen to your concerns and ideas and to work tirelessly to ensure that your voice is heard. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to have your support in the upcoming election!

## I BELIEVE IN...

I prefer action over talk and have faith in the power of moving forward towards growth and improvement. Overall, I believe in process and progress.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

In my spare time I enjoy exploring new outdoor activities and trying out different cuisines.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

As a candidate for the student election, my priority as an elected representative is to foster a more inclusive and collaborative University community driven by the commitment to achieve sustainable development goals and elevate our collective potential. By creating the right opportunities, working closely with student communities, and engaging in impactful roles, we can pave the way for transformative change, ultimately leading our university to the next level of excellence. I firmly believe that the foundation of progress lies in providing students with the right opportunities. I am dedicated to creating platforms where students can showcase their talents, interests, and ideas.

By organising diverse events, workshops, and projects, I aim to empower students to explore their potential, collaborate across disciplines, and nurture their skills. This will enrich their personal growth and contribute to a vibrant and dynamic school environment. Collaboration with local communities is a pivotal aspect of holistic development. I am committed to forging meaningful partnerships that bridge the gap between our school and the surrounding communities. Through community engagement initiatives such as volunteering projects, outreach programs, cultural events and joint events, we can promote a sense of shared responsibility and deepen our understanding of the diverse world on our campus. Furthermore, I recognise the urgency of aligning our efforts with sustainable development goals. By integrating these goals into our projects and initiatives, we can address pressing global issues and create a lasting impact. Initiatives such as promoting eco-friendly practices, supporting local businesses, and advocating for social justice can propel us towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

The success of any endeavour hinges on the commitment and engagement of students. I envision a proactive student body that holds its representatives accountable and actively shapes the Uni's trajectory. I aim to create a cohesive framework through well-defined roles and responsibilities where students contribute their unique perspectives and skills. This collective effort will drive positive change and foster a sense of ownership over our shared educational journey. As we embark on this transformative journey, cooperation among students is paramount. My goal is to create a culture of unity where students from all walks of life collaborate, learn from each other, and collectively innovate. By facilitating open dialogues, group projects, and inter-year mentorship programs, we can cultivate a spirit of camaraderie that transcends boundaries and propels us towards excellence. In conclusion, my vision as an elected representative revolves around empowering students for inclusive progress. By creating opportunities, collaborating with local communities, championing sustainable development goals, defining student commitments and roles, and fostering a culture of cooperation, we can lead our school to the next level of achievement.

Your support in the upcoming election will strengthen my ability to bring about positive change and signify your commitment to shaping a brighter future for our Uni community. Together, let us embark on this journey of transformation, united in purpose and unwavering in our dedication to progress.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

As a student, I strongly believe that the student body's voice should be heard and integrated into the decision-making process of any academic community. I am passionate about inclusivity,

transparency, and collaboration and committed to ensuring that my fellow students' needs are translated into actionable items. I believe clear communication channels are essential, and I appreciate the university's plan to create interactive online forums and informal meetings. These platforms will allow me and my peers to express our thoughts, ideas, and concerns conveniently and hassle-free. I believe that open town hall meetings and forums will facilitate candid dialogues, and I look forward to participating and addressing questions, concerns, and collective decisions. I am pleased to hear that regular surveys will provide data-driven insights that measure student satisfaction, pinpoint issues, and assess the impact of changes. I believe that faculty should actively seek input on teaching methods, promoting mutual respect and understanding.

I am thrilled that the university is committed to transparent decision-making and communicating outcomes, rationales, and the extent of student influence. I look forward to seeing tangible examples of positive change resulting from student engagement, which will underscore the value of our contributions. I am also excited to learn about the university's plan to empower student government and organisations. I believe that this will amplify student voices, advocating for initiatives aligned with our needs. I appreciate that there is a dedicated student liaison who will offer personalised support, ensuring prompt and effective resolution of concerns. Lastly, I appreciate that the university can organise focus groups and roundtable discussions to gather in-depth feedback on specific issues. I think that this is an excellent opportunity for all voices to be heard, and I hope that university officials or external facilitators will ensure a productive and respectful discussion. If the university plans to integrate student input into its identity, it will nurture a campus that meets needs and cultivates responsible citizens. Through collaboration, communication, and a commitment to progress, we can create a university where every student's voice matters and their needs guide achievable outcomes, enhancing the experience and fostering a vibrant academic community.



# POOJA ZINZUWADIA

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Criminal and Community Justice

## EXPERIENCE

- President of the Blacktown - Ponds Leos Club: 2022 - Present
- Prefect of The Ponds High School: 2021 - 2022
- Stage 4 Leader of The Ponds High School: 2021 - 2022

Hi WSU Students! My name is Pooja Zinzuwadia and I am running for the SRC Vice Presidential Undergraduate Position for 2024. I am a first-year law student currently studying for a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Criminal and Community Justice Degree.

As a member of the Elevate Ticket, I will advocate for student welfare, foster a vibrant campus community and drive positive change. With utmost dedication and a deep commitment to enhancing student experiences, I aim to amplify student voices through giving platforms, organising impactful events, and collaborating with diverse groups to create an inclusive and supportive environment for all. As an undergraduate student, I will strive to champion initiatives that promote academic excellence, mental health awareness, and extracurricular opportunities, ensuring our university remains a hub of growth, connection and innovation.

With experience as a Prefect and Stage 4 Leader, I've honed my skills in fostering unity and organization. Currently leading the Blacktown-Ponds Leos Club showcases my commitment to community service. Recognition with the Ponds High School Medallion, Principal's Award, and Leo of the Year demonstrates my excellence and impact. As Vice President, I will channel this drive to elevate our university, ensuring inclusivity, innovation, and student welfare.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe in championing student welfare, elevating voices, and nurturing an inclusive campus. My platform focuses on mental health support, diverse events, and transparent communication for a thriving university community.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Watching The Office, Reading Feminist Literature and Daydreaming!

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If elected as Vice-President, one of my top priorities would be to create safe spaces that foster inclusivity and honour diversity within our campus community. I envision achieving this by opening up avenues for informative workshops and revamping our existing spaces to ensure they are not only welcoming but also easily accessible. These safe spaces would be open to everyone, regardless of their background, beliefs, or family responsibilities.

Another crucial goal as Vice-President would be to strengthen our student clubs and societies. I believe in amplifying student voices by establishing independent frameworks that empower representatives and encourage active participation. By doing so, we can provide an environment where these groups thrive and contribute to a vibrant campus experience.

Additionally, I am committed to addressing the financial challenges students face. I will advocate for reducing residential student costs and discontinuing the practice of listing accommodations on platforms like Airbnb. This approach aims to alleviate the burden of high living expenses and make pursuing education more affordable.

Understanding the importance of convenience, I will work on improving the shuttle bus service. By implementing a clear and accessible schedule, students can plan their transportation more effectively, eliminating unnecessary wait times and enhancing their overall campus experience.

Lastly, I am enthusiastic about tailoring opportunities to each school's specific needs. For instance, I intend to facilitate more mooted competitions for law students and establish startup competitions for those in business programs. This tailored approach ensures that students receive opportunities that align with their academic pursuits.

In essence, my candidacy centers on creating a campus environment that celebrates diversity, promotes student engagement, and addresses practical concerns. I am dedicated to implementing these initiatives with the utmost transparency and accountability. By voting for me, you are supporting a vision that enhances our university experience for all students, creating a more inclusive, dynamic, and accessible campus community.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

Ensuring meaningful and representative student input in university decision-making is not just a goal but a commitment I hold dear. As Vice-President, I would employ a multifaceted approach to engage the student body effectively and integrate their perspectives into the decision-making processes.

**Regular Open Forums and Town Halls:** I will organize regular open forums and town hall sessions that provide students with a platform to voice their opinions, concerns, and suggestions directly. These events will facilitate candid conversations and allow for real-time feedback on various university matters. By making these sessions accessible and inclusive, we can ensure that a diverse range of student voices are heard and taken into account.

