

Candidate statements – updated 25th March 2017

SSU by-election

March 2017



Education Public Affairs Officer (Council)

Samuel Van De Kerkhof (EMPOWER)

This candidate statement is for the position of Education Public affairs officer. I strongly believe that i am well suited for this position. My strengths are in my communication skills, my ability to level with people and my ability to learn. I completed my certificate IV science in 2014 at Holmesglen, Chadstone and am now in my 3rd year of my Bachelor of science majoring in biotechnology with a minor in politics. I will be a strong link in Swinburne Student Union as Education public affairs officer.

Akbar Syed (EVOLVE)

Hi,

My name is Akbar Syed doing double masters in swinburne i have been involved with swinburne since one year now and in this journey i have gain many experiences from the volunteering to become a student representative. This time i am running for Education officer (public affairs) in student union. I want to become Education officer to represent the needs of the student to the university in terms of education.

Currently, i am serving as international student representative in FBL and contribute in discussing issues and strategic decisions for making improvements in the student's life during their study period. I like taking responsibilities and deliver them with the best of my skills, knowledge and experience.

I need support of my fellow students to make it happen for me and i assure them that they will never get disappointed with their choice.

Thanks,
Akbar

People of Colour Representative (Council) – Page 1 of 2

Celestine Amoaka-Boteng

Hello! I'm Celestine, a Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation student, seeking to serve you in the capacity as People of Colour Representative.

Coming from an ethnically and culturally diverse background, I'm convinced no one has a better understanding of the needs and passion to serve "People of Colour" students at Swinburne, like I do. I was raised in Ghana; studied in Malaysia; worked in many people-centered roles in most parts Asia and Africa; and have a wide network of real friends (not Facebook friends :P) from over 30 different countries.

Being a person of colour myself, I understand and appreciate the peculiar daily struggles and challenges People of Colour face. I'm a Campaigner, with ENFP-A personality type, who fervently believes our lives on and off campus can always be made better if we work together with one voice, letting the university know of what matters to us and driving discussions for the betterment of every Persons of Colour at Swinburne. This is the voice I will carry, should I be elected.

Hatim Dhila

Hey there, my name is Hatim.

I am from India, doing Master in Information Technology. I have worked professionally in the industry as a Network Administrator . I was also the IT Head for Various Events in Mumbai.

I have been volunteering from day 1 since I have joined SSU. I have doing BBQ every week, filling those hungry stomachs of yours.

I am a candidate for the People of Colour Representative. I plan to advocate for the students who are identified with this collective. I hope to try my best to solve your queries and try to make the campus even safer for you. Looking for a even safer campus? Vote for me !

People of Colour Representative (Council) – Page 2 of 2

Sheila Lobo

Hi everyone,

I'm Sheila Lobo from STUDENT VOICE, and I'm running for the position of Student Councilor.

I am studying in Master of Human Resources Management (Hawthorn Campus). Currently, I am working with The Smith Family (non-profit Organisation) as an Administrator position. The last semester, I have worked for the Australia Red Cross as the position of Admin Support and have acquired considerable experience during employment there. Earlier I have pursued the Master of Business Administration, major in Human Resource. It is a result of this encounter that the previous contribution of my works experienced (12yrs) in the HR departments. It could be able to get detail understanding of the roles play by build organisational capability and consistent in corporate success.

My previous role gave me the opportunity to deal with students union and at times help them with decisions pertained to their future. My responsibilities included a commitment to teamwork with the ability to set targets and a demonstrated ability to maintain information for all activities. My work also demands scheduled various activities and events for the students included administration and organized and coordinated events.

I am very passionate about improving and expanding the facilities and opportunities offered to students of Swinburne University. If I will elect, I will make sure that the voices of ALL all students are heard and their concerns attended to. So in order to move forward and create positive changes for ALL students, please cast your vote for me, Sheila Lobo, together we can achieve great things.

Thank you for listening !

Tarek EIMagrhabi (EMPOWER)

I was born and raised in Egypt for the first 13 years of my life and then moved to Saudi Arabia. I moved to Australia when I was 17 years old. I was culture shocked to say the least. The way people lived here was completely different than back home, it was difficult to adapt to that lifestyle; took me probably 2 years to do so. Studying in Swinburne was what helped me the most; meeting numerous people all from different countries around the world, all here for the same purpose. Making friends with people from different backgrounds made me understand other cultures and perspectives. I am nominating myself for this position because I want to help the people from different cultures within the union and Swinburne as a whole feel more comfortable with embracing their culture at uni.

