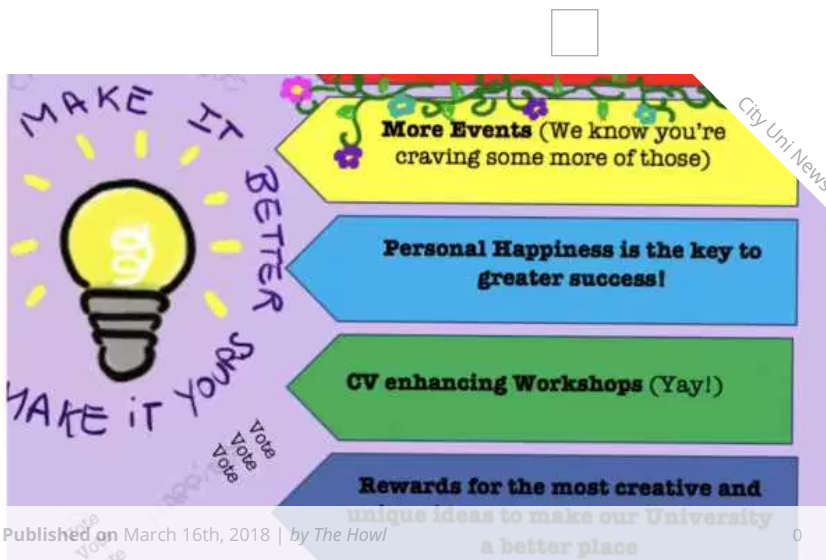


THE HOWL



Meet vice-presidential candidate Zohra Bouchamaoui

By: Gursimran Hans

As part of The Howl's coverage of the student elections, we have offered interview opportunities for every single candidate.

Unfortunately, we couldn't find a date and time to speak to Zohra Bouchamaoui, who is standing for Vice-President for Education. The only way to speak to her before polling closes was to send her the questions and wait for her responses.

The responses from the second year Investment and Financial Risk Management student are below:

Why are you running to be VP for education?

I personally believe that the education that is provided by City is good however, I think it can always be improved. There has been many complaints from students in the past, and they keep appearing on a daily basis which clearly shows that students are not getting what they expect. Another big issue is that a lot of students do not get the same support from our university as students from different institutions such as, lecture capture for all modules or late releasing of lecture slides. This results in the inability of students to prepare themselves for the upcoming modules.

Recently, there has also been issues with lecturers who were unable to teach and personal tutors who do not seem to be providing the necessary support to students. I believe this is an important issue as students do not get services worth their money.

Why have you chosen the pledges you have?

Because like other candidates I believe I can deliver those promises and it would benefit not only students but also the academic staff.

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What makes you think you are the best person for the job?

I personally have experienced many issues with my personal tutor and lecture captures and felt like there was no one acting about it. That pushed me to be the person who will try to find solutions and therefore, help students that are in the same situation as me. With my experience and personal determination, I would want to ensure that students who may have to deal with issues like that will have someone who will stand on their behalf.

How exactly would your opinion box look like and how would it work?

It would be a suggestion box (of an extravagant colour, to make it stand out) placed in strategic spots around the University which will allow students to drop any suggestions or their own opinions about anything. This would allow a better communication between the students and the Student Union. It would also bring necessary data to enforce things in the University. For example, if one person shares their opinion on exam approaches, the University might ignore it, while if statistically half of the students have the same point of view, the University will have to consider it and act on it.

You've pledged more events – but what kind of events and how would you deliver this?

In my opinion, there is a lot of knowledge passed onto us however, I would like to create workshops that would deliver 'life skills'. I also would like to create more 'leadership and teamwork skills' workshops, which will enhance students satisfaction as well as their University experience.

I have a couple of more ideas but these are my main ones.

What are your opinions on the university's freedom of speech issues and how would you help combat this?

I believe in freedom of speech and that everyone should be able to speak their mind. Of course, we would prefer to have open minded thoughts as long as they stay polite (we do not want people to use bad language towards each other). I would not tolerate people who would shut others down because of differing opinions. Once a wise man said, we all have different opinions but that does not mean that only one of them is correct.

What do you think of the government's Prevent scheme and its' use in the university?

For this question, I did not really know what to answer as I am an international student and I have never heard about it before. However, I will be doing some research regarding this.

What do you make of the passing of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions motion at the last AGM, and its potential impact on learning?

I agree with the Student Union beliefs and that we should raise awareness of Palestinian issues around the University as well as BDS. I personally believe that the University and the Student Union should work together for this not to impact the student's studies. If I become VP of Education I will ensure that everyone is equally-treated and they can feel safe expressing themselves and not be labelled or targeted by anyone.

Polling is open till 1300 on Friday 16th March.

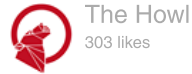
Should she win, Bouchamaoui will replace the outgoing Malek Arab in September.

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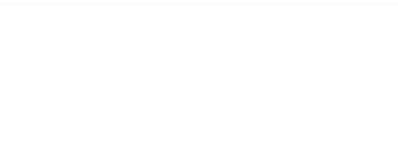
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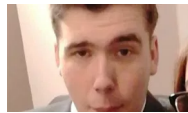
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