**Online Surveys and Feedback Portals:** Implementing online surveys and feedback portals will make it convenient for students to share their opinions even if they cannot attend physical meetings. These platforms can be tailored to gather input on specific topics, allowing us to gauge student sentiments accurately and make informed decisions.

**Collaborative Workshops and Focus Groups:** I will organize collaborative workshops and focus groups that bring together students, faculty, and administrators to brainstorm solutions and ideas for pressing issues. These sessions will promote productive dialogue and enable stakeholders to collectively devise strategies that benefit the entire university community.

**Online Platforms and Social Media Engagement:** Leveraging the power of social media platforms, I will create spaces for ongoing discussions where students can engage in debates, share concerns, and propose solutions. These digital channels will enhance accessibility and encourage broader participation.

**Regular Feedback Reports:** Transparency is key. I will ensure that regular feedback reports summarizing the inputs received and the actions taken are shared with the student body. This practice will keep students informed about the progress resulting from their contributions and maintain accountability in the decision-making process.

**Liaison with Student Organizations:** Collaborating closely with student organizations, I will ensure their voices are seamlessly integrated into decision-making. By establishing a strong communication channel with these groups, we can tap into their insights and leverage their networks to amplify student engagement.

**Personal Outreach and Engagement:** I am committed to being personally accessible to students. Holding open office hours and interacting with students in casual settings will enable me to understand their concerns directly and ensure their opinions are well-represented.

In conclusion, the foundation of effective university decision-making lies in genuine student engagement. My approach as Vice-President would be comprehensive, involving a blend of in-person and digital platforms that facilitate ongoing, diverse, and inclusive conversations. By

establishing a culture of collaboration and responsiveness, we can ensure that the university's decisions accurately reflect the aspirations and needs of the student body.



# RAJ "THEO" BHAT

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Design

## EXPERIENCE

Ethno-Cultural Collective  
Representative [2023]

Kseoul President [2023]

Student Ambassador [2022 - 2023]

Student Events Assistant [2022]

Advancement Caller Agent for  
Western Sydney University [2023]

High School House Captin [2015]

Hello, students at Western Sydney University, I'm Theo, and I'm running for your Ethno-Cultural Collective Candidate in 2024. I'm in the third year of my Bachelor of Design degree.

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket, I advocate for strengthening students' voices and defending their rights. I will fight to squash racism, bullying, sexism, and harassment on campus and to make students feel protected and will continue to do so until the end of my term if I get appointed. I have also had experience in previous leadership positions which I have held at the university one of which was the Ethno-Cultural Collective representative for 2022.

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket, I support elevating student voices, upholding student rights, and making sure that all of our students feel secure and welcome.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy spending time with my friends, Drawing, and Go-karting.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If entrusted with the honour of being elected as a representative, my foremost priorities for the upcoming year would be centred on helping elevate safe spaces and celebrate diversity, uplift student clubs and societies and alleviate student cost of living.

Acknowledging the critical role that safe and inclusive spaces play in a student's university experience, I am committed to advocating for the following: holding workshops in safe spaces, repairing current spaces to provide better, more accessible spaces, ensuring safe spaces are known and promoted, and ensuring that safe spaces include all collective, religious, and student parents.

Furthermore, I am a firm believer in the ability of student clubs and organisations to improve a student's university experience. These clubs and societies allow students to pursue their interests, develop leadership abilities, make lasting connections, and have fun. I will endeavour to strengthen student representation by building independent student frameworks.

My two other priorities include fixing shuttle bus services for students and organizing more events for students to enjoy.

Recognising the vital role that transportation plays in ensuring access to campus facilities, I am dedicated to resolving the problems that have hampered shuttle bus services. I will advocate for improvements to scheduling, routes, and general reliability by working closely with the student representatives. A reliable shuttle service not only alleviates students' commuting difficulties, but it also helps to reduce the environmental effect of individual transportation.

Furthermore, cultivating a lively campus culture that extends beyond academics is critical to developing a well-rounded student experience. To that aim, I plan to organise a variety of activities that cater to a wide range of interests and backgrounds. These activities will not only be entertaining, but will also give students with opportunity to socialise.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

I would work to get input from the student body into University decision-making by creating surveys and organizing forums and events to gather input from the student body and work to address any concerns or thoughts.

Given the importance of student views in developing an inclusive and effective educational institution, I am committed to establishing strong lines of communication between students and university decision-makers. Surveys will be an invaluable tool for gathering feedback on a wide range of subjects, from curricular updates to campus infrastructure improvements. These surveys will be carefully structured to ensure anonymity and accessibility, enabling all students to express themselves honestly.

In addition, I am dedicated to arranging forums and events that allow students and student representatives to have direct interactions. These platforms will promote discussion by allowing students to express their views, share their experiences, and express their concerns directly to student representatives. This real-time engagement will promote cooperation and openness, allowing student representatives to make more informed decisions that are supported by the

student body.

I will work closely with the student body, campus groups, and student representatives to guarantee the success of these projects. We can establish a feedback mechanism that not only collects information but also guarantees that the insights are incorporated into decision-making processes by working together.

Incorporating student involvement into university choices not only improves the university experience but also gives students the ability to create their own educational experience. I hope to foster a culture in which students' perspectives are not only heard but respected, resulting in a more lively, inclusive, and student-centred campus environment through surveys, forums, and events.



# RICHARD XU

Bankstown

## COURSE

Social Science

## EXPERIENCE

Over the years I've been to Western Sydney I learnt that I can make a lot of friends while volunteering to cook and make dinner for students while making friends.

Dear students of Western Sydney University, I am humbled and honoured to present myself, as a candidate for the Student Representative Council. I believe that the time has come for positive change and dedicated leadership to help steer the community. I am currently studying for a bachelor of social science and I am a marketing executive for the Anime and Gaming Society alongside Western Sydney Esports.

Throughout my life, I have helped volunteer for the Western Sydney University people by making dinner for students on Thursday at the Parramatta City campus and helping Tuesday for the karma kitchen team or multifaith team by giving the students a free and comfy meal. I also believe that our public safety should be watched. Thank you for considering as your candidate. I look forward to earning your support and the opportunity to serve with passion and work together as a team. Sincerely, Richard Xu.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe that everyone should be welcomed at Western Sydney University as we should welcome new people and show them what Western Sydney offers around the campuses.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

In my spare time i enjoy volunteering for students dinners.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If I do get elected my priority would probably get more food outlets as I like to explore various foods from a Chinese and Japanese background. Make career workshops and polish some interview skills for people you might not know or know which is good for networking. By letting them explore their network also make placements paid so the social workers don't have that much hard labour work but they get paid. Also maybe do a teamwork activity to help people with their skills and communication skills. I would also probably get more clubs to come to these events and help each other by splitting the roles for example and maybe put a prize pool in it. Give them academic support for example make facilities to help students and help make study groups if they need help. Reduce plastic waste, and promote energy efficiency. Allow access for students with disabilities, ensuring they are inclusive and accommodating for all students. Keep them updated on the importance of this university by engaging them to volunteer for community dinners or lunches so they can have a name for themselves. And maybe they can give me feedback on an event I made and tell me what I can improve on and what I can keep the same. Maybe also make the shuttle busses consistent to avoid school rushes and work rushes. Promote student well-being and mental health by creating spaces for students to discuss the challenges they face. Also maybe make student accommodation cheaper for international and domestic students.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

I would host a student town hall like how Student Leaders Hub did and host a meeting every month or two months on what the students wish to share, options, concerns and suggestions for future events which I could probably make. And have it catered by a company or make it myself but also put it online and record it and send a survey out and say what they wish to say and even if any slurs are in it. Also by putting it online, I can get upvotes and downvotes on their suggestions as well, this system helps guide me on what the students and staff who work there want. I would also train and support some people so they can help work with me. Acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of students who provide valuable input even simple acknowledgements I will notice it. Also maybe put up fortnightly workshops where the students can brainstorm and study groups to help tackle on projects and also by putting it on online platforms/social media to help engage students in discussions, polls, and surveys about university decisions by actively listening to what they say. Offer leadership development roles that educate and empower students to take up roles in decision-making, These programs can help with communication, negotiation, and conflict resolution and they could be future executives on for them starting a new club or having to pick up one of the main three roles which are president, treasurer, secretary. Reward students who actively contribute to the university's decisions this could be awards, candies, certificates and other prizes. Maintaining a continuous feedback response.



