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00:00:58.170 --> 00:01:08.790

Media First1: Welcome to the NUS National Conference 2020 Election Hustings for Vice President Further Education or VPFE as some of you will know it.

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00:01:09.300 --> 00:01:22.140

Media First1: I'm your host, Keme Nzerem. And joining me today are your three election candidates, Salsabeel or Salsa Elmegri from Bradford College Students' Union. Hi Salsa.

Hello.

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00:01:24.870 --> 00:01:29.970

Media First1: Aldrich Gonsalves, Dudley College of Technology Students' Union. Hi Aldrich.

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00:01:31.140 --> 00:01:31.740

Aldrich's iPhone: Hello.

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00:01:33.240 --> 00:01:38.040

Media First1: And Peter Hopwood, Godalming College Students' Association. Hi Peter.

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00:01:38.790 --> 00:01:39.210

Hello there.

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00:01:41.280 --> 00:01:55.980

Media First1: Thanks all of you for joining us. And thanks to all of you students who have sent in your questions for the candidates to answer, so you can decide who you want to represent you in your national union.

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00:01:57.810 --> 00:02:16.470

Media First1: Before we get to the questions, first, we want to hear from each of the candidates. Why do they, why do you want to represent the Union as VPFE. Starting, we will have Salsa; why do you want to be the VP?

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00:02:18.540 --> 00:02:28.470

salsa: So being the educational officer at a developed FE institution helped me to understand just what is needed for FE students across the UK.

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00:02:29.370 --> 00:02:46.350

salsa: From being involved in the NUS, for almost two years, I have seen that the organisation has become the national union of higher education students. FE has been patronised and placed on the back burner and I want to ensure that we are equal.

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00:02:47.850 --> 00:02:52.410

salsa: That we are an equal voice in the NUS and always on the agenda.

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00:02:53.670 --> 00:03:05.970

salsa: We need a VPFE, that is visible to all students who are neglected, both in the NUS circles and wider conversations about education in the sector.

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00:03:06.930 --> 00:03:18.570

salsa: With the current trajectory of cuts to further education, it is essential that we have a choice, that's not only part of the conversation but forcing the change on our terms.

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00:03:20.970 --> 00:03:26.700

Media First1: Salsa, thank you very much indeed for your introduction. Next Aldrich. Why do you want to be Vice President?

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00:03:28.050 --> 00:03:51.120

Aldrich's iPhone: Oh, so I believe FE is vibrant diverse and progressives and I want this to reflect in the quality of work in NUS, fighting for FE and our rights to be heard. For too long we have been ignored and marginalised in NUS, but we make up the largest section of the membership.

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00:03:52.320 --> 00:04:03.360

Aldrich's iPhone: I will be a VP that connects you, connects with you and listens to your concerns and fights harder on your behalf. Vote Aldrich Gonsalves.

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00:04:25.470 --> 00:04:34.230

Media First1: I'm sorry. Let's try that one again. Thank you very much indeed, Aldrich. Peter. Why do you want to be VP Further Education?

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00:04:36.690 --> 00:04:44.850

Peter Hopwood: Well, the reality for further education is that we form the vast majority of NUS membership, with almost two thirds of the membership.

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00:04:45.750 --> 00:04:54.810

Peter Hopwood: It's a diverse sector, we have sixth form colleges, we have further education colleges, and we have apprentices, and the reality is that each one of them has their own needs.

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00:04:55.530 --> 00:04:58.890

Peter Hopwood: But what I've encountered the past year, as President of my students' union,

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00:04:59.370 --> 00:05:10.230

Peter Hopwood: is that teachers are underpaid, far more than their counterparts in schools and colleges and universities. And what we find is that the funding doesn't go far enough in providing a central maintenance

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00:05:10.560 --> 00:05:24.930

Peter Hopwood: And student living costs are still on the rise with travel costs rising and no future for our students in these things going down. I want to see our Union representing further education, all areas but both HE and FE.

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00:05:26.610 --> 00:05:38.010

Media First1: Thanks to all of you for setting out your stalls and telling us so clearly what you think you can bring to the party. It's a really, really important role and

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00:05:38.520 --> 00:05:46.830

Media First1: To our first question I'm going to ask Salsa to respond first, it comes from Crawley College. So, thank you to Crawley College for submitting this.

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00:05:47.430 --> 00:05:57.630

Media First1: What is it, SALSA that you think about the student voice and student voices being heard. That is so important. What makes you want to engage in this process?

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00:05:58.500 --> 00:06:08.220

salsa: So personally, I was a student rep at my college before I became a Sabb, and I think student voice is such a powerful thing.

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00:06:09.990 --> 00:06:15.930

salsa: I think engaging with students with varying and with different experiences is very important.

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00:06:17.070 --> 00:06:27.090

salsa: As we get to know what is going well within our colleges, and what isn't going well, and to further develop the college, by listening to the voices of our students.

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00:06:29.580 --> 00:06:30.720

Media First1: Aldrich, would you agree?

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00:06:38.460 --> 00:06:39.450

Media First1: Aldrich, would you agree?

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00:06:40.440 --> 00:06:42.240

Aldrich's iPhone: Yes, I would definitely agree with that.

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00:06:45.300 --> 00:06:51.120

Media First1: And what do you think is so important, then for you personally about engaging the student voice?

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00:06:52.260 --> 00:06:59.520

Aldrich's iPhone: For me personally, the most important thing is a positive difference I'm making people's lives. I feel really happy when that happens.

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00:07:00.240 --> 00:07:10.830

Aldrich's iPhone: I'm from India, so back in India student voices are heavily controlled by the institution or the college and not by the students. Over here, I feel I have the choice to choose which topic I want to

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00:07:11.130 --> 00:07:18.120

Aldrich's iPhone: go forward with such as the environment, which is very close to my heart. So that's the thing I really love about student voice over here.

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00:07:20.910 --> 00:07:27.930

Media First1: Thanks Aldrich and Peter. Tell us a little bit more about your experience of amplifying the student

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00:07:27.930 --> 00:07:36.060

Peter Hopwood: Voice. Well, I think it's evident that when all of our voices come together, you can shift the power, the balance of power.

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00:07:36.810 --> 00:07:46.860

Peter Hopwood: Both on a local level and a national level. And I think the National Union of Students has been really strong in being able to make so many achievements for students when we all work together.

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00:07:47.490 --> 00:07:57.690

Peter Hopwood: And for me, personally, I think that as VPFE, one of the most important things in reaching out and making that change, is having strong communication and bringing people together.

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00:07:58.020 --> 00:08:07.110

Peter Hopwood: And representation is good, but actions speak louder than words. And I'm really passionate about reaching out to people and bringing our collective voices together so we can achieve real change.

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00:08:09.180 --> 00:08:16.470

Media First1: Peter. Thanks very much. And it's interesting hearing from all of you this message of working together is so strong.

