

# VOTE JASON BUNTING

#1 FOR EDUCATION OFFICER

f t @JasonforEducation



**STRONGER REP  
SYSTEM**

**END BUNCHED  
DEADLINES**

**INTRODUCE  
LECTURE  
RECORDING**

**BETTER  
FEEDBACK**

**SCRAP RE-SIT  
CAP AND FEE**

**EDUCATION WITH  
SOCIAL IMPACT**

**YOUR UNIVERSITY, YOUR VOICE**

FOR A UNIVERSITY WHERE YOUR VOICE MATTERS  
**VOTE ON QUBSU.ORG ON 24/25TH FEBRUARY**  
TO RE-ELECT JASON FOR EDUCATION



## Your University, Your Voice

Hello everyone, my name is Jason Bunting, I graduated last July with a degree in French and Politics. I am your current Education Officer and I am running for re-election!

### Why Am I Running?

I'm running because you deserve to have **a seat at the table** when decisions are made that affect you. You deserve to have your voice heard and to study at a University which works for you **no matter** your age, discipline, level of study, background or country of origin. In short, you deserve to be **partners and equals** in education - not consumers or customers.

Too often, Queen's is run like a business, putting profits ahead of students, shutting you out of rooms where decisions are made about your future and treating education like a product to be bought and sold instead of a **public good**. It treats students as customers, staff as tools and the University as a factory. I am passionate about making sure that we change that so this University works for **you!**

We have made a lot of change over the last eight months but we aren't done yet so vote for me on 24/25th February on QUBSU.org so I can finish the job and make the change that students need!

### What Have I Done?

For the last eight months, I have represented you inside committee rooms and on the ground. I have made the voices of 26,000 students heard on their education. Together we have:

- Led an **institution-wide review of our academic representation system**, creating new opportunities for communication, support, recognition, visibility and so much more!
- Developed a **new policy and structure for academic representation**, to give Course, School and Faculty Reps the visibility, voice, support and recognition that they deserve.
- Secured agreement from the University to **redesign the academic year calendar** so it works for you and we can end bunched deadlines.
- Secured agreement from the University to pilot **lecture recording**.
- Recruited and led a team of three student interns who are developing **feedback strategies** in your School to make your feedback better.
- Drew up a **new long-term plan for student partnership** in the University to make sure you are an equal in Queen's.
- Created the **Peer Mentoring Forum**, bringing together lead peer mentors from across the University to share practise.
- **Trained and supported** our team of seventeen School Reps and eight hundred Course Reps who make change across the University.

So since I was first elected, we have done so much but we are only just getting started. Read on to find out what I want to do for you and make sure to vote on 24/25th February to make your voice heard and re-elect Jason for Education!



## 1. Stronger Rep System

This year, I led the **Academic Rep Review**, a project to evaluate all aspects of your Course and School Rep system. We found that the system doesn't work, that your reps don't have the visibility, support or recognition that they deserve and that we are miles behind other universities. But we aren't going to settle for this.

We have made loads of change so far, creating Course Rep Forums so course reps can collaborate, introducing rep social media accounts and generic emails to improve visibility, creating new roles for international students to make their voices heard, embedding the role of Faculty Reps and getting them a seat at the table of the highest committees, securing new funding for Course and School Reps, formalising meetings of School Reps so they report directly to the SU, working with the Postgraduate Officer to introduce Postgraduate School Reps and so much more!

But there is so much more we are going to do! Now, I have worked with the University to agree a **new policy and structure for academic representation** which will make your voice heard on every decision at every level. Simply put, this new policy guarantees our seat at the table and guarantees your voice will be heard. We need an experienced voice like mine to lead this new structure in its pilot year next year. Together with your help, I want to make sure that Queen's is the best University in UK or Ireland for student representation and I can do that with another term!



## 2. End Bunched Deadlines

Last year, I ran for election saying that your academic year structure was putting you under **undue, unacceptable pressure** by bunching all your deadlines. Quite simply, our structure was **broken**. Well, our lobbying worked and the University is now redesigning the academic year calendar with us!

From our research, we know that deadlines have a big impact on your mental health and we need to make this our priority. So I will work with the University in the year ahead to pilot a new calendar structure and **end the bunching of deadlines**. I'll also work with the University to redesign assessments so that your module isn't all decided by one assignment at the end and you have the chance to have **varied assessment types** that equip you with the skills you will need in the future!



## 3. Introduce Lecture Recording

Did you know that QUB is one of the only Universities in the UK which does not have offer lecture recording? Lecture recording is a vital tool to aid your learning. It makes learning more inclusive (especially for international students and student parents & carers) as well as engaging and if Queen's wants to be part of the 21st century, we need to adopt it. Fortunately, in January, we agreed that the University would pilot lecture recording in some areas with existing technology, but we need to go further by introducing technology and agreeing policy on lecture recording so that every student can access this vital learning aid.



## 4. Better Feedback

Many of you will feel that the feedback you get isn't good enough, it's not constructive, detailed or tailored enough and it doesn't come quickly enough for you to improve before your next assignment!

I am determined to change that. That's why, this year I recruited and led a team of three-part time student interns who are working with Schools in your Faculty to **develop School-based feedback policies** to end inconsistency in feedback and make sure we deliver the feedback which you need to continually improve in your discipline. We need to **continue this project** and ensure that every School has policy and practices that mean that your feedback is of excellent quality and enables you to achieve the highest marks possible in your degree.



## 5. Scrap Re-sit Cap and Re-sit Fee

Currently, if you need to re-sit an exam (except in the cases of exceptional circumstances) your performance can be capped at 40% and you can be hit with a financial penalty. We need to be honest- this is not morally defensible. Everyone deserves a second chance at an assessment and we are letting students down when we force them through this overly punitive process that discriminates against working-class students. I will work with the University to scrap this re-sit cap and fee and force Queen's to practise what they preach about a University which works for students of all backgrounds.

## 6. Education With Social Impact

We should do so much more as a University to use our influence and expertise to make a difference in society both locally and globally.

We need to work with the University to consider how we can deliver **more social impact** within the local community as well as globally. We will **redesign assessments** and create new **social impact projects** to use the skills and expertise in all our different disciplines to address social challenges chosen by you. We also need to hold the University to ethical standards of social responsibility in all its practices to build a University which lives up to its values. This makes your education better, because university should empower you to contribute to society, not just recall facts from a textbook.



### Other issues I'll be campaigning on:

- **Supporting international students:** giving them a real voice on their education and ensuring that they are fully supported throughout their time here.
- **Defending the rights of gaeilgeoirí in curriculum:** normalising Gaeilge on campus, lobbying Queen's to introduce a beginners' stream for Irish, more combined pathways, and to protect funding for Gaeltacht trips
- **Embedding a culture of partnership** by continuing to lead on the Partnership Project
- **Expanding peer mentoring** by continuing the Peer Mentoring Forum
- **Fighting against marketization:** Leading the fight in NI for a National Education Service and against marketization of higher education