# ROBERT DEVINE

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Law

## EXPERIENCE

I'm currently the President of the WSU Liberal Club, and have spent the last couple of years volunteering for charities like StreetWork, and ShareTheMeal. On top of this, I am a member of numerous policy advisory groups and teams across NSW.

While studying at WSU, I've always wanted to make the experience of my fellow students better! With more stalls, better culture and an increase in activities being run for students, by students.

My vision is simple: representing students for students best interests! I want to bring every student together on campus and make our amazing university experience even greater!

To do this I need your help, though! We can only achieve greatness together. So, please, consider using your powerful vote to create change across our campuses. There is a reason we are the #1 University in the World, but we can still do better!

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe in students voices being heard, being represented and being listened to! Providing better services, more activities and helping our fellow students who may be struggling.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

In my spare time, I'm usually seen reading crime novels or shopping!



# ROMONDA EID

Liverpool

## COURSE

Social Work and Crime and  
Community Justice

## EXPERIENCE

Leadership

Mental Health

Well-Being Training

CPR

Suicide Prevention

Budget Committee

SRC

Computing Skills

Organised

Cooking

Events

Effective Communication

Mindfulness

Advocacy

Social Work Skills (3rd year)

Empathetic and non-judgemental  
(very hard to find these days)

I'm a good listener, ready for a chat!

Hello Western! I am a Bachelor of Social Work/Crime and Community Justice Student who has had the privilege of being your past Liverpool Campus Representative for the previous two years. I believe in hard work, honesty and integrity. I have worked alongside many faculties during my time here at Western in hopes of turning the Campus life into a pleasant social scene, where students can feel safe on campus, enjoy free lunches on a Thursday, grab free pantry items (or contribute) anytime, all while enjoying the atmosphere of a buzzing and fun University experience. I have been an advocate for Lifeblood, an Ally for our Rainbow Community, an active member of Inclusive Communities and I promise to continue to be the voice and support for our student community which I value and respect so much. As a mature aged student, I respect anyone who calls themselves a Uni Student as I truly understand the hardships and challenges of being a University student. However, I believe with the right amount of support and guidance, anything is achievable and I'd love to be able to support my student cohorts along this journey. I'm looking forward to seeing you on campus!

## I BELIEVE IN...

Food security is huge for me! Feeding the hungry, providing support for all our equities. Equal opportunities for all! Health and well-being at its finest, plus freebies!

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Chatting with random people, feeding the hungry clan, planning events so don't forget to smile!

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If re-elected, I hope to continue my work as an advocate for those who have less of a voice, using my Social Work Degree as a stepping stone for success and encouraging students to supply feedback. I truly believe that feedback and monitoring of student feedback is the only way forward in achieving a happy, safe and fulfilling Campus experience. I have worked alongside many departments, I enjoy feeding students and staff and I believe food security is an issue which needs to be discussed further. I hope to keep an open mind and organise ways forward where students are able to eat free on Campus, feel safe, enjoy their Uni life experience through after class activities and more importantly, just enjoy the overall experience of Western!

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

Feedback and surveys have always been a great way to achieve answers however, I've noticed not many students have accessed these. If I had my ways, I would be holding fun games and activities such as feedback "bingo" and trivia. I know students love prizes and freebies, I also think that students should be rewarded for their time and feedback. I understand that as a current Representative we need to host quarterly forums, I would like to see a combined forum with all the Reps and Officers sit on a Panel Discussion, with games and prizes to be won in exchange for feedback. We need to deactivate the Campuses, we need to do that through fun activities.



# RUBY RITCHIE

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Laws Bachelor of Arts

## EXPERIENCE

My editorial experience includes:

Western Sydney University's  
Director of Student Publications at  
W'SUP News from March 2023-  
present

Student Editor at W'SUP News  
from April 2022 to March 2023

Legal Cadet for Coleman Greig  
Lawyers from June 2021 to  
November 2022

Hi, students! My name is Ruby Ritchie and I'm running for Student Editor in 2023 for our student publication W'SUP as a member of ELEVATE.

As the current Director of Student Publications here at WSU, I believe I am one of the strongest candidates for Student Editor.

I recently produced the new Wellbeing Edition, with a team of talented editors and designers. You may have seen me at Clubs Fest on Parramatta South Campus, where our newest Edition flew off the stands as well as our wildly successful donut-for-follow initiative.

In my time as Director, I have expanded our W'SUP team to take on new roles such as adding a permanent Designer to improve our visual aesthetic. Under my leadership W'SUP introduced our Contributor Hub, where we commission students to contribute to our newspaper from the click of a button, making it truly student-led.

As an Editor, I can help you publish high quality works that not only boost your employability but give you the chance to be heard by our University. In my experience, a student publication can only work when students voices are heard.

So make your vote count, and vote for me as Student Editor.

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket, I promise to give a platform for students' voices and ensure that WSU will be held accountable by transparent and ethical journalism.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

In my spare time I enjoy writing, cooking and hanging out with my best friends.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

I am running for two positions: Student Editor and Delegate for the National Union of Students.

If elected as the Student Editor and NUS Delegate for the year, my foremost priority will be to amplify the voices of our diverse student community and ensure their concerns and aspirations are accurately represented in our student newspaper and the National Union of Students.

1. **Enhancing Representation:** The student body is a diverse mosaic of experiences, backgrounds, and aspirations. It's essential to ensure that every group feels heard regardless of size. This inclusivity means reaching out to those in minority groups, international students, those pursuing niche subjects, and students with disabilities to ensure our editorial content resonates with all. Having been a student journalist since early 2022 and Director of Student Publications since March of this year, I understand the pivotal issues impacting university students.

2. **Promoting Constructive Dialogue:** A significant part of representation involves fostering an environment where students feel comfortable sharing their opinions without fear of retribution or ridicule. As a Student Editor, I would champion a culture of open dialogue, promoting responsible journalism that prioritises accuracy and fairness. I would hold W'SUP News to the highest standard of journalistic integrity and produce content with significant value to students.

3. **Endorsing Accountability:** As a NUS Delegate and Student Editor, I plan to hold Western Sydney University and our government accountable for their involvement in our students' hardships. I would combine my roles as both an Editor and NUS Delegate to report on eliminating sexual violence on WSU campuses, alleviating the cost-of-living crisis, and stripping back the restrictions placed on WSU clubs, collectives and societies.

4. **Harnessing Accessibility on Digital Platforms:** The digital age allows us to innovate how we engage with the student community. Beyond our print editions and website, I will prioritise expanding W'SUP's digital presence through podcasts, social media, and interactive online forums. I also will endeavour to make our publication highly accessible for all students who may live with a disability by mandating text-reading and alternate text technologies on our W'SUP News website.

5. **Collaborative Initiatives:** Building initiatives with other student organisations, clubs, and societies can lead to richer content and better representation. Collaboration will be critical within Western Sydney University and with student bodies from other Australian universities, sharing best practices, challenges, and solutions.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making?  
(between 250-500 words)**

As the NUS Delegate, I envision my role as a bridge between the student body and the National Union of Students. Regular feedback sessions will be organised, allowing students to raise concerns, offer suggestions, or seek clarity on WSU policies and facilities. These insights will be invaluable when representing our institution at the national level. I would also use insights from reporting on student life as a W'SUP Editor to provide essential testimonies to the NUS.