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00:08:16.770 --> 00:08:20.850

Media First1: I'm really interested, Peter, and what you just said about action speaking louder than words.

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00:08:21.090 --> 00:08:28.530

Media First1: And I think the electorate is going to want to hear from all of you about what those actions should be. And that takes us on

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00:08:28.800 --> 00:08:38.100

Media First1: to our second question, and we're going to ask Aldrich to respond to this first. Our second question comes from the University of Bristol Students' Union.

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00:08:38.520 --> 00:08:49.920

Media First1: And the Students' Union from Royal Holloway in London. So, Aldrich, what would your approach be to working with stakeholders, that collaboration piece, such as

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00:08:50.430 --> 00:09:10.050

Media First1: FE institutions, regulators and other relevant organisations to achieve the positive change for students, that you all say you want, and gain credibility for the NUS to compromise and achieve, so, actually do stuff rather than simply campaign? Aldrich, how would you do that?

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00:09:11.370 --> 00:09:18.630

Aldrich's iPhone: I believe now is the key time for organisations to support one another.

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00:09:19.710 --> 00:09:24.450

Aldrich's iPhone: To give each other guidance and everyone, everyone is under pressure.

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00:09:26.190 --> 00:09:27.150

Aldrich's iPhone: And we need to keep

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00:09:32.340 --> 00:09:33.900

Media First1: That's all right. Take your time.

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00:09:36.570 --> 00:09:37.650

Aldrich's iPhone: I'm sorry about this.

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00:09:40.440 --> 00:09:44.550

Media First1: It's fine, you, you're in an FE institution at the moment. Right.

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00:09:46.320 --> 00:09:59.280

Media First1: So how would you suggest working better with an institution such as your own to get better deals for students and make their experience of student life better?

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00:10:01.680 --> 00:10:11.310

Aldrich's iPhone: Okay, so, uh, I'll tell you something that we are doing right now in our students' union in Dudley College Students' Union. This was brought up by Dan the previous president to me.

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00:10:14.280 --> 00:10:15.480

Media First1: Yet we're still going to keep going.

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00:10:16.470 --> 00:10:23.310

Aldrich's iPhone: So this project was brought up by Dan the previous president to me, and it was called the Black Country Students' Union.

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00:10:23.580 --> 00:10:30.660

Aldrich's iPhone: Which basically means all the colleges in the Black Country come together to campaign together and support each other. So, this was

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00:10:31.050 --> 00:10:39.960

Aldrich's iPhone: one of the campaigns that I took on myself, and we're going forward with it, and I am working with NUS to get some help for it.

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00:10:40.950 --> 00:10:53.610

Aldrich's iPhone: So basically, I believe when FE institutions comes together, we can achieve so much more than just one college campaigning for something. Love our Colleges is a really good example. Like so many colleges coming together,

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00:10:54.510 --> 00:11:08.910

Aldrich's iPhone: signing up the pledge cards and stuff like that made a massive difference. Now, the government he having talks about getting more funding for colleges, so I believe if we do such things, I think we can achieve more than just one college trying to achieve it.

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00:11:10.440 --> 00:11:26.370

Media First1: Aldrich. Thanks very much. Really interesting hearing about you've done in your own institution. And Peter working with stakeholders, such as colleges, other educational organisations, what do you think you could do as VPFE?

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00:11:27.390 --> 00:11:36.450

Peter Hopwood: So for me, from the moment I'm elected, I'll make sure that I'm building up those relationships with the other organisations that have involvement with the FE sector.

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00:11:37.080 --> 00:11:42.360

Peter Hopwood: I think it's really important to recognise the diverse nature of further education, as I said before,

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00:11:42.780 --> 00:11:47.820

Peter Hopwood: You know, you have your sixth form colleges. Your apprentices, the bigger technical colleges, etc.

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00:11:48.180 --> 00:11:56.310

Peter Hopwood: And with that comes their own different campaign organisations and groups. And I think for the NUS, it's really important that we're building up relationships.

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00:11:56.550 --> 00:12:07.140

Peter Hopwood: And building up common goals and common platforms and reaching out. And I also think, on a bit of a side note, I think it's important to remember that a lot of trust in the NUS has been damaged over the years.

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00:12:07.500 --> 00:12:18.450

Peter Hopwood: And, it's all good having these big campaigns. But I think as an FTO (full time officer) I'll really prioritise, making sure that we build up good relationships with both the membership and these key stakeholders.

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00:12:20.520 --> 00:12:26.640

Media First1: Peter, thank you very much indeed. Salsa, managing those complex relationships, how would you go about it?

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00:12:27.540 --> 00:12:36.690

salsa: So, I second what Peter was saying about having a good relationship with stakeholders. I'd like to engage with stakeholders to work with.

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00:12:38.700 --> 00:12:52.530

salsa: trade unions to better drive student voice within colleges. I'd want to work with local authorities to make recommendations on adding the importance of climate emergency into the curriculum. I'd want to make

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00:12:53.550 --> 00:13:01.830

salsa: I'd want to work with organisations to tackle the youth violence, and youth poverty, since they are a catalyst of each other.

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00:13:03.810 --> 00:13:09.210

salsa: And also, I'd like to tackle sexual harassment within colleges and youth homelessness.

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00:13:10.500 --> 00:13:18.600

salsa: And all collectively work with these organisations to lobby government for funding towards a FE colleges.

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00:13:19.950 --> 00:13:25.590

Media First1: Salsa, thanks very much indeed. Great to hear your perspectives there. And I just want to go back to something

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00:13:25.920 --> 00:13:36.780

Media First1: That you, said Peter, and get you all to respond to it. This issue of the NUS and credibility, obviously you guys are at the younger end of the representation of the representative body.

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00:13:37.380 --> 00:13:50.250

Media First1: What do you see as the challenge to getting giving the NUS the credibility and the oomph that you all want it to have. How would you go about improving that?

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00:13:52.800 --> 00:14:03.840

Peter Hopwood: So, I think we need to start by actually communicating with the membership. I think, you know, it's fantastic that we have these big national campaigns. That's really important.

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00:14:04.230 --> 00:14:11.760

Peter Hopwood: But, at the same time that can be quite meaningless to a lot of colleges, that face their own struggles and don't feel that their voice is heard. So

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00:14:12.600 --> 00:14:21.450

Peter Hopwood: As the further education representative, I'll make sure that I'm actually visiting the colleges and bringing to attention the needs that aren't always discussed. You know,

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00:14:22.350 --> 00:14:28.230

Peter Hopwood: When working with other stakeholders, you know, I'm at a sixth form college where we have the Sixth Form Colleges' Association.