General Representative (Council) – Page 1 of 2

Letisia Cherian

Currently, final year of Master of Practicing Accounting also working part time as a payroll officer/ asst. accountant. I'm a part of CPA student Ambassador for Swinburne University keeping me engaged in events help by CPA at different venues across Melbourne. I have also been associated with Swinburne as a volunteer for various events the latest being Student Leader Volunteer during O-week.

I have been an active member in Manama Toastmaster, leaving me with polished public speaking skills. I enjoy public speaking and networking at different levels. As part of school, I have been part of school and college Basketball team and played inter-school and regional levels respectively.

Being an International Student I would be able to relate and help to students falling in the similar category. I am told I'm an approachable person with quality soft skills.

My motivation is my passion at the same time I'm result driven. Success and development easily motivates me to endeavour projects and the results drive me harder. I strongly believe in goal congruence; it always helps to work with people who share the same goals.

Sagar Mehta

Hello, Myself Sagar Mehta. I am studying Master of Professional Engineering course. I am very passionate about what I do. I am very enthusiastic to work in group and team. I am nominating for Student's council because I think that this is the best place which will suit me because I love to help and solve the problem and in student's council I can do that .It will provide me opportunity to be helpful to university and students. Thank You.

Brenna Dempsey

Hello, I'm Brenna and I am running for the position of General Representative on the SSU Council.

I am currently studying a Double Degree of Arts and Business and I think that I would be a good fit for this position as I am passionate about Swinburne and ensuring students have the most enjoyable experience possible. I have been a regular volunteer for the SSAA and love supporting new students during their first weeks at uni. I am keen to get involved with the SSU and learn everything that I can. I have just been elected as the Promotions Coordinator for the Swinburne Advertising and Marketing Association and I am excited to continue my involvement with life at Swinburne through this student association.

I am excited to potentially be a student representative and support the views of my peers at uni to improve student life and opportunities. If elected I will endeavour to listen to your concerns and do what I can to implement changes within the SSU and Swinburne more generally.

More specifically I am passionate about supporting students to make friends and get involved with life at Swinburne. I think that creating more social opportunities and study groups will be a good way for students to meet people and not feel lost or alone at uni.

Whether elected or not I will continue to do what I can to be involved with life at Swinburne and improve the experience of my peers. I will always be down for a chat and hope to provide a friendly face around campus.

General Representative (Council) – Page 2 of 2

Funan Keath

I am currently studying First Year Business/Arts looking to personally develop into a more confident, articulate and reliable person. My interests involves in serving the council as a General Representative that can innovate ideas to help improve the student community.

I believe I can be a very committed person if there are goals set to be achieved. My student voice is a different perspective of what senior students may think. Addressing issues with different perspectives can help to grow a happier, fair and healthier community.

I would like to help cultivate university experience for those starting out, graduating, troubled about anything in particular. After all, Student life is a lot more easier if you experience with other like-minded people.

Ash Erben

As a freelance graphic designer and mature age student, I feel I can bring a wealth of knowledge to the Swinburne Union, as well as being relateable to LGBTI+ students and public

Starr Guzman (EMPOWER)

Understanding how important student representation on campus is as well as having real life experience of the power of advocacy, policy and lobbying - I'm hoping to be able to bring some of my expertise to the SSU as a general representative.

I'm an adult returning to study to diversify my career experince, a single parent and a professional creative. My currently studying both a Bachelor of Business (Public Relations) as well as the exciting new Bachelor of Screen Production course. I have some barriers to studying/working due to health issues and hope to advocate for other students with similar challenges.

I am a cultural producer by trade and have led exciting projects and campaigns including Make Poverty History (National Campiagn Coordinator 2007 - 2010), Melbourne Music Week (Kubik 2011 and Where?house 2012 Producer), Let Them Eat Cake (Festival Producer 2012 - 2015) and have also worked with a great array of some of the most well known creative brands in the world. I believe my professional experience can be of use with Swinburne's Student Union in increasing student engagement and support.

I'm keen to ensure Swinburne Students continue to have a non partisan and independant voice on campus, to support accessibility for students of all ages, backgrounds, cultures, identifications and abilities and to support the union to continue to provide essential services as well as roll out new services that can assist students during their time studying with Swinburne.