As Student Editor, I would always involve students in W'SUP News content to maintain our publication as student-led. Here are some of the ways I would work to get student's input in University decision-making:

1. Town Hall Meetings: I would promote regular town hall meetings where students can directly interact with university decision-makers. This direct communication channel would allow students to voice their concerns, ask questions, and provide suggestions. It would also enable decision-makers to explain their reasoning behind certain choices and gather firsthand feedback.

2. Digital Feedback Platforms: Recognising the significance of digital platforms in the modern era, I'd launch an online portal where students can submit their concerns, ideas, or suggestions regarding university policies and decisions. This platform would be easy to access, user-friendly, and ensure anonymity for those who prefer it. One example of this is W'SUP's Contributor Hub. Created in my term as Director of Student Publications, the Contributor Hub allows their much-wanted testimonies with just one email.

3. Focus Groups: Periodically, focus group discussions could be organised around specific topics or decisions facing the university. These groups would consist of diverse students to ensure varied perspectives. The findings would then be presented to the university's decision-making bodies.

4. Collaborate with Student Organisations: Student clubs, societies, and organisations often deeply understand specific student population subsets. Collaborating with them can provide detailed insights into niche concerns and suggestions. Regular liaison meetings would be organised to facilitate this collaboration.

5. Surveys and Polls: Using our WesternLife email system, social media platforms, and W'SUP News website, I'd distribute regular surveys and polls about pressing issues. These tools can quickly gauge student sentiment and provide quantifiable data to present to university administrators.

6. Open Editorial Platform: As the Student Editor, I would advertise an open platform where students can write op-eds or letters to W'SUP News concerning university decisions. I would also

commission students directly for stories about issues that affect them, incentivising honesty. This not only provides students with a voice but also generates public discourse around crucial issues.

7. Transparency Reports: Every quarter, a transparency report could be published detailing how student feedback was incorporated into university decisions. This not only holds the university accountable but also reinforces trust amongst students. This report could be posted on the W'SUP News website and emailed to students.

8. Advocate for Student Representation: I'd lobby for student representation in the university's major decision-making bodies and committees. Having a student representative in these forums ensures a continuous presence of the student voice.

As a Student Editor and a NUS Delegate, my mission would be to foster an environment where student input is not just an afterthought but an integral component of the university's decision-making process. By creating multiple communication channels and feedback, I'd strive to make our university more inclusive, democratic, and responsive to its primary stakeholders: the students.

**3. Student Publications specific question: What do you see as the primary purpose of a student run publication at Western, and what will be your priorities should you be elected? (between 250-500 words)**

The primary purpose of a student-run publication at Western Sydney University, like at any institution of higher learning, is multi-dimensional:

1. Voice of the Students: Above all, the publication serves as the mouthpiece of the student body. It captures the thoughts, concerns, aspirations, and achievements of students. In an environment teeming with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and perspectives, the publication acts as a unifying platform where these voices can merge and be heard.

2. Platform for Expression: Our University is a hub of creativity and intellectual exploration. W'SUP News offers budding writers, journalists, photographers, and artists an avenue to showcase their talent, share their insights, and express their viewpoints.

3. Accountability and Transparency: Student publications are pivotal in holding the student government and the university administration accountable. They can shed light on pressing issues through investigative journalism and opinion pieces, demand transparency, and advocate for change.

4. Chronicle of Campus Life: From cultural events to sports tournaments or academic triumphs, the publication documents the vibrant life of the campus, creating an archive for future generations.

5. Skill Development: For those directly involved, student publications offer a hands-on opportunity to hone journalistic, editorial, and management skills, preparing them for potential future careers in media and related fields.

Should I be elected, my priorities would be:

1. Diverse Representation: I would strive to ensure that the publication accurately represents the multifaceted student community at WSU. This means actively seeking contributions from various campus cultural, academic, and social groups.

2. Quality and Integrity: While quantity has its merits, I would prioritise the quality of content. This means thorough fact-checking, unbiased reporting, and upholding the highest standards of journalistic integrity.

3. Digital Transformation: Recognising the evolving media landscape, I'd prioritise expanding our digital footprint. This involves harnessing social media, exploring multimedia content like podcasts and videos, and ensuring our website is user-friendly and up-to-date.

4. Engage the Audience: Interaction with our readers is vital. I'd introduce regular polls, surveys, and feedback sessions, ensuring that our content aligns with the interests and concerns of our readership.

5. Training and Workshops: Recognising the educational role of the publication, I'd organise workshops and training sessions for students interested in journalism, photography, and digital media. This would improve the quality of our content and contribute to skill-building within the student community.

6. Collaborative Initiatives: Building relationships with other clubs, societies, and faculties will lead to a more prosperous and more inclusive content palette. Collaboration can facilitate joint events, discussions, and debates on pressing issues.

As the leader of a student-run publication at Western Sydney University, my goal would be to elevate the platform as an influential, credible, and inclusive voice of the student community while offering valuable opportunities for skill development and expression.



# SHABNAM SIDDIQUE

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Master of Psychotherapy and  
Counselling

## EXPERIENCE

As a passionate writer and poet, the editing of pieces of writing to capture the best literary techniques and styles comes quite naturally to me. Additionally, my 6 years experience as a tutor of English literature and a freelance editor have added to my editorial skills and abilities.

Greetings! I am thrilled to submit my candidacy for the position of Student Editor with WSUP News at Western Sydney University. As a passionate writer and poet, I am eager to bring my creative prowess to the team.

My writing and poetry has been featured on The Brown Hour Journal literary magazine (NaPoWriMo 2021 exclusive edition/ Issue 2) as well as several school and college publications. I believe this is a testament to my dedication to my craft.

With a portfolio of mixed-media art, paired with my poetry in diverse themes and styles, I have honed the ability to craft engaging narratives that captivate and inspire my audience. My portfolio can be viewed on my Instagram Creator page: [https://www.instagram.com/the\\_desperate\\_star.gazer/](https://www.instagram.com/the_desperate_star.gazer/)

Additionally, my artistic talents have graced the covers of WSUP News in the recent Wellbeing edition. I proudly illustrated both the front and back covers, showcasing my creative aptitude.

Joining the WSUP News team as an editor is a prospect that truly excites me. My experience as a writer and artist equips me with a unique skill set that aligns perfectly with the demands of this role. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to this opportunity.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I am committed to add fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the editorial process of WSUP News. I am eager to contribute with creativity, attention to detail, and collaborative spirit.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy illustrating, art journaling, writing poetry. I also enjoy watching my favorite TV shows.

# SHIVAM KUMAR

Parramatta City Campus Precinct (1PSQ & 6 Hassall Street)

## COURSE

Master of Research

## EXPERIENCE

Yes, I have relevant experience, including:

Leadership roles in student clubs/organizations.

Volunteering in community outreach programs.

Representing students on academic committees.

Organizing campus events and initiatives.

Advocating for student rights and needs.

As an international scholar student, I am excited to put forward my candidacy for the Student Representative Council. My name is Shivam Kumar, and I am pursuing Master of Research. My vision for the student body revolves around fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all students, both domestic and international.

If elected, my primary goal is to advocate for the needs and concerns of every student on campus. I believe that effective communication is key to achieving this. I will actively seek feedback and ideas, ensuring that every student's voice is heard and represented.

I possess the necessary skills to be an effective representative. I am a problem solver and dedicated to addressing challenges that students face. I value diversity and will work tirelessly to promote an inclusive campus culture where every student feels welcomed and valued.

As a student representative, I will be a proactive advocate for positive change, striving to create a vibrant and fulfilling university experience for all. I seek your support and vote to represent our diverse and thriving student community. Thank you for considering me as your candidate. Together, let's make a difference!

Sincerely,

Shivam

## I BELIEVE IN...

Believe in an inclusive, supportive campus. Advocate for student needs. Embrace diversity. Drive positive change. My policy platform is Student support, diversity, well-being, campus improvement, engagement, representation

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I like to play snooker, Gyming, exploring Blue Mountains in my free time.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If honored with the role of a representative on the Student Representative Council, my primary focus would be to champion a student-centered approach that nurtures growth, inclusivity, and collaboration, enriching the university experience for all.