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00:14:28.560 --> 00:14:34.800

Peter Hopwood: And I feel that a lot of the issues that they're raising the NUS could also raise, but they're not doing enough of that. So, I think that the

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00:14:35.100 --> 00:14:44.190

Peter Hopwood: VPFE needs to be someone who can reach out and visit these colleges and get to understand the different issues before they move on to these really ambitious campaigns.

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00:14:47.910 --> 00:14:51.150

Media First1: Thanks, Peter. Aldrich, credibility.

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00:14:51.360 --> 00:14:52.440

Media First1: How would you deal with that?

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00:14:53.040 --> 00:14:56.340

Aldrich's iPhone: I totally agree with Peter that's true that our

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00:14:57.300 --> 00:15:04.110

Aldrich's iPhone: Members are not represented very well in the NUS. That's what we feel. When last year when we went for the National Conference.

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00:15:04.380 --> 00:15:11.910

Aldrich's iPhone: That's what my team said to me, that we were not very well represented, it was all about HE. So, as Peter said, my plans are similar to him.

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00:15:12.480 --> 00:15:27.840

Aldrich's iPhone: Going to all and visiting colleges around the country, not just visiting them, but if possible, I could do Skype calls, sending them emails, phone calls, setting up WhatsApp groups. These are the stuff that I want to do for every FE community over here.

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00:15:31.200 --> 00:15:36.990

Media First1: Thanks Aldrich. Salsa, anything to add on credibility, the credibility piece is really important.

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00:15:37.470 --> 00:15:41.010

salsa: Yeah, I agree with both of them. I feel like

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00:15:42.780 --> 00:15:56.910

salsa: I feel like NUS has glamorized campaigns so much that people don't actually see that action has been taken. So, I feel like we should glamorize action rather than campaigning.

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00:15:59.220 --> 00:16:04.290

Media First1: And that leads us very nicely on to our next question.

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00:16:05.580 --> 00:16:17.100

Media First1: That tricky balance between campaigning and action, and actually having an impact, given the political, and social, and economic situation we find ourselves in.

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00:16:17.520 --> 00:16:34.530

Media First1: This question comes from SOAS Students' Union and Peter will respond first. How should, in your view, the National Union of Students engage with the new Conservative government to best benefit

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00:16:34.980 --> 00:16:41.940

Media First1: FE members? How are you going to work with the new government to work with the younger members of the student body?

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00:16:42.840 --> 00:16:51.030

Peter Hopwood: Well, I think anyone that knows me personally will know that the election went opposite to the way I'd hoped. But, we've got to deal with the hands we're given.

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00:16:51.600 --> 00:17:00.360

Peter Hopwood: And the reality is that this current government have made a lot of ambitious claims, which the NUS works best when it holds government to account.

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00:17:00.660 --> 00:17:09.810

Peter Hopwood: And can work on furthering the needs of its membership. So I'm open to, you know, working with, you know,

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00:17:10.260 --> 00:17:19.470

Peter Hopwood: Other organisations and holding the government to account and, you know, talking to the government. And you know, I hope that they're sincere about their promises, because we need

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00:17:19.980 --> 00:17:29.910

Peter Hopwood: As much support as we can get as a sector, but I think the NUS works best when we can hold them to account and actually communicate with other organisations to deliver.

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00:17:32.850 --> 00:17:41.250

Media First1: Thank you Peter and Salsa, what are your views on working with the new Conservative government, whatever your political persuasions?

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00:17:42.060 --> 00:17:54.240

salsa: Sadly, we have politicians and leaders within our current government who have repeatedly said hateful remarks towards marginalised groups.

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00:17:54.990 --> 00:18:14.880

salsa: We just have to keep in mind that they've created hostile immigration policies that's made it hard for asylum seekers and accompanied asylum seekers to adjust within the FE sector, we just have to keep in mind the cuts towards youth organisations and mental health services.

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00:18:16.470 --> 00:18:32.070

salsa: However, they are the ones who hold the funding and they are the ones who influence policy, but we have to take a stance on their outlook and work with them in a principled manner.

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00:18:33.570 --> 00:18:43.050

Media First1: Indeed, and of course were the government here to represent themselves. I'm sure they would say the education sector has to pay for itself. It can't be a permanent

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00:18:43.530 --> 00:19:04.830

Media First1: Black hole on the nation's finances. That said they're not here to answer questions on their policy. This spaces for you to talk about how you will work with them. So on to Aldrich, how would you work with the current Conservative government in the interests of FE students?

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00:19:05.850 --> 00:19:10.260

Aldrich's iPhone: I would say that there are conversations that NUS has already

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00:19:11.010 --> 00:19:22.170

Aldrich's iPhone: Had with the government and they should continue on. Regardless, which party is in place if it's labour, if it's conservative, if it's green. Doesn't matter. I think we should carry on the conversations we have because

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00:19:23.160 --> 00:19:30.300

Aldrich's iPhone: If that conversation breaks down, then it would take a whole other effort for us to go back and try to restart the conversations.

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00:19:30.540 --> 00:19:41.130

Aldrich's iPhone: I would also encourage all the Students' Union around the country to lobby their MPs, because at the end of the day, the MPs would be making the decisions in the parliament, so

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00:19:42.240 --> 00:19:53.220

Aldrich's iPhone: If we do like lobby the MPs it is going to be great for us and we could always keep the conversation going on in the parliament, such as the love our colleges campaign.

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00:19:55.890 --> 00:20:09.360

Media First1: Aldrich. Thank you. And I just want to dig a little bit deeper then on your views around working with government, and the range of options you think are open to the student body. In one of the other hot Hustings

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00:20:10.440 --> 00:20:18.240

Media First1: We talked a little bit about how far one should go in direct action strikes etc and bearing in mind what this government has

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00:20:18.570 --> 00:20:30.330

Media First1: Pledged in terms of funding or not, and also acknowledging that some of the most effective social campaigns of the moment, the climate campaign, has been largely led by young people.

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00:20:30.720 --> 00:20:47.880

Media First1: I just want to start with you in the same order. Peter, what are your, what are your views on working with, negotiation, compromise, all the way through to direct action, and encouraging things like the climate strike?

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00:20:49.650 --> 00:20:53.880

Peter Hopwood: Well, I think the reality is that strikes are a last resort, you know, people don't.

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00:20:54.510 --> 00:21:08.160

Peter Hopwood: You know, it's often a situation that is quite desperate. But for things like climate change is a desperate situation and I feel really encouraged by the fact that young people are taking the initiative to actually go out there and make a statement, you can't ignore that.

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00:21:09.330 --> 00:21:20.550

Peter Hopwood: You know my preference is for building bridges. You know, I believe in kind of a collaborative or constructive way of approaching things. But I think as Salsa said we are facing a government that has been very hostile

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00:21:21.210 --> 00:21:26.880

Peter Hopwood: Has made, you know, massive cuts to education, and is leaving a lot of colleges in the dark about the future.