Fergus Clancy (EVOLVE)

Hi all! I'm Fergus and I'm the Evolve candidate for General Representative in the Swinburne Student Union by-election.

In my time as a Swinburne student I have been involved in various clubs, and volunteering for the Union, and I would love the opportunity to continue my work in the community through a role representing you in the SSU.

If elected I will continue the great work of the Evolve team through transparent representation which listens to the entire student population. Specifically I aim to work closely on current Union initiatives such as improving the printing service on campus and the Hammer & Swine opening 5 days per week.

VOTE [1] EVOLVE!

Department of Design, Media & ICT Representative (Education Board)

Ash Erben

As a older PAVE Student, I do have an ambition to help the Design, Media and ITC students, as well and the other students within Swinburne University.

Andy Tran

I have experience being part of the student council in high school. This would give me a good opportunity to become a good leader in this university.

Swinburne International Students Association (SISA) Committee – Page 1 of 3

Raj Shah

With a diversified experience, I have a great interpersonal skill. With strength like Honesty, Adaptability and Quick learning, I see myself as a dynamic person. Punctuality is one of factor which is bound within me.

Sheila Lobo

Hi everyone,

I'm Sheila Lobo from STUDENT VOICE, and I'm running for the position of Student committee member.

I am studying in Master of Human Resources Management (Hawthorn Campus). Currently, I am working with The Smith Family (non-profit Organisation) as an Administrator position. The last semester, I have worked for the Australia Red Cross as the position of Admin Support and have acquired considerable experience during employment there. Earlier I have pursued the Master of Business Administration, major in Human Resource. It is a result of this encounter that the previous contribution of my works experienced (12yrs) in the HR departments. It could able to get detail understanding of the roles play by build organisational capability and consistent in corporate success.

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I am very passionate about improving and expanding the facilities and opportunities offered to students of Swinburne University. If I will elect, I will make sure that the voices of ALL all students are heard and their concerns attended to. So in order to move forward and create positive changes for ALL students, please cast your vote for me, Sheila Lobo, together we can achieve great things.

Thank you for listening !

Siddharth Nair

I am Siddharth G Nair , pursuing my masters in Construction & Infrastructure Management .

I strongly wish to me a member and a student representative as it aims for a specific cause , and as an individual i will put all my efforts to achieve the goals and duties entrusted upon me. Also I would try to widen the existing scope of the same with huge participation and support. I promise my dedication and commitment with contribution to SSU as an Interantional Student Committee .

Chinmay Goswami

Migrating to Australia was one the biggest opportunity till date i had got and on top of that being a Swinburne student made the cherry on the icing situation. I would really love to work for the Swinburne International Students' Association (SISA) Committee. Well the reason is simple and short helping student from overseas.

However, this is the most common reply you might have received or something related to that. But, my perspective is a bit different regarding it. Being a member of this committee will not i be helping overseas students, this opportunity will also help me learn my standing and what i can do, towards the university and the society i which i live, despite being an International student. And at some point being a student of media and communication may give me a little advantage when the point of communication come into the picture

And finally, I am a man of few words and believe in doing rather than talking.

Abdul Rehman Khan

I would like to be involved in the union and promise to stay committed towards helping internationals students as much as I can.

Swinburne International Students Association (SISA) Committee – Page 2 of 3

Letisia Cherian

I'm currently in my Final year of Master of Practicing Accounting. I look forward to making a difference being involved in Uni. Being an International student, I would be able to relate to students in similar category. Success and development easily motivates me to endeavour future projects and the results drive me harder. I strongly believe in goal congruence, it always helps to work with people who share the same goals.

Mohammedsaeem Vohra

Hi my name is MohammedSaeem Vohra. I am currently studying masters of construction & infrastructure management. I want to take active role in SSU and its many facets. I see the position of SISA's committee to be a part of team member that is involved in helping international students and providing them better place to study further.

Alvin Chong

Hello Again People.

My name is Alvin and I am from Malaysia, although having grown up in Mauritius. Therefore I can speak English, French and Mandarin. I am a new student here currently pursuing my Masters in IT.

The reason I feel maybe I could give this position a try is because I come from a different background, having grown up as a Third Culture kid and absorbed the different background of Malaysia and Mauritius. I have also traveled a lot before coming to Australia for my Masters, including several countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. I keep an open mind to anything, anyone or any experience.

Since I am new here, thought I would join and see where it goes.

Param Mahal (EVOLVE)

The Swinburne International Student Association is one of SSU's most important departments, advocating for international students who are too often disadvantaged.

