

Manifesto-Lauren 'Mancoon' McGuigan, Running for V.P Welfare and Community

Hello, I'm Lauren McGuigan, still, more often than not, referred to as 'Mancoon' and I'm about to complete my third year and my degree in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies. I have held the role's of Campaigns Officer in the RSU and been a flat rep for the last academic year, role's I have thoroughly enjoyed and learnt a lot from, which is why I have decided to run for the role of VP Welfare and Community. Prior to my time here at Roehampton I was working as a Nursing Student for 2 years, in which I encountered people from all walks of life, of all ages with a range of problems ranging from Mental Health issues to problems due to social circumstances all within a professional setting which I feel makes me ready to handle the demanding role I am aiming to get.

I feel my combined experiences from my time here at Roehampton and from my nursing training make me ideal as I already have experience in listening and analysing situations, and also understand my own limitations, in order to refer someone on to an appropriate service. I will continue the open door "no problem too big or small" policy that the welfare department has, and continue to liaise with the relevant departments in order to benefit the students of Roehampton. I understand that for some even an open door policy can be daunting, or perhaps the office hours don't suit because of your course, extra-curricular or perhaps work commitments (e.g. PGCE/Primary Education students), for this reason I would propose that at least once a week I would come to you. I would travel and alternate between Digby, Froebel, Southlands, Whiteland's and not forgetting Mount Clare and be available into the evening to make it so that the Welfare department is truly fully accessible to all who wish to use it, as I understand that although we are in the age of technology and people would always be able to speak to me via email, for some this approach does not work and speaking to an actual human face can be a massive help.

For many the lure of Roehampton was the collegiality that we have, and due to the many recent changes within the University, I am aware that many feel that this is under threat. I would work closely with the CP's to ensure that College pride and community spirit was alive in each and every college and I would remain neutral in terms of rivalry. I would achieve this by getting open to all committees for each college so alongside SUC I can ensure students are not only having their voices heard but also listened to, and acted upon. I would also want to promote the University as a fantastic contribution to the outside community. I would liaise with councillor's from Wandsworth Council, as well as members of the local community in order to rebuild our strained relationship to them, and show them that we are can be a fantastic asset as part of their community as opposed to being the neighbours they never talk to!

Campaigns have been an important aspect to the Welfare department, and I would continue to the current form of not being overly political, as I do feel this may discourage how accessible I could be to some people. I feel that continuing to developing new and the existing campaigns related to the role of Welfare, such as Love your Body Week, and develop new campaigns relating to mental health or financial worries would be more appropriate and beneficial to everyone from the role I would be playing. All said and done, this brief description is not enough to show the dedication, passion and drive I have for this role and for this University, come see the candidates speeches on Tuesday 15th March, or stop me on my campaign trail or generally out and about, and pick my brain so I can really prove to you I am the perfect candidate for this job and the best person to serve you for the academic year, and hopefully I will be able to make you feel that it is the right decision to **vote Lauren 'Mancoon' McGuigan for your VP Welfare and Community**