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00:21:27.540 --> 00:21:40.530

Peter Hopwood: So, there's a time and a place for working with other organisations that can hold the government to account. And I think, you know, strikes that are the last resort, but I think on issues like climate change, they've been absolutely necessary in bringing forward the argument.

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00:21:42.540 --> 00:21:44.430

Media First1: And Salsa for you.

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00:21:44.550 --> 00:21:46.560

Media First1: Strikes also the last resort? or

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00:21:46.890 --> 00:21:48.420

Media First1: Would you want to be more proactive?

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00:21:49.170 --> 00:21:59.640

salsa: I totally agree. This is why I'd like to, I feel like doing negotiations is very important. So this is why I think us as NUS

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00:22:00.300 --> 00:22:11.190

salsa: should collaborate with local authorities and trying to implement this within the education system. So as part of the curriculum for future generations to come.

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00:22:12.330 --> 00:22:14.670

Media First1: Thank you Salsa. Aldrich. Where do you stand??

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00:22:15.630 --> 00:22:29.580

Aldrich's iPhone: I totally agree with Salsa, to be honest. Climate change is very close to my heart and I do believe strikes are the last resort for students or anyone in particular, but I also believe that rather than just

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00:22:30.630 --> 00:22:44.550

Aldrich's iPhone: blaming it on the government, I believe we as a person should take responsibility as well. So in my college we changed the packaging and stuff like that. We hold the college to account saying

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00:22:45.630 --> 00:22:54.180

Aldrich's iPhone: 'reduce your carbon footprint' and the college agreed to it. And now the plastic packaging is converted into reusable and biodegradable packaging.

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00:22:54.720 --> 00:23:00.870

Aldrich's iPhone: We also planted different trees, so I would really encourage all the students' unions to follow the tree Charter.

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00:23:01.500 --> 00:23:14.370

Aldrich's iPhone: Because it's really helpful. And coming to strikes. I also think that we should get signatures, because if we get over 100,000 signatures then it is something that can be talked about in the parliament. So, I think that would help as well.

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00:23:16.020 --> 00:23:38.040

Media First1: Aldrich thanks very much indeed. On to the next question, which comes from DerwEn College Students' Union. And it's almost certainly something that you three see with your own eyes, as you have, of course, a different entry point to the students

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00:23:39.420 --> 00:23:48.420

Media First1: representative body, then a lot of the other candidates in this election, who come from different parts of the of the student body.

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00:23:49.350 --> 00:24:04.320

Media First1: The question is this, and we will start with salsa. With more student unions from specialist colleges joining the NUS, How do you think you will support them to be involved in NUS democracy and events.

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00:24:04.770 --> 00:24:13.050

Media First1: Given, and this is the crucial bit, given their wide range of learning difficulties and disabilities. A really, really important question.

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00:24:14.970 --> 00:24:28.260

salsa: So, for me personally, I'd want to host some feedback sessions with these specialist colleges, to see where NUS is doing well and areas of improvement and really listen to their concerns.

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00:24:29.070 --> 00:24:40.230

salsa: I'd like to possibly start and introduce a specialist grant to support them to be able to attend all the NUS democracy events, as much as possible.

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00:24:40.800 --> 00:24:57.270

salsa: I'd want to work closely with NATSPEC who offer specialist provisions for students with learning difficulties and disabilities and to get their advice on how to make our spaces, accessible and more inclusive.

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00:24:59.940 --> 00:25:16.440

Media First1: And accessibility and inclusion of course are so important when we talk about democracy. Aldrich, what would you do to help specialist colleges engage in students' representation?

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00:25:17.490 --> 00:25:31.500

Aldrich's iPhone: So I know that NUS have had so much advice and guidance over and over again from LDD colleges and students. But I don't know how far it's been implemented, but giving an example from our college,

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00:25:31.950 --> 00:25:43.890

Aldrich's iPhone: We have a Disability Committee, and they are hosting a forum at the moment. So in that forum, we made sure that our students who are deaf have an interpreter in there. We have braille.

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00:25:44.400 --> 00:25:55.770

Aldrich's iPhone: Literature. We also have pack cards that show images to LDD students. So, I believe these are the things that need to be introduced in conferences, in the meetings, that NUS hosts as well.

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00:25:57.690 --> 00:26:02.580

Media First1: Thanks Aldrich. Peter much experience in this area?

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00:26:05.340 --> 00:26:17.130

Peter Hopwood: Well, so I come from a much smaller college. So, for us, you know, there's far fewer people with, you know, just in terms of raw numbers with, you know, learning difficulties and,

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00:26:18.000 --> 00:26:26.130

Peter Hopwood: disabilities. But you know, I think it's important that every college is an accessible space. And with that, the NUS needs to be campaigning.

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00:26:26.550 --> 00:26:33.840

Peter Hopwood: To make sure that colleges have the funding and the support in place that they need. I think it's important to remember

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00:26:34.290 --> 00:26:49.890

Peter Hopwood: FE is such a diverse sector. So, every voice is always welcome, and every voice needs to be heard. And for me, I'm passionate about building bridges and communicating with every single member, because it's really important that, in a democracy, everyone has access to it.

156

00:26:52.170 --> 00:27:06.570

Media First1: Peter, thank you very much indeed. On to the next question, also about inclusion and integration, and Aldrich, I'm going to ask you to respond to this one first. It comes from Heriot Watt Students' Union.

157

00:27:07.320 --> 00:27:13.770

Media First1: How will you Aldrich ensure the NUS works with other youth organisations and charities

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00:27:14.190 --> 00:27:27.330

Media First1: to achieve its goals, and I know you've all spoken a little bit about how you think this would work. But this is an opportunity to go a bit deeper. So Aldrich, how would you ensure the NUS works with other youth organisations and charities to achieve its goals?

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00:27:28.440 --> 00:27:35.880

Aldrich's iPhone: So, NUS really needs to make those connections. I think some of the work, NUS has carried out in the past may be

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00:27:36.210 --> 00:27:56.370

Aldrich's iPhone: Could have benefitted from linking up with other charities and organisations. It could be much stronger if it had. Making those links is very important for getting those relationships going,

looking at the mutual benefits, and NUS could learn a lot from these organisations.

161

00:27:57.660 --> 00:27:57.810

162

00:28:01.200 --> 00:28:09.330

Media First1: Thank you, Aldrich. Peter, youth groups and other similar organisations and charities, how are you going to work with them?

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00:28:09.900 --> 00:28:16.020

Peter Hopwood: Well, so I think in regards to the question. And, you know, talking about this idea of,

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00:28:18.780 --> 00:28:22.770

Peter Hopwood: working with other groups and things, I think its about

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00:28:23.430 --> 00:28:31.680

Peter Hopwood: building up a common platform, recognising the things we have in common. I think if you look at a lot of these groups, these organisations we have more in common

166

00:28:32.370 --> 00:28:47.760

Peter Hopwood: on so many issues than we realize, and I think we work best when we're able to recognise that and start building a common platform. As I said earlier, I believe in a cooperative way of doing things. I think that building bridges with other groups is best when we're trying to move forwards.