This year on your International Committee I will work with my colleagues to deliver events and services that aim to connect international students from all backgrounds, and that deliver enjoyment and support to students often left out of consideration by the university.

In 2017, I will work to create more volunteering opportunities for international students as well as increased representation on university committees and consultation groups.

With your support, I will work hard in my role as International Representative to support and represent international students at Swinburne and ensure we are given a fair go.

VOTE [1] Param!

Jasminder Singh (EVOLVE)

Hi there, My name is Jasminder and I'm one of Evolve's candidates for the Swinburne International Student Association.

Your support in my election to the SISA committee will help me in providing more support services for international students to continue to help them both in and out of uni, not just when enrolling, but for their entire degree. I will also work to bring back international student events, so that we have the opportunity to gain more experiences than just those offered by our degree while here at Swinburne.

VOTE [1] JASMINDER!

VOTE[1] EVOLVE!

Swinburne International Students Association (SISA) Committee – Page 3 of 3

Manasa Reddy Singireddy

I would like to express my interest towards the Swinburne Student Union By-election and I believe my skills and experience are a good match for the role. I know that if provided an opportunity to work with the Committee, it would certainly help me in excelling in my career. I would love to help the Swinburne students both on and off campus.

Siddharth Ravi

Hi,
Hi I am Siddharth Ravi pursuing engineering science and technology (advance manufacturing technology). I am an international student (India) and I want to get nominated as Swinburne International Students Association (SISA) Committee member. I am a strong believer of cultural diversity and I appreciate cultural differences which I believe should be an essential characteristic for a SISA member and moreover becoming a SISA member would provide me a great platform to learn to about different cultures. As an international club service director in a Rotaract club in India (Rotaract club of SAHAS) I have carried out many successful projects (in various states and countries), which advocates the statement that I will honour my position as SISA member. As an international student I initially had issues for getting settled up, if elected I will work for the betterment of such issues for the future students. If elected I will organise many events which would make the international students life better. I promise to solve issues faced by the international students and improve their university life if elected. Apart from helping international students this position will help me to evolve myself and become a better individual in life. Thank you.

Thanks and Regards
SIDDHARTH RAVI

Gunjit Arora

It isn't easy to come out of your comfort zone in a new country and then succeed in a snap. It takes patience, courage, positivity and most of all - motivation. Be it internal motivation or external, it helps anyone cross the barriers which are impossible to do without support. And that's why I want to become a part of Swinburne International Students Association. Being an international student myself, I will give my 100% to be that motivation anyone needs. Not only this, I will do my best to help the others in anyway possible for me.

Dhiraj Bharwad

Hey everyone,

My name is Dhiraj Bharwad. I am an International student, pursuing Masters degree in Engineering Management.

To begin with my work, I have been participating in various volunteering events being organized On-campus or Off-campus. I am a member of Non-profitable organization that is Swinburne Business Without Border (BWB) which is continuously working to support community through their volunteering role. Moreover, I am elected as a Student Representative. Being Student representative allows me to meet students regularly, knowing their personal problems, try to solve them and raise it to the Committee are my primary role.

I am applying for Swinburne International Students Association (SISA) Committee. Being an International student, I have bunch of experience that generally most of an International Students are facing. This Position will allow me to raise certain issues to the council that International students currently facing and encouraging International students to participate in SSU activities.

Media Committee Editor – Page 1 of 3

Alvin Chong

Hello People!

My name is Alvin and I am from Malaysia, although having grown up in Mauritius. Therefore, I can speak English, French and Mandarin. I am a new student here and am currently pursuing my Masters in IT.

Before coming to Swinburne, I did my Undergrad in Creative Multimedia, dealing with the various forms of media, including, editing, motion graphics, video, print, etc. After my graduation, I worked for my university for over 4 years as a Tutor in mostly motion graphics design and video editing. Along the years, I was promoted to Student Liaison Officer and then Faculty coordinator in charge of managing the faculty I was in.

I saw this position of Editor open and would like to give it a shot and see where it goes, who knows?
I am a good team player but also able to work independently under pressure and stress. Since I am new here, I thought I would join some groups and make friends and develop my network.
Cheers

Nicholas Gleeson

Hi, I'm Nick and I'm going to keep this brief.

I'm a 3rd year Journalism student and I'm a creativity addict.

I spend all day, every day looking for new and brilliant things to be inspired by