**1. Holistic Student Development:** Beyond academic pursuits, I believe in fostering wellrounded individuals. I will prioritize organizing workshops and seminars that promote personal development, including skills like critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and adaptability. These competencies are crucial for thriving in a rapidly changing world.

**2. Mental Health Advocacy:** Mental well-being is the cornerstone of a successful academic journey. I am committed to advocating for mental health resources that provide accessible counseling services, host wellness programs, and create an environment where seeking help is encouraged and destigmatized.

**3. Inclusive Campus Culture:** Diversity enriches our campus. I will strive to create spaces and events that celebrate different cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. By collaborating with student groups and initiating dialogue, I aim to cultivate a campus culture where every student feels seen, heard, and valued.

**4. Academic Empowerment:** Education is transformative. I will work to ensure that academic resources are easily accessible, supporting students' learning journeys. By collaborating with faculty and administration, I aspire to foster a learning environment that encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and intellectual exploration.

**5. Sustainability Initiatives:** Environmental consciousness is a shared responsibility. I intend to promote sustainable practices on campus through awareness campaigns, workshops, and partnerships with local environmental organizations. Small steps can lead to significant positive impacts.

**6. Strengthening Student Organizations:** Student groups are the heart of campus life. I will advocate for increased support, funding, and resources for student organizations, empowering them to initiate events, projects, and initiatives that cater to diverse interests and passions.

**7. Transparent Governance:** Effective communication is paramount. I will prioritize transparent governance by sharing information, decisions, and their rationale with students. An informed student body can contribute more meaningfully to discussions and initiatives that shape the university's direction.

**8. Career Readiness:** Transitioning from academia to the professional world can be daunting. I plan to collaborate with career services to provide practical workshops, industry networking events, and guidance that equips students with the skills needed for a successful career path.

In summary, my focus as an elected representative would be to cultivate an environment that nurtures personal development, mental well-being, inclusivity, academic excellence, sustainability, strong student organizations, transparent communication, and career readiness.

By working collaboratively with students, faculty, and administration, I am dedicated to contributing positively to the holistic growth and success of our university community.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making?  
(between 250-500 words)**

In my pursuit of a role on the Student Representative Council, I am driven by a resolute commitment to elevating the student voice within the intricate web of university decisionmaking. My strategy is rooted in harnessing innovative approaches that amplify participation, foster genuine collaboration, and nurture a culture of shared governance.

**1. Storytelling for Empathy:** I propose initiating storytelling campaigns where students can share their personal experiences, challenges, and aspirations. By humanizing the issues at hand, decision-makers will gain a deeper understanding of the real impact of their choices on students' lives.

**2. Cross-Departmental Brainstorming:** I aim to organize interdisciplinary brainstorming sessions that bring together students from various academic backgrounds. These sessions will encourage holistic discussions, generating unique insights that challenge the status quo and inspire progressive decisions.

**3. Expert Speaker Series:** To broaden perspectives, I intend to host an expert speaker series, inviting professionals from diverse fields to share their insights on relevant university matters. This exposure will stimulate informed discussions and infuse fresh ideas into decision-making processes.

**4. Participatory Budgeting:** I advocate for introducing a participatory budgeting system where students have a direct say in allocating a portion of the university's budget. This not only empowers students but also ensures that their financial priorities align with the institution's decisions.

**5. Collaborative Decision Juries:** I propose forming decision juries composed of students, faculty, administrators, and community members. These juries will deliberate on critical decisions, benefitting from the wisdom of multiple perspectives and ensuring well-rounded outcomes.

**6. Student-Led Workshops:** To address specific challenges, I envision student-led workshops where participants engage in design thinking and problem-solving exercises. The innovative solutions generated can directly influence decision-makers, driving practical changes.

**7. Gamification for Engagement:** Leveraging the power of gamification, I'll design interactive platforms where students can engage in scenario-based decision-making exercises. This approach not only informs students about complex issues but also encourages active participation.

**8. Feedback Loops in Course Design:** I plan to collaborate with educators to embed feedback loops directly into course design. This iterative process ensures that student input continuously shapes the learning experience, resulting in more engaging and effective curricula.

**9. Transparent Impact Reports:** I advocate for the creation of impact reports that showcase how student input has influenced decisions and subsequently impacted university life. These reports will bridge the gap between the process of participation and its tangible outcomes.

In conclusion, my approach to integrating student input into university decision-making revolves around the innovative application of storytelling, interdisciplinary collaboration, direct financial

involvement, and gamification. By engaging decision-makers and students in novel ways, we can forge a deeper connection between choices made and the experiences they shape. If entrusted with a seat on the Student Representative Council, I pledge to channel my energy and creativity into ensuring that your voices resonate within the heart of our university's decisions.

**3. Student Publications specific question: What do you see as the primary purpose of a student run publication at Western, and what will be your priorities should you be elected? (between 250-500 words)**

The student-run publication at Western Sydney University embodies a powerful blend of creativity, information, and community building. Its primary purpose is to act as a vibrant conduit for student voices, serving as a catalyst for intellectual exploration, social awareness, and collective growth. A student publication should transcend mere reporting, becoming a reflection of our diverse campus life, a catalyst for informed discussions, and a vehicle for positive change.

If granted the opportunity to serve on the Student Representative Council, my focal points concerning student publications will encapsulate the following:

- 1. Elevating Engagement Through Interactive Content:** I envision student publications embracing interactive content that captures attention and fosters engagement. This could involve immersive multimedia features, infographics, and interactive polls that transform passive readers into active participants in the campus discourse.
- 2. Advancing Investigative Journalism:** Beyond conventional reporting, I am dedicated to advocating for investigative journalism that delves deeper into campus matters. This approach will spotlight issues that might otherwise remain unnoticed and contribute to a more informed and accountable university environment.
- 3. Spotlight on Student Achievements:** Recognizing that student accomplishments are integral to campus culture, I intend to establish dedicated sections that celebrate academic achievements, artistic endeavors, and impactful community initiatives. This recognition fosters a sense of pride and encourages further excellence.
- 4. Collaborative Community Initiatives:** I believe in the power of collaboration beyond the realm of the publication itself. I will encourage partnerships between student publications and local community organizations, bringing together diverse perspectives and amplifying the publication's reach and impact.
- 5. Empowering Opinion Pieces:** I'm committed to providing a platform for opinion pieces that encourage critical thinking and respectful discourse. Differing viewpoints contribute to a well-rounded understanding of complex issues and promote a culture of respectful disagreement.
- 6. Sustainability and Innovation:** Reflecting our evolving world, I will advocate for coverage on sustainability initiatives, technological advancements, and trends that affect student life. This not only keeps students informed but also sparks conversations on shaping a sustainable and tech-savvy campus.

**7. Reflection of Campus Culture:** A student publication should be a mirror to our campus culture. I will work to ensure that publications reflect the vibrancy of campus events, student organizations, and the pulse of student life.

In essence, a student-run publication is a vibrant tapestry that interweaves narratives, information, and community. If entrusted with a role on the Student Representative Council, I commit to nurturing an environment where student publications evolve into dynamic platforms that drive informed discussions, celebrate achievements, and foster a sense of belonging. Together, we can amplify the reach and influence of student journalism, making it a catalyst for positive change and inclusive dialogue on our campus.

# SHOKOOFEH REZAIE

Liverpool

## COURSE

Bachelor of Social Work Bachelor of Criminal and Community Justice

## EXPERIENCE

i worked voluntarily with JRS in relation to creating cultural events for ethnic minorities and I am also, leader of Hazara community and I focused on the taking funding from council.