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00:28:49.980 --> 00:28:54.060

Media First1: Thank you Peter. Salsa, youth groups?

168

00:28:55.560 --> 00:29:07.530

salsa: Yes, so I second what both were saying, definitely building bridges, and recognising things in common. For me, I'd want to work with

169

00:29:08.250 --> 00:29:14.250

salsa: The British Youth Council, the British Youth Parliament, who have connections with local authorities to make change.

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00:29:15.210 --> 00:29:26.340

salsa: A fee and by making change. I mean, working together to lobby government funding towards these organizations and to tackle the main issue that we are facing, which is

171

00:29:26.970 --> 00:29:45.000

salsa: youth violence and youth homelessness and poverty. I also want to work with charities, such as minecart by analyzing their statistics and research, research to help support students with learning difficulties and possibly working with them on a an education collaboration.

172

00:29:46.710 --> 00:29:57.450

salsa: Basically on the prevalence of learning difficulties with NFP and also working with other charities, like your minds and mind to UK to help smooth in the transition between

173

00:29:58.050 --> 00:30:14.790

salsa: Moving from a young person's mental health service to another profession. So yeah, I think it's really, really important to build these connections and possibly just go into each other's workshops, as well, to find out what we have in common and work together on that.

174

00:30:16.290 --> 00:30:23.220

Media First1: Absolutely. It's worth noting the pressures on young people in the students are high across the board and

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00:30:23.820 --> 00:30:30.360

Media First1: The groups that you mentioned that work with welfare across the board are so important. We all know that.

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00:30:31.050 --> 00:30:38.370

Media First1: Another question on inclusion and integration and it's worth noting, of course, that in the three candidates, we have here we

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00:30:39.120 --> 00:30:47.130

Media First1: Get across the country. We've got Dudley, we've got Bradford and we've got Surrey as well, this question, which comes

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00:30:47.730 --> 00:31:05.400

Media First1: From the City of Liverpool College Students Union, Durham Students' Union, Bedford College Group Students Union and Students Union UCL, we're going to go to Peter first on this. So thinking about that issue around inclusion and geography.

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00:31:06.420 --> 00:31:18.840

Media First1: What will you do to make all students feel included in the NUS, such as apprentices and those in institutions further away from Westminster. The regionalism.

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00:31:19.410 --> 00:31:29.760

Media First1: How are you going to connect with students all over the country, perhaps studying things that are non traditionally, not academic in the traditional sense?

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00:31:30.810 --> 00:31:45.180

Peter Hopwood: So I just want to start by saying I was really excited to see that the National Society of Apprentices has affiliated with the NUS. I think that's a really important step. And I'm really excited to see them being incorporated into that further education family within the NUS.

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00:31:46.320 --> 00:31:59.340

Peter Hopwood: But I think in regards to making everyone feel welcome, regardless of geography. I think we need to stop just focusing on these big campaigns and marches on Westminster, the reality is that most colleges,

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00:32:00.030 --> 00:32:08.880

Peter Hopwood: whilst these campaigns can be important and can affect them, a lot of them don't always reflect their views or their needs and actually the NUS isn't necessarily delivering for them.

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00:32:09.390 --> 00:32:15.810

Peter Hopwood: And so for me as VP FE I'm committed to making sure that we're communicating with every college around the country.

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00:32:16.170 --> 00:32:20.250

Peter Hopwood: A lot of members don't even come to conference. I think that's really disappointing.

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00:32:20.520 --> 00:32:30.660

Peter Hopwood: I think we really need to encourage engagement with the NUS and we can only do that when we're putting aside some of these campaigns and actually making the effort to visit them and hear about what they need.

187

00:32:32.850 --> 00:32:40.440

Media First1: Salsa. So, how will you go about developing these relationships. Will you be will you be pounding the streets going one end of the country to another.

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00:32:40.920 --> 00:32:46.890

salsa: Yes, I'm very passionate about that, I'd like to hold feedback sessions with everyone.

189

00:32:48.270 --> 00:33:06.120

salsa: Sorry, to hold open feedback sessions to understand the needs of apprentices because they have like acute needs and obviously for all the colleges around the UK. I'd want to make constitutional changes within the NUS to help accommodate for apprentices and

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00:33:07.350 --> 00:33:10.980

salsa: And colleges, I'd like to also hold

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00:33:12.750 --> 00:33:25.770

salsa: roundtable discussions with youth services, charities, local authorities and colleges that aren't centralized around Westminster and London to drive student wise across the whole country.

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00:33:27.510 --> 00:33:31.560

Media First1: And Aldrich from your vantage point in Dudley

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00:33:32.220 --> 00:33:33.120

Aldrich's iPhone: How will you go about it?

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00:33:33.600 --> 00:33:40.200

Aldrich's iPhone: Yeah, I'll start saying about how to include the apprentices. So in our union, we have our apprentice officer.

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00:33:41.070 --> 00:33:46.680

Aldrich's iPhone: So the apprentice officer is sending out surveys to all the apprentices across

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00:33:47.100 --> 00:33:55.740

Aldrich's iPhone: West Midlands because Dudley is the largest provider of apprentices in the West Midlands, so we will be sending out surveys to everyone. So, this

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00:33:56.070 --> 00:34:05.610

Aldrich's iPhone: This will show me fantasy that day I included in our student union and then I highly encourage all students Union to have I am apprentice - and

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00:34:06.570 --> 00:34:19.920

Aldrich's iPhone: Do similar surveys. I do understand that they're in in college once a week and not more than that. But this is very important to get their views and to represent the abuse as well and saying about going to one

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00:34:20.970 --> 00:34:31.320

Aldrich's iPhone: City to another to represent all the unions. Yes, I would do it. I would love to do it. I would love to go outside and meet other union presidents as well and discuss what issues their

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00:34:32.250 --> 00:34:38.340

Aldrich's iPhone: Institution is facing specifically and try to solve it. I'll try to come up with an idea that everybody is satisfied with

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00:34:40.200 --> 00:35:00.120

Media First1: Lots of talking. And on that note on to the next question. Clearly the NUS as an organization has changed significantly. This is a question that comes from Queen Mary University London and it's going to go first to Salsa.

202

00:35:01.200 --> 00:35:16.980

Media First1: What will you do differently to your predecessors to engage your students more directly as well as their students unions, what has the, what is the National Union of students got to learn how is it going to change to improve?

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00:35:17.460 --> 00:35:20.460

salsa: Yeah. So I realized that there is

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00:35:21.540 --> 00:35:31.770

salsa: Newsletters from the President, but not from the vice president further education. So I'd like to have a social media presence.

