

## On Joe Cotton's Graduate Union Presidency Campaign

*To Whom It May Concern:*

My name is [REDACTED], and I am a member of [REDACTED]. I have been at the College since 2014, and served as President of the College's CR for the past academic year. I was already a member of the college (and indeed of its CR, at the time as [REDACTED]) when [REDACTED] decided to separate from the Graduate Union (GU), which at the time was, to my understanding, suffering internal dispute. It is true however that since then the GU has become more visible and more engaged in student welfare and activities, an effort of the past GU executive committee which must be remarked and applauded.

During the current election campaign, I saw plenty of flyers going around of the various candidates to both CUSU and GU roles. I struck me in particular that only one of the candidates actually visited the college, and was actually making an effort in getting to know the community here: Joe Cotton.

I met Joe briefly over lunch last [REDACTED] when he came to the college again to engage with some of the students in our community. He was polite and not at all "campaign-y" during this time, which to me shows a true commitment to meeting our people. Given I was the only one there who had met him before, I engaged with a number of the students to raise attention to the GU elections. I introduced Joe to said students, and they proceeded to have discussions on various aspects of the role of the GU and also about Joe's campaign points. Joe's use of the iPad to facilitate voting accounted for maybe 4 or 5 votes, but it represented a proactivity in making the GU election procedure more accessible to students, an effort which should be applauded given the strikingly low numbers of graduate students who actually turn up to vote.

I believe the GU has remarkable potential to have a significant impact on graduate students' lives. It also has the striking potential to go unnoticed, given the hectic lives which graduate students have. It takes incredible insight into what it means to be a graduate student to realise that not everyone has the availability (be it timewise or mental) to go to the website and cast their vote, and making the electoral procedure more accessible should be encouraged, not chastised. If our constitution does not see this, then it's time for change.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*Tuesday 13 March 2018*