Dear fellow students:

I'm Shokoofeh Rezaie, and I'm excited to be your voice on campus and fight for the changes we need to make it a better place. As a 3rd-year Bachelor of Social Work/Bachelor of Criminal and Community Justice student and member of the Academy, I am deeply committed to fostering a better social outcome for every student on our campus. As a Student Representative, I will work hard to make sure that the opinions and concerns of students are heard. Having been involved in various activities at Western Sydney University, including the university opening day 2023 and the science and engineering challenge, voluntarily in Jesuit Refugee Services, as a facilitator in the Hassanain community, and in the Hazara community, has strengthened my belief in the power of community engagement and volunteering. During my studies in social work, I found many social facilities that need to be improved, like placement in any placement being paid, the large cost of parking spots, and free stationery.

I humbly ask for your support and trust in this journey of positive change. Vote for me, Shokoofeh Rezaie, as your University Student Representative, and let's shape a better future together!

## I BELIEVE IN...

paid placement, free stationery and reduce the cost of parking spots. more cultural events in the university. reduce stigma attached to mental health.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

reading self help books, meditation, gym and enjoy the nature.



# STEPHEN ANTHONY RAJ

Parramatta City Campus Precinct (1PSQ & 6 Hassall Street)

## COURSE

Masters In Business Administration

## EXPERIENCE

I have always had experience in leading and being a representative for a smaller group at school, college, University and office groups. But have never had the chance to bring out the inner child of each individual that leads to enjoyment of work and not only completion of work.

Though we are the School of Business, we always need something that refreshes us at our University apart from our weekend plans and studies (including assignments). As a Student Representative, I would WANT to stand to bring in activities that brings in engagement amongst every single student in this University. I mean, EVERY SINGLE STUDENT. Activities like an annual day, a cultural fest, an outing for every diverse students. I understand that there are already 1000s of engagement events, but from a 100 people, only half of that or barely 25 show up. What's the fun in that?

So, I ask you fellow student to select me as your candidate for the SRC, not only to bring in engagement between us all but also, I as a Student Representative would also be the bridge between us students and the University to convey your message to them and their message to you. And, when I stand as a part of SRC, it would be an honour to represent all diverse groups across all our campuses, and for that I request your VOTE!

My name is STEPHEN ARNOLD ANTHONY RAJ, and I wish to stand for the SRC.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe we all should get chances in enjoying the fun part of the University. In the end of the day, we all are still student and kid at heart.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Photography, singing, soccer, travelling & exploring, cycling, and spending time with my family and friends.



# TIFFANY SHARPE

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Bachelor of Advanced Medical Science

## EXPERIENCE

I have invested in immense experiences and built up a strong portfolio of student representation at Western Sydney University from representing with Western SRC and across many Academic Committees.

Warami, my name is Tiffany Sharpe, and I am a proud Indigenous woman who lives and works on the lands of the Darug Nation. I am a second-year Bachelor of Advanced Medical Science student majoring in Biomedical Science at Parramatta South Campus.

I am a passionate and devoted student leader that has substantial experience in student advocacy and representation. I possess the attributes it takes to become a student representative at Western Sydney University.

Suppose I become to be a student leader. In that case, I will commit to leading the students' voices and making the impact needed for students to have the university experience that meets our expectations. Also, all students matter, and I can ensure that diversity and inclusion will be a crucial work ethic in my leadership campaign.

If elected to be a student leader, I will continue listening to your concerns and recommendations for the university. Behind the scenes, I gather the analytics and information from the students, allowing me to advocate the matters that are important to you. The purpose of a student leader is to be able to advocate, campaign, communicate, and problem-solving by leading a team toward an action to make a difference.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I firmly believe in diversity and inclusion, in which no student's voice is left unheard. We, the students of Western Sydney University, are the university's future.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy researching medical science by exploring genes, genomics and human health.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

At this moment, if the students at Western Sydney University elect me to become an elected representative of the 2024 Student Representative Council. Then, I will kick-start my student advocacy campaign by working toward diversity, equity, and inclusion as a key priority.

Based on experience, students who identified as part of an equity collective have mentioned their voices were left unheard, and the underrepresentation caused a lack of sense of belonging. To address the matter of concern for inequity and inequality, I would like to resolve the issue by implementing the Safe Space – Equity Forum, which the Equity Collective representative will chair and exclusive invitations to students who identified as part of the Equity Collective. This solution will allow students to put forward their concerns and ideas of where they want the movement of change or improvement at Western Sydney University from academic learning to student campus life experience in assurance within their safe space. Clearly state that students' voice matters to the student representative council from diversity, equity, and inclusion as we raise and act upon the subjects that matter to most students.

Being a mature-aged student, I demonstrated adept extensive leadership skills in my student representation journey and, foremost, an insightful highlight of student life experience at Western Sydney University. I aspire to change Student Voice, which allows **ALL** students, domestic and international, to have a say in what needs to be changed or how they envision the student life experience at the university.

As a result, if it comes to fruition, the constituents of Western Sydney University voted for me to become an elected representative for the 2024 Western Student Representative Council. Importantly, I am ambitious to become an easily approachable student leader who aims to listen to the Student Voices actively and address concerns and recommendations for student life as prospective project proposals.

Objectively, my priority as an elected representative for 2024 would be the following:

- Strengthen and reinforce the valuable approach for Student Voice.
- Address the matter of inequity and inequality found within the Equity Collectives and implement a strategic safety protocol: Safe Space – Equity Forum.
- FREE Student Breakfast – 8 am to 11 am.
- Promote cultural awareness and competency-based training.
- Espouse for **FREE** parking or **REDUCE** the cost of an annual parking permit.
- University Accord Interim Report.

The purpose of my candidacy in the Student Election for the Student Representative Council is to continue striking the impact of change that I have proceeded upon the range of student engagement in the short time at Western Sydney University. Furthermore, I nominated for candidacy in the National Union of Students (NUS) delegate with my mission as a student leader and attention to contentious topics addressed nationally. Being a student leader depicts challenges in fighting for the rights of those vulnerable bodies and navigating for equity and equality.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making?  
(between 250-500 words)**

Becoming a successfully elected student leader comes with a voting ballot that students at Western Sydney University can vote on who they believe will empower the voice of the student body and proceed with raising their primary concerns and ideas, leading to effective change. The realisation of student representation comes with a great deal of sacrifice from interrelationships, family/friends, and studies, which may impact mental health, as proven by the number of resignations. I represented the student body in multiple academic committees and sub-committees that have built on my resilience and adaptability toward pressure and stressful determinations, which made me grow a positive mindset and professional development. Two essential values that I will carry out if elected as a student leader are **RESPONSIBILITY** and **ACCOUNTABILITY**.

Responsibility defines the practice of ongoing commitment to the hours expected to fulfil the expectations of the duties of the proposed role in leadership. Ensure the crucial analysis, qualitative and quantitative research from online and on-campus forums, surveying, suggestion boxes, and student social events. Accountability concerns the outcome of a situation that may endeavour throughout the leadership journey. We grow to become solid student representatives by accepting active criticism, owning up to our mistakes, and learning from them.

The ways that I would work to get input from the student body into the University's decision-making are as follows:

1. Gathering qualitative and quantitative findings from surveying and Student Voice.
2. It is working as part of a team to determine hot topics of interest that students report.
3. Refine the backing of input resources and identify the best possible point of communication to raise the concerns and to act.

4. Professional development by initiating conversations with academic committees and higher-ranking professionals if there is a matter that must be addressed to rectify problems which are bound out of our capability.
5. Increase visibility by time arrangements to be designated for campus visits to demonstrate the importance of Student Voice for the movement for change.
6. Undertake student leadership course to continue to be up to date with all the procedure and constitutions of laws under Western Sydney University.
7. Boost contributions using the University's resource platforms and social media to continue student advocacy.

VOTE #1 Tiffany Sharpe for Western SRC Executive Member and National Union of Students (NUS) Delegate!



# TUSHAR BAHIRWANI

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Master of Psychotherapy and  
Counselling

## EXPERIENCE

I have always been a part of and served as part of my respective educational institution's student body.