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00:35:33.060 --> 00:35:38.670

salsa: Through the FE newsletter. So students are aware of issues regarding

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00:35:40.080 --> 00:35:56.550

salsa: FE and what updates we have. I'd like to communicate with FE officers to give them the tools and the knowledge on how to make effective change within that SU and colleges and make reasonable adjustments.

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00:35:57.780 --> 00:36:01.350

salsa: As you are all aware of the current pandemic.

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00:36:02.070 --> 00:36:22.980

salsa: A lot of things have been postponed, so I want to put adjustments and contingencies and plan. So, God forbid, if something like this ever happens again we are still able to reach out to other colleges and still be in contact with them. And we're not missing out on campaigns, on negotiations.

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00:36:24.180 --> 00:36:24.780

salsa: Etc.

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00:36:26.010 --> 00:36:28.620

Media First1: Salsa, so thanks. So using social media is one solution.

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00:36:30.210 --> 00:36:41.820

Media First1: Aldrich. What are you going to do differently that the Union perhaps hasn't done in in the past. How are you going to communicate and engage with your members more directly?

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00:36:43.020 --> 00:36:50.250

Aldrich's iPhone: So this is another thing that my students union personally does very well. We have a website, we have social media presence.

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00:36:50.940 --> 00:36:56.670

Aldrich's iPhone: We send out emails, newsletters, messages. So I would like to do the same.

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00:36:57.090 --> 00:37:07.170

Aldrich's iPhone: Something similar, I would like to broaden that rather than just relying on newsletters and emails I would go to WhatsApp, social media in general, email, newsletters, have my

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00:37:07.770 --> 00:37:21.330

Aldrich's iPhone: Have a separate page on NUS, I know they do, but I would try to get it a bit out there that people know this is what I'm doing. This is what I'm working for them. So everybody knows what I will be working on.

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00:37:23.430 --> 00:37:31.110

Media First1: Aldrich. Thank you. So both of you talking clearly about, kind of, communication. Peter for you. What are you going to do differently?

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00:37:32.130 --> 00:37:44.520

Peter Hopwood: Well, as I said earlier, communication for me is really important, but further to that; actions speak louder than words. And I think for a lot of unions, they're feeling failed by the NUS. They're not feeling that their issues are listened to.

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00:37:45.030 --> 00:37:52.380

Peter Hopwood: With many unions their issues are quite nuanced, with mine, You know, we don't have a budget, we don't get paid, we're volunteers.

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00:37:52.710 --> 00:38:00.450

Peter Hopwood: And what I want us to the NUS delivering on and as VP. This is something that I'm committed to is actually listening to some of these more nuanced concerns.

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00:38:00.840 --> 00:38:06.120

Peter Hopwood: And actually, not only communicating, but following up and actually just the second point that

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00:38:07.080 --> 00:38:12.450

Peter Hopwood: That hasn't really been touched upon yet is, we also need to be working with the nation's and

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00:38:12.930 --> 00:38:28.230

Peter Hopwood: The devolved NUS, so NUS Wales, NUS Scotland and NUS in Northern Ireland, and we need to actually be working with these different frameworks and not only communicating, which is really important, but actually building that up with action.

223

00:38:29.250 --> 00:38:30.450

Peter Hopwood: That's really important to me.

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00:38:31.590 --> 00:38:47.940

Media First1: Actions speak louder than words, a phrase that we have heard frequently because the role that all three of you are going for you want to, you want to have an impact. This is not just a talking shop, after all.

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00:38:49.290 --> 00:39:10.350

Media First1: We're going to come to Salsa for the next question first, which comes from the University of Wolverhampton Students Union and I'm going to ask you to think about a group of students that perhaps you haven't spent that much time thinking about. But one day, maybe you will be one.

226

00:39:11.580 --> 00:39:35.130

Media First1: Here is the question more than 30% of students are over 35 YEARS OF AGE, Of them, MORE THAN 50% are over 40 but the needs of mature students are often forgotten. How would you go about increasing the representation of older students and hold the government to account

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00:39:35.490 --> 00:39:35.850

Media First1: For that?

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00:39:36.120 --> 00:39:37.050

Media First1: We'll start with yourself. So

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00:39:37.530 --> 00:39:48.720

salsa: Yeah, The majority of our students are mature students. So we have a massive department and there are mature students

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00:39:49.500 --> 00:40:08.610

salsa: For me, I'm very passionate into ring fencing the 19 plus funding. What that means is, so the government gives let's say 10 million pounds into a college and then the college can say, well, we want 5 million of that to go towards 19 plus funding.

231

00:40:10.560 --> 00:40:13.320

salsa: So I think that should be protected.

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00:40:14.670 --> 00:40:21.930

salsa: Because the 14 to 18 funding is protected, 19 plus funding should be as well.

233

00:40:23.100 --> 00:40:28.710

salsa: I want to support and encourage SUs to introduce the mature students officer.

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00:40:29.970 --> 00:40:39.810

salsa: To help representation. I'd like to develop workshops on engagement and representation with a specific material to mature students.

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00:40:42.810 --> 00:40:49.890

Media First1: Thank you Sasa, very, very well considered. Peter, mature students, how are you going to represent them?

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00:40:51.660 --> 00:40:58.860

Peter Hopwood: Well, in regards to what Salsa said, mature officer wouldn't be possible in my case, because we only cater for 16 to 19 year olds.

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00:40:59.040 --> 00:40:59.730

Peter Hopwood: Right, but

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00:41:00.240 --> 00:41:09.720

Peter Hopwood: Having said that, when I was at the NUS conference last year, you know, I was actually, you know, this bit of a story here. But you know, I was really touched by the fact that there was a mature

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00:41:10.350 --> 00:41:19.890

Peter Hopwood: officer and they proposed a motion to conference campaigning for 16 to 17 year old railcards, for me that was quite a touching moment because what I saw was

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00:41:20.160 --> 00:41:30.630

Peter Hopwood: A fellow student, someone who wouldn't have been directly impacted by that policy, but campaigning for my rights to get better travel, and the reality is that are you know works best

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00:41:30.780 --> 00:41:40.140

Peter Hopwood: When every single student works together. And so, you know, I'm not here saying that my college cases for mature students and I can necessarily personally relate to those issues.

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00:41:40.410 --> 00:41:49.530

Peter Hopwood: But I'm someone who I'm absolutely committed to recognizing the needs of students and working with every student to deliver on their needs. And I think it's an area that isn't talked about enough

243

00:41:49.890 --> 00:42:04.050

Peter Hopwood: But for me, that moment that conference really important in opening my eyes to the real broad range of students at the NUS caters for and then in further education, our voice doesn't get heard enough already. So it's really important that we stand up for one another.

