

VISION STATEMENT

Candidate's Name	Andrew Chang
Candidate Team Name	
<p>Hi! From Musical Theatre to Book Club, I've got to be part of so much over the last 4 years! As one of the first Degree Apprentices at MMU to run for a student officer role and having served on multiple committees; I passionately believe societies are one of the best services of the Union. I'm running for Societies Officer to give back to the community that has been my favourite part of my university journey, offering a unique and professional angle. I will bring a fresh energy and a friendly face to our societies. If you have any questions, reach out to me or find out more at: linktr.ee/AndrewforSocieties</p> <p>Who am I?</p> <p>I'm a 4th-year Degree Apprentice in Cyber Security from Derbyshire. When I'm not procrastinating on my assignments, I love to ice skate 🛼, beekeep 🐝 and volunteer at a repair cafe 🛠️. You might often find me on campus going to loads of events - I do love to keep myself busy! You may have noticed many of my aims below are centred around improvements for the committee, and for good reason! From leading multiple committees over the years (<i>successfully and less successfully...</i>), I've come to realise how much a well-supported committee impacts the member experience, and have thought long and hard about what changes we can make to improve everyone's society experience. With my experience and knowledge, I aim to hit the ground running from day one, quickly learn and develop into the role and make impactful changes - so everyone can have the best-ever society memories possible next year.</p> <p>My Aims - Accessible, Affordable and Accountable</p> <p>Cost Reduction and Grant Improvements</p> <p>Throughout every society I've helped lead, one common theme and principle has always been that no one should ever have to miss an event because of cost. I've seen the costs of so many memberships and events go up astronomically over the past 4 years alone, without enough increase in student loans or support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform the grant process to be more transparent and easier to navigate. • Centralise resources to bring down the cost of running events. • Ensure every society has the funding they need to remain accessible to all. 	

Do you work alongside your studies? Are you an apprentice, commuter, or placement student?

It's not easy having to work alongside studying - as a degree apprentice, hearing stories of students only able to socialise with other students just once a year is unfortunately all too common. With first-hand memories of rushing to campus, squeezing in some food or just coping with an empty stomach, there are so many opportunities to implement initiatives to make this better.

- Implement a "**Societies Timetable**" so commuters and workers can plan their weeks.
- Encourage **diverse event timing** (not just late nights!) to include everyone.
- Push for **adequate notice** on all events so no one is left out.

This is one of the impactful visible changes I will bring, to ensure the Union and societies have awareness and cater to **ALL** students.

Sustainability, supporting the local communities and businesses

Something that's relegated to a footnote is the sustainability aspect of societies. Last year, I was disappointed to see no societies winning the sustainability award at the Union Awards. With simple changes from the start, such as reducing paperwork, and bringing sustainability to the forefront, we'll be able to **help committees and societies become more sustainable** without creating additional load and effort on our hard-working committees.

I am also a firm believer in cultivating **relationships with local businesses and communities**. There are so many great people-led services we can encourage societies to work with, that can offer more personalised, better results and build valuable relationships with more positive impacts that we all benefit from.

Societies Beyond Your Course and Skill

What if you don't want to join a society just for a specific skill or course, and want to meet people outside your course? Having a safe, familiar group where anyone and everyone can socialise without pressure to perform could mean you find that new lifelong friendship you didn't know you were looking for! I'll also **carry on Vanessa's great work with Society Spotlights**, raising awareness for all societies so everyone knows what societies are available at MMU.

Helping new societies develop and stabilise

I've spoken to too many students who have had to personally invest their own money to start societies they cared about. I will make sure students who are putting their all to start a society don't take on a financial burden as well, and bring improvements to the resources committees can access, where groups can share equipment, decorations, and tech instead of buying new items for every event. **This reduces waste, lowers your membership fees, and ensures no society is left behind** because of their budget.

There's nothing more annoying than finding out a society has stopped running after getting a membership. My plan is to support every society proactively, especially in the run-up to the new academic year, so **all societies have a passionate committee** with a running start, and to clearly signpost which societies are active so you can have a better experience without disappointment.

Better Events, Less Red Tape.

The most common complaint I hear from other committees is the amount of admin, response times and struggles committees must deal with daily to run their societies. I'd use what I've learnt from talking to other committees at other SUs, and bring the best of what I've seen in the professional world to improve this - implementing automation, increasing efficiency, and providing trusted timeframes for responses **without losing the human touch.**