Ryan International School  
International Representative  
(2015)

Ryan International School Student  
Council (2016)

ARSD College Delhi  
Representative (2017)

ARSD College PR Officer (2018)

ARSD College President (2019)

Western Sydney Indian Society  
(2023)

Greetings, fellow students. My name is Tushar Bahirwani and I'm running as a candidate for the Student Representative Council this year.

I am a second year student pursuing my degree in Masters of Psychotherapy and Counselling.

As a person closely involved in the student community and events, I have a vision for an exemplary campus life for each student at Western Sydney University. As a volunteer of multiple community dinners hosted by Inclusive Communities and Karma Kitchen, and a member of the Western Sydney Indian Society, I understand and endorse the value of community impact toward mental health of individuals, especially for international students trying to form a home away from home here. I aim to work collaboratively and cooperatively to create a sense of belonging, safety, and warmth across all campuses for all international students. I aspire for a campus community free from racism, sexism, and any exclusionary behaviour. Having a safe space on campus and better and more-efficient mental health resources for all students is essential for student mental health, which becomes an imperative factor in furthering the achievements of the university nationally and globally.

## I BELIEVE IN...

Empowering student voice; building an eventful, community-based student life; creating a sense of safety, warmth, and belonging across campus for all students

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

Building Lego, Delightful conversations over tea, and exploring the use of music in therapy

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

Greetings, students!

As a candidate for the Student Representation Council, I'm eager to share my ideas for a more welcoming and interactive campus experience. As part of my commitment to you, I shall strive for student mental health and wellbeing (with a special focus on international students) to be considered as part of the university decision-making process

**From Words to Action: Improving Student Input**

If elected, I will advocate for a thorough method of getting student feedback that makes sure that each unique viewpoint is heard and taken into account. My objective is to remove barriers to student wellbeing, promote openness and safety, and to establish effective channels for ideas and concerns to influence the course of policies.

**Digital platforms:** I would like to explore the creation of a user-friendly digital forum where you can express your thoughts on issues with significant impact and offer feedback.

**Regular Feedback Sessions:** I shall focus on both in-person and online feedback sessions that are regular and structured. These meetings will promote open communication between students, professors, and administration, enabling us to jointly come up with ideas and choices.

**Representative Outreach:** I'm devoted to continuing to be active in a range of clubs, organisations, and student groups. Regular contacts with these groups will guarantee that many viewpoints are gathered and that decisions take into account a variety of backgrounds and interests.

**Anonymous Surveys:** I'll use surveys that are completely anonymous to encourage open feedback. This will provide students who might be reluctant to speak up a platform and ensure that their voices are equally appreciated.

**Action-Based Empowerment**

I thank you for your consideration.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

Greetings, students!

It is an honour for me to stand before you as a candidate for our respected university's Student Representation Council. I'm devoted to speaking up for you and striving toward representation of student needs, safety, and welfare over the course of the year with a passion for advocacy.

#### My Top Priority: Promoting Inclusive Participation

If chosen, encouraging inclusive engagement within our diverse student body will be my top priority. Our university is a colourful patchwork of cultures, viewpoints, and goals. As your representative, I'll put forth a lot of effort to make sure that every student, regardless of background or situation, has a chance to express their worries, thoughts, and goals.

#### Key focus:

**Open Channels of Communication:** I will strive to regularly host in-person meetings and online forums so that you can express your ideas, comments, and feedback. I will actively listen, take notes, and work with the university administration for this.

**Varied Representation:** I'm devoted to advocating for a varied and inclusive representation in decision-making processes at the university. I'd like to create a student council that represents the diversity of our community and works for all students on an equitable basis.

**Student mental health:** Recognising the difficulties that college life can provide, I will endeavour to increase the availability of resources and support services for mental health. Your wellbeing is of the utmost importance, and I will work to promote programmes that provide a supportive and healthy atmosphere.

Let's make a lasting impact together.

I am committed to providing open, responsible, and safe leadership as a representative. I cordially welcome you to accompany me on this adventure, to contribute your thoughts, to stand up for what you hold dear, and together with me, to build a university community that genuinely cares for each and every student.

I respectfully request your vote, confidence, and support on election day. Together, we will strengthen student voices, promote substantive change, and improve the student experience at our universities.

I appreciate your consideration.



# VIDUSHI SETHI

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Medical Science

## EXPERIENCE

-SRC Vice President Education Undergraduate [2023]

-International student representative at the Academic Senate [2021 - 2023]

-WS Indian Society Presidential Advisor [2023]

-Secretary for Lifestyle Medicine at Western [2021-2023]

-Events officer for Modern Ink [2021 - 2022]

-Mental Health and Wellbeing Champion [2022]

-Research Assistant (welfare portfolio) for CISA [2021-2022]

Hi all,

My name is Vidushi, and I am delighted to introduce myself as a candidate for the role of Vice President - Activities. Currently, in my third year, I am pursuing a Bachelor of Medical Science with a specialization in infectious diseases.

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket and an extremely dedicated individual, I believe in promoting equity, driving positive change and enhancing the student experience.

If elected I will advocate for streamlining the Club and Collective Processes in an effort to make processes more efficient for all student clubs, ensuring smoother coordination, access to resources, and an overall leadership experience. I will also strive to organise collaborative and inclusive events across all campuses, aiming to enhance accessibility and cater to our university's remarkable diversity. This way, every participating student will experience a sense of connection, inspiration, being heard, and valued.

With a strong determination to make our student community more engaging, I am enthusiastic to use my skills to provide a fun and enriching environment for all students. Your support will enable me to translate these visions into impactful actions, creating a vibrant and memorable campus experience for every student.

Happy voting!

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket, I believe in empowering students' voices, fighting for students' rights and ensuring our students feel safe and welcomed across all Campuses.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

My spare time is filled with baking delicious treats and going on adrenaline-filled adventures.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

My unwavering commitment to the forthcoming SRC elections as a proud representative of the ELEVATE ticket revolves around three fundamental principles that have the power to not only shape but significantly enhance our campus life.

Foremost, I am wholeheartedly dedicated to the strategic streamlining of club procedures. This, I believe, holds immense potential to effect positive change for both club teams and student executives alike. By simplifying the event planning and execution processes, I intend to empower our student clubs, infusing them with newfound energy and enabling them to drive a more vibrant student life. The vibrancy of our campus is a direct reflection of the diversity of interests within our community, and by simplifying the path to student-led events, we can encourage more active participation, deeper engagement, and a more resonant impact.

Equally vital is my unyielding commitment to the creation of safe spaces that truly embody the strength of our diverse student body. This aspiration requires meticulous planning and execution of workshops and seminars that foster open dialogue, broaden horizons, and deepen understanding. I am committed to enhancing the accessibility of these spaces, ensuring that every student can participate without hindrance. No matter their background, I wish for every student to feel at home and at ease at this university they call their own. By raising awareness about these spaces and their potential, we can ensure that they become integral parts of our campus identity.

Furthermore, I will work to alleviate the financial pressures that often accompany the student journey. I envision a campus where no student must compromise on nutritional needs due to financial constraints. This would include promoting more affordable and accessible food options on campus and providing practical solutions that ensure every student's well-being. Additionally, I am committed to advocating for the availability of practical and affordable accommodations for all students. A conducive living environment is a cornerstone of a successful academic journey, and I aim to champion this cause to the best of my abilities.

A crucial aspect of my commitment lies in fostering ongoing and meaningful discussions among students. Open dialogue is the foundation of progress, and I am dedicated to creating platforms where every perspective is not only heard but valued. By encouraging such discussions, we can collectively shape a better future for our campus.

In essence, my affiliation with the ELEVATE ticket signifies more than a mere promise; it signifies a steadfast dedication to action. By focusing on these pivotal issues, I aspire to enhance the university experience for every student. Through inclusivity, empowerment, and practical solutions, I envision a campus community that mirrors the aspirations, values, and dreams of all its members—a vibrant and supportive community that truly elevates the student journey.