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00:42:05.340 --> 00:42:13.320

Media First1: And this message of collaboration and understanding the needs across the student population. We're hearing this again and again from all of you and

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00:42:13.800 --> 00:42:21.210

Media First1: Aldrich, will get an opportunity to respond to that question, but he has had to go temporarily hopefully he'll be back in a moment.

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00:42:21.780 --> 00:42:33.960

Media First1: But we're going to move on to the next question. And Peter, you'll have a chance to answer this one first. It's comes from Edge Hill. Students Union and

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00:42:34.770 --> 00:42:50.910

Media First1: I would just like to point out how impressed I think everyone will be with how collegiate and supportive the candidates have been of one another and how polite this discussion is and that's really important because we're building a Union that is respectful and builds for the future.

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00:42:52.020 --> 00:42:56.040

Media First1: But I want to ask you something. Peter, what do you have

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00:42:57.300 --> 00:42:58.620

Media First1: That the other candidates don't?

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00:42:59.670 --> 00:43:09.990

Peter Hopwood: Well, firstly, I hope everyone's impressed by my amazing hair. I mean, my nickname is Ed Sheeran, and that's a point that I won't cease to be proud of. But I mean, on a more serious note.

251

00:43:11.130 --> 00:43:12.570

Aldrich's iPhone: I'm President of Student Union.

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00:43:12.840 --> 00:43:21.510

Peter Hopwood: Where I don't get paid to do what I do, you know, I do it because I want to help the students. I want to be supporting the very people that I was elected to serve.

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00:43:21.840 --> 00:43:28.320

Peter Hopwood: And that goes to the same with being VP. You know, I can't, you know, I don't understand necessarily the same

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00:43:29.040 --> 00:43:47.520

Peter Hopwood: Experiences as Aldrich and Salsa. But for me, I have had my experiences and I will absolutely stand up for everyone. And that's something that is really important to me, is communication building up strong relationships and that's with anyone, whoever they are within our sector.

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00:43:49.290 --> 00:43:52.890

Media First1: Thanks Peter. Well, we already know that salsa can sing, as can

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00:43:52.950 --> 00:43:55.410

Media First1: Ed Sheeran, but in the context of being

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00:43:55.770 --> 00:44:01.200

Media First1: VP FE, Salsa. What have you got that the other candidates don't?

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00:44:02.940 --> 00:44:20.670

salsa: So as a Muslim woman of colour who has been subjected to various types of discrimination, this has helped me with resilience and basically I have a strong and personal commitment to support students who have gone through

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00:44:21.840 --> 00:44:33.750

salsa: Discrimination or neglect within the education sector, I'd like to support mature students who have felt isolated because they feel like they need to care

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00:44:34.530 --> 00:44:44.310

salsa: No, sorry mature students who have caring responsibilities, who may feel like they need to choose between education or caring for their loved ones.

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00:44:44.640 --> 00:44:56.310

salsa: I'd like to support students from working class backgrounds who might be struggling to come into college because of financial difficulties and I'd also like to support

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00:44:57.570 --> 00:45:00.870

salsa: Students with disabilities who might feel like they don't,

263

00:45:02.490 --> 00:45:03.690

salsa: Who might feel,

264

00:45:06.540 --> 00:45:10.440

salsa: Different because of the environment that's been,

265

00:45:11.790 --> 00:45:18.120

salsa: Because of the environment that college has created to make it feel not accessible.

266

00:45:20.250 --> 00:45:27.360

Media First1: And making education, something that is comfortable and accessible for everybody is so important for building

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00:45:27.990 --> 00:45:32.490

Media First1: Future generations of leaders of course. We're delighted to say we have Aldrich back,

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00:45:32.970 --> 00:45:41.190

Media First1: The, the, the question that we're dealing with at the moment, Aldrich and bearing in mind how supportive of one another and how

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00:45:41.730 --> 00:45:54.570

Media First1: Professional THIS ENTIRE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN, I wanted to ask you a question that gives you a chance to put some water between you and your colleagues, what do you have that the other candidates do not?

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00:45:57.420 --> 00:46:02.820

Aldrich's iPhone: First of all, I'd like to apologize for what happened. Secondly, I don't really know my

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00:46:03.570 --> 00:46:19.230

Aldrich's iPhone: opponents personally, so I don't want to comment on their abilities or anything like that, but I'm really sure that we all are passionate and committed people over here, just like being here today shows that how passionate everybody is here. So,

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00:46:20.580 --> 00:46:25.470

Aldrich's iPhone: So I want really frame layout from like that because,

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00:46:27.420 --> 00:46:28.560

Aldrich's iPhone: I'm getting nervous again.

274

00:46:31.230 --> 00:46:31.830
Media First1: That's all right.

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00:46:33.570 --> 00:46:36.540
Media First1: That's, that's absolutely fine.

276
00:46:37.740 --> 00:46:48.750
Media First1: Perhaps, whilst you think of that we can rewind to the question that unfortunately you missed around representing

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00:46:49.200 --> 00:46:55.980
Media First1: mature students. So I'll repeat the question so you have it, it comes from the University of Wolverhampton

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00:46:56.370 --> 00:47:01.680
Media First1: Students Union and this is to Aldrich, because the other two candidates have had a chance to talk about this already, Aldrich,

279
00:47:02.370 --> 00:47:24.030
Media First1: More than 30% of students are over 35 YEARS OF AGE. OF THEM MORE THAN 50% are over 40 but the needs of mature students are, as we know, often forgotten how would you go about increasing representation for older students and hold the government to account for them?

280
00:47:27.630 --> 00:47:41.550
Aldrich's iPhone: So in our, in our Union most of my VP team are mature students that coming from vocational courses to HE, to accessible HE. So we have a wide range of students are in our Union.

281
00:47:42.960 --> 00:47:58.200
Aldrich's iPhone: There are, there is also a position where a mature student can be an officer and campaign for just mature students. This is what I will be, again, encouraging the other students union. Students Union around the country to do as well, so that we know

282
00:47:58.860 --> 00:48:06.600
Aldrich's iPhone: Their needs and the problems. I do understand that some of the needs, what they are. But, uh, sometimes you don't get the full story.

283
00:48:08.010 --> 00:48:11.370
Aldrich's iPhone: So coming to a government

284
00:48:16.200 --> 00:48:18.300
Aldrich's iPhone: Coming to holding the government to account.

285
00:48:19.410 --> 00:48:22.740

Aldrich's iPhone: I'm really sorry. I don't know what's happening now.
I'm really sorry.

286

00:48:23.610 --> 00:48:26.640

Media First1: Aldrich. Thank you so much for speaking so eloquently

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00:48:26.880 --> 00:48:38.250

Media First1: About what you have done in your college and what you hope to bring to a national position. And I think we've got time for one more question guys

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00:48:38.790 --> 00:48:46.170

Media First1: Before we wrap and I will give you an opportunity to make a concluding statement. If you wish to,

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00:48:46.980 --> 00:49:07.740

Media First1: But before we get there, and we're going to start with Peter, this time. This is a question from Liverpool Guild Students Union starting with Peter, Peter, what will you do to help movement building on our campuses?

