



Mark Francos

FOR NUS-USI PRESIDENT

About Me:

I'm Mark a three time Student Councillor from Ulster University's Student's Union, who presently serves as the Chair of Student Council within the Union.

Within UUSU, I have had the pleasure of representing our 24,000 students at national and regional conferences, fighting to ensure our university and NI has its voice heard on the issues that matter most.

I have worked both internally and externally to ensure our democracy is as strong as it can be. Internally, I have ensured that the maximum range of opinions are heard across our union and held our officers to account through my role as Student Council Chair. Externally, I have held politicians to account, directly to students through hosting our Politics Society debates on subjects such as Brexit and the future of Devolution and debating with them through radio and television with the BBC.



Reach me at:
@mark4nususi



Democracy:

Expanding Democracy has been at the core of everything I have ever tried to achieve in the student movement. We already do so much but we could do so much more! We need to look at how we engage with our wider membership. This could mean expanding our elections to include an electoral college system or consider even the possibility of one member one vote so we represent all students (as accurately as possible). In these times where students are being marginalised and left behind it is critical that all of our voices across our sector are heard. In my eyes greater democracy means greater engagement!

Key Priorities:

- Lobbying for better Student Finance
- Integrated Education
- Expanding student engagement
- Mental Health
- Liberation Campaign Autonomy/ Independence
- Better Student Housing
- Increase support for International, ROI and GB students



Integrated Education:

We live in a divided society; there is no doubt about it. Students before us have fought to bring about meaningful change, usually a long time before the politicians. I believe it is time that we as students drive forward and demand change for the good of all across the region. This is why I seek to put Integrated Education to the top of the agenda. It is simply unacceptable that in 2019, individuals are not meeting others from different sides of the community until after they leave school. Our society is more diverse in religion, culture and race than ever before and our education system has to change to welcome that.

Together we can bring about that change!



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Representing the Under-represented:

Throughout my time in student politics, having strong voices of the underrepresented have been key to me. If elected, as your President, I want to ensure the autonomy of liberation groups so they have their own space to make policy and lead campaigns. I want to be a bottom up President who:

- Supports stronger connections between NUS-USI liberation officers and students' union societies to better communication, engagement and representation.
- Encourages more support for international students but also GB and ROI students who also feel isolated and struggle to settle, miles from home.

Student Loans:

For too long in my eyes our movement has focused on tuition fees and free education. While this is admirable and something I would not neglect, I believe our primary focus should be on maintenance loans, and ensuring students aren't put into deliberate poverty by our politicians. For too long they have got away with it! Across our entire sector from part time to full time students, **FE to HE** the financial situation we are in is unacceptable.

Andrew McAnallen
Vice President for Campaigns
& Communications
President Elect
Ulster University Students' Union



"Mark is a true diplomat — I've always admired his ability to listen and bring all viewpoints into the conversation, and illustrate his points in a tactful, respectful way. I've met few people as politically astute.

Mark is skilled in negotiating and handling difficult situations, a quality which he has shone through in his role as the Chair of UUSU Student Council. It is these qualities which make Mark a formidable leader and a worthy President of NUS-USI."



Further Education:

Having experienced FE in the past and elected to represent a large student body with a range of needs and ages, I understand the challenges that FE students face.

As your NUS-USI President I would:

- Support and further develop FE Festival
- Support the development of Societies and clubs on campuses.

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For more information on my campaign and key priorities (including the ones that I couldn't squeeze in here) visit my Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/mark4nususi

www.twitter.com/mark4nususi