**2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making?  
(between 250-500 words)**

Fostering a collaborative and responsive academic environment requires that university decision-making consider the opinions and insights of the student body. My strategy for accomplishing this as a member of the ELEVATE ticket involves a proactive blend of diversity, transparency, and active engagement.

In the beginning, I will set up frequent student feedback sessions where students from diverse fields of study and backgrounds can openly express their thoughts, worries, and recommendations. These meetings would act as a direct line of communication between students and university officials, providing current information about the general state of the student body. To encourage as many people as possible to attend, I would also make sure that these sessions are widely publicized and can suit different schedules as well as have food catered by SSAF funds as a token for the student's time.

In addition, I support the creation of student-led focus groups that support university programs or rule modifications. We can make sure that the opinions of the students who have a stake in these issues are not only considered but are at the centre of the process of decision-making by involving them. Administrators would be able to make well-informed decisions that represent the wants and desires of the student population thanks to the thorough and focused feedback provided by these focus groups.

I would make use of digital platforms and technology to increase the number of people reached. Students could easily express their opinions through interactive forums, online questionnaires, and suggestion boxes. These platforms would not only make participation more inclusive, but they would also enable a wider audience and be able to express the opinions of a varied student body.

Building trust and confidence among students requires transparency. I promise to fight for the release of meeting transcripts and significant outcomes from university administrative meetings in a more accessible and available manner. Students would gain important insights into how their feedback is taken into consideration thanks to this technique, which would open a window into the decision-making process.

acknowledge the value of working with student organizations. To facilitate a planned and reliable flow of information, I want to establish contact between these groups and the university administration. This collaboration would make sure that student organizations are informed about existing projects and choices, enabling them to effectively gather and reflect the perspectives of all students.

To sum up, my approach entails developing a variety of opportunities for student input, from one-on-one interviews and focus groups to online forums and collaborative efforts with other organizations. By using these strategies, I undertake to close the communication gap between students and decision-makers and to make sure that the direction of the university reflects the goals and values of all its users i.e., the students.



# WING KEI "BELLE" KATES CHEUNG

Campbelltown

## COURSE

Bachelor of Occupational Therapy  
Honours

## EXPERIENCE

Residential Students  
Representative [2022-2023]

President of the Hong Kong  
Cultural Society [2022-2023]

International Student Ambassador  
[2023-]

Think Pacific Virtual Internship  
[2021-2022] - propose action  
project for Fijian kids with cancer

Hi all, my name is Belle and I'm running as your SRC Environmental Representative Candidate for 2024. I am a third-year student studying for a Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (Honours).

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket, I believe in empowering students' voices and fighting for students' rights. I will fight to ensure that students feel safe on campus and are free from racism, sexism, bullying, and harassment. As a student believing in uniting our student voices, I will ensure students' access to safe spaces, and free pantry items, and work toward lowering the age of independence and delivering real reforms at both the university and national levels.

I've held some positions at the University; I am the current Residential Students Representative, the President of the Hong Kong Cultural Society, and one of the International Student Ambassadors at Western.

## I BELIEVE IN...

As a member of the ELEVATE ticket, I believe in empowering students' voices, fighting for students' rights, and ensuring our students feel safe and welcomed across all Campuses.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I enjoy socialising, watching anime, and listening to music. I also love being a foodie.

**1. If elected, what would be your priority as an elected representative for the year? (between 250-500 words)**

If elected as a representative for the upcoming academic year, my primary focus and priority would revolve around enhancing the overall student experience, fostering inclusivity, and ensuring that student voices are heard and valued in all university matters. My goal is to contribute to creating a campus environment that truly reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of our student body.

1. Elevate safe spaces and celebrate diversity
    - a. Will open opportunities to hold workshops in safe spaces
    - b. Fixing up current spaces to provide better more accessible spaces.
    - c. Make sure safe spaces are know and promoted
    - d. Safe spaces will include all collective, religious and Student parents.
  
  2. Uplift student clubs and societies
    - a. empowering student representation through establishing independent student frameworks
  
  3. Alleviate student Cost of Living
    - a. Lost the tender for residential students, Stop putting accommodation on Airbnb and low residential student prices
  
  4. Fixing shuttle bus services
    - a. Fixed timetable schedule
    - b. Regular operating routes
- As the current residential representative, I have collected survey results from residents about the use of shuttle bus service. And am on my way analysing the data collected to back students' voice in fixing WSU shuttle bus services.
5. Expanding green and tech spaces
    - a. Carry on WSU's achievement in being first place in the world in sustainability ranking
    - b. Upgrading tech spaces while being environmental-friendly.

In summary, my priority as an elected representative for the upcoming year is to advocate for an inclusive, student-centric campus that thrives on safe spaces and celebrate diversity, uplift student clubs and societies, alleviate student Cost of Living, fix shuttle bus services and expand green and tech spaces. By focusing on these areas, I aim to create a vibrant and empowering university experience that benefits every student and contributes to the growth and betterment of our campus community.

## **2. How would you work to get input from the student body in to University decision making? (between 250-500 words)**

Incorporating input from the student body into university decision-making is crucial for creating a more inclusive, responsive, and student-centered academic environment.

1. **Identify Decision Points:** Determine the key areas where student input would be valuable. This could include curriculum changes, campus policies, budget allocations, campus facilities, student services, and more.
2. **Establish Communication Channels:**
  - a. **Connecting with Student Representatives:** Act as liaisons between the student body and WSU.
  - b. **SRC:** SRC to serve as an organized platform for student voices.
  - c. **Surveys and Feedback Forms:** Regularly distribute surveys and feedback forms to gather opinions and suggestions from the wider student population.
  - d. **Town Hall Meetings:** Organize open forums where students can directly engage with university administrators, faculty, and staff to voice their concerns and ideas.
3. **Diverse Engagement Methods:**
  - a. **Online Platforms:** Utilise digital platforms such as WesternLife, social media (Instagram and TikTok) to share information, gather feedback, and conduct virtual town halls.
  - b. **In-Person Events:** Host workshops, focus groups, and panel discussions to facilitate face-to-face discussions on important issues.
  - c. **Collaborative Workshops:** Organise brainstorming sessions where students can work alongside faculty and staff to come up with innovative solutions.
4. **Feedback Integration:**
  - a. **Feedback Incorporation:** Show students that their input is valued by actively integrating their suggestions and ideas into decision-making processes whenever possible.
  - b. **Explain Decisions:** Even if a decision doesn't align with student preferences, provide transparent explanations to help students understand the reasoning behind it.
5. **Assessment and Improvement:**
  - a. **Evaluate Effectiveness:** Regularly assess the effectiveness of the communication channels and engagement methods to identify areas for improvement.
  - b. **Adapt and Iterate:** Based on assessment results, make necessary adjustments to ensure that student input processes are continuously refined.

- c. Remember, involving students in decision-making is an ongoing process that requires commitment from both students and the university administration. Building a culture of collaboration and shared responsibility can greatly enhance the overall educational experience for everyone involved.



# YEN NHU LAM

Parramatta South

## COURSE

Bachelor of Social Work

## EXPERIENCE

I am currently a volunteer worker to help servicing and cooking at difference campuses in Western Sydney University (Parramatta South, Parramatta City, Campbelltown, Hawkesbury and there will be more)

I am a first year student and also a Vietnamese International student. I arrived in Sydney for 3-4 years to study highschool and complete HSC for university. There are a lot of challenges and changes to get until now, a lot of good and bad memories and experiences from peers and teachers. As I used to want to become a psychologists to help people around me and also I have high curiosity in how people's identify themselves. However, I realised it is very challenge and complicated, so I chose to study Social Work as it has many outcomes for me to help different people around me.

## I BELIEVE IN...

I believe that there will be many suitable places for everyone, who will need support in a part of their life and it is okay to seek for help.

## IN MY SPARE TIME I ENJOY...

I am enjoy hanging out with my friends, listening to music, and reading horror books.