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00:49:11.010 --> 00:49:21.990

Peter Hopwood: Well, any strong movement needs a strong student union to help support it. And that's why my manifesto I've committed to campaigning for fully funded,

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00:49:22.260 --> 00:49:28.200

Peter Hopwood: Structurally independent, politically autonomous student unions in every further education provider.

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00:49:28.710 --> 00:49:41.040

Peter Hopwood: And it's something that is ambitious, and it's something that I'm determined that we really drive forward because it's unacceptable that so many unions, like my own, are under resourced.

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00:49:41.400 --> 00:49:50.100

Peter Hopwood: And we don't receive much support financially or politically necessarily always because of, you know, all these different constraints. And so for me.

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00:49:50.760 --> 00:49:58.290

Peter Hopwood: Any movement needs a strong Union behind it. And that's why I've committed to ensuring that every further education provider has a strong Student Union.

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00:50:00.240 --> 00:50:13.770

Media First1: Peter. Thank you very much indeed. Aldrich, movement building on campus. We've heard people Peter talk about proper funding and support for unions, what would you do to ensure movement building?

296

00:50:21.090 --> 00:50:38.010

Aldrich's iPhone: Building a movement on campus, where students can come together and do things that they care about is so important. Well, FE students is so important about the big job of FE is first of allowing FE students to see that they can do it.

297

00:50:40.440 --> 00:50:51.840

Aldrich's iPhone: NUS needs to start connecting with all with all joined up FE members and mapping out all where they stand in terms of students.

298

00:50:52.230 --> 00:51:06.960

Aldrich's iPhone: Have support strategic understanding and what NUS can and should be doing for them, developing a base of representing representative group on campus is one of the key jobs FE needs.

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00:51:10.590 --> 00:51:17.970

Media First1: Aldrich thank you. Salsa, FINAL WORD OF THE FINAL QUESTION, movement building. How are you going to do it?

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00:51:18.420 --> 00:51:26.940

salsa: Yes. So I've already outlined my priorities, but I feel like it is very important to honor these priorities and keep to my word.

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00:51:28.200 --> 00:51:35.250

salsa: I want to turn my thoughts and ideas into reality. But more importantly, I want to

302

00:51:36.960 --> 00:51:42.420

salsa: But more importantly, I want the ideas shaped by the students,

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00:51:44.640 --> 00:51:46.710

salsa: Sorry, I just lost my train of thought.

304

00:51:49.080 --> 00:51:50.370

salsa: Yeah, so

305

00:51:52.050 --> 00:52:03.300

salsa: I want to turn my thoughts and ideas into reality. But more importantly, the thoughts and ideas of students, by collectively, to achieve them collectively as a movement,

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00:52:04.470 --> 00:52:14.970

salsa: Obviously, to be approachable. An officer amongst students, for the students not to just to listen to their voices but to amplify their voices.

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00:52:15.570 --> 00:52:26.700

salsa: This can be this is by being accommodating, making sure that spaces we create are inclusive, so we can truly be a representative movement to try collective student voice.

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00:52:28.830 --> 00:52:32.280

Media First1: And I'm sure a collective student voices, something that you would all argue for

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00:52:33.780 --> 00:52:34.650

Media First1: To conclude,

310

00:52:35.700 --> 00:52:45.180

Media First1: Aldrich, would you like to provide us with your closing comments. Why should the electorate vote for you?

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00:52:48.660 --> 00:52:55.410

Aldrich's iPhone: The electorate should vote for me as I did loads of different campaigns in my own college,

312

00:52:55.860 --> 00:53:04.830

Aldrich's iPhone: I changed many different things in my college, there was so many things that are pending for years. Such a gender neutral toilet, a very big topic in our college,

313

00:53:05.130 --> 00:53:13.770

Aldrich's iPhone: I would like to spread it out nationwide, I would like to make the difference that students care about. And not just NUS that cares about but

314

00:53:14.790 --> 00:53:19.800

Aldrich's iPhone: I would like to make a massive difference on connecting with all FE colleges

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00:53:21.240 --> 00:53:30.450

Media First1: Aldrich, thank you very much indeed. Salsa, final, final chance to persuade the electorate. Why should they vote for you?

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00:53:31.470 --> 00:53:44.340

salsa: Um, so I believe you should vote for me because I really cherish a FE colleges. I went I did my GCSEs at college and did access course at college

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00:53:44.730 --> 00:54:05.550

salsa: College is a place where a lot of people have an opportunity to change their lives. And I feel like I'd be the person to represent all kinds of people, to be able to address their concerns and reassure them in regards to their concerns. I'll be the driving force of

318

00:54:07.800 --> 00:54:13.140

salsa: Student voice and yeah VOTE for VP, Salsa for VP actually.

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00:54:14.880 --> 00:54:18.810

Media First1: Thank you. Salsa. Peter. Why should people vote VP Peter?

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00:54:20.100 --> 00:54:32.580

Peter Hopwood: Well, the moment that I'm elected. I'll be building up relationships with the membership, with the other stakeholders, and with the other organizations that we need to be working with to achieve wins for our students.

321

00:54:33.030 --> 00:54:39.990

Peter Hopwood: A lot of people are sick of the candidates making a lot of promises around election time and not delivering, for me,

322

00:54:40.260 --> 00:54:54.240

Peter Hopwood: I would be someone who's committed to actions. And I think a lot of unions that are struggling financially, they don't feel their voices heard. So for me, it's really important that we're communicating and we're getting the message out there to represent further education.

323

00:54:56.310 --> 00:55:16.290

Media First1: And that brings us to close the hustings for the NUS conference 2020 elections for VP further education. Thank you very much indeed. Peter Hopwood from Godalming College Students Association for joining us. Thank you, Peter.

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00:55:17.760 --> 00:55:19.230

Peter Hopwood: Thank you very much. Bye.

325

00:55:20.160 --> 00:55:26.160

Media First1: Thank you very much indeed, Salsa Elmegri from Bradford College Students Union.

326

00:55:27.240 --> 00:55:29.490

salsa: Thank you hope you have a lovely day.

327

00:55:30.360 --> 00:55:35.100

Media First1: And thank you very much indeed. Aldrich Gonsalves from Dudley College of Technology. Students Union.

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00:55:36.090 --> 00:55:38.490

Aldrich's iPhone: Thank you so much for having me today. And goodbye.

329

00:55:40.020 --> 00:55:55.050

Media First1: So you in the student electorate have a real good think about what you've heard, consider the proposals that the candidates for VP FE have put forward and make sure you vote.