



VISION STATEMENT

Candidate's Name	Liam Stefan
Candidate Team Name	
<p>Hey, I'm Liam, and I'm running to be your Societies & Development Officer for the 2026/27 academic year!</p> <p>As a former Events Secretary and current Vice President of the Law Society, I have experienced first-hand how transformative societies can be. They are not simply extracurricular groups. They are communities where students find confidence, develop leadership, form lasting friendships and feel part of something meaningful. Societies gave me purpose beyond my degree. They were not just something I joined. They became where I felt most connected and most myself. Every student at Man Met deserves that same experience.</p> <p>I care deeply about championing student-led initiatives because they allow students to shape their own university experience. When students are trusted to create and lead, communities thrive. My vision is rooted in three priorities. I want societies to feel inclusive and connected, confidently student-led, and supported in a way that allows them to grow sustainably year after year.</p> <p><u>Inclusivity & Accessibility</u></p> <p>Societies should feel open and welcoming from the moment a student arrives at Man Met. For many, joining a society is the first step in building friendships and finding confidence outside of lectures. It is often where university begins to feel personal. I want it to feel normal for someone to walk into their first society event and think, "I belong here."</p> <p>I want to continue to strengthen the sense of connection between societies, so they feel part of a wider community rather than operating in isolation. That means creating more chances for societies to collaborate, such as a termly societies networking evening where committees can share ideas and support each other's events. When societies work together, students benefit from more variety across campus.</p> <p>Inclusivity also means ensuring that every society, regardless of size, feels equally valued. Some groups are well established, and others are just beginning, but both contribute to the diversity of our campus. I want students to feel confident bringing forward new ideas and starting new societies if they do not yet see something that reflects their interests or identity. That confidence comes from clear support at the start, guidance on how to get going, and visibility for new societies so they can actually grow.</p> <p>Belonging should feel possible for everyone.</p> <p><u>Student-Led</u></p> <p>Societies work because they are led by students who genuinely care. The energy and creativity that committees bring are what make societies special.</p>	



Having served on a committee myself, I understand the balance between leading a society and managing academic responsibilities. Leadership can be incredibly rewarding, but it also requires clarity and encouragement. I want committees to feel supported in developing their ideas and growing their societies without feeling overwhelmed.

My approach is centred on listening and championing student leaders. I want society committees to feel they can reach out early, ask questions without judgment, and get support that is practical and reassuring. That could look like regular committee drop-ins during busy points of term, peer support between society leaders so committees can learn from each other, and development sessions focused on real-life leadership skills. Things like how to run accessible events, how to build engagement, and how to keep a committee motivated without burning out.

Student leadership should feel developmental. When leaders grow, their societies grow with them.

Built to Last

Strong societies are sustainable societies. They should build on the work of previous committees rather than starting from scratch each year.

The experience and relationships developed by one committee are valuable and should be preserved. I want new committees to start their year feeling confident, not confused. That means strengthening handover culture, so good ideas, contacts and lessons learned are passed on properly. It also means recognising that societies are run by students, and students deserve systems that make leadership easier, not harder.

Celebrating societies is essential to long-term success. The Union already recognises student leadership through the annual awards evening, which highlights the dedication and impact of societies across campus. I want to build on that culture of recognition throughout the year, not just at the end. I want to celebrate the big moments like major events, successful collaborations, charity initiatives, and growth milestones, but also the quieter wins. The society that kept going with a small committee, the first-time committee member who stepped up, or the society that helped students feel less alone.

Societies should feel confident representing Manchester Met beyond campus. When societies engage with the wider community or take part in initiatives outside the university, they strengthen both their members and the university's presence. Supporting that ambition could include encouraging societies into community partnerships, fundraising initiatives, and external opportunities that give students pride in what they are building.

Societies shaped my university experience in ways I will always value. They gave me confidence, community and purpose.

My vision is for societies where leaders feel supported, members feel welcomed, and every student feels that there is a place for them.

Because when societies are properly championed, students do more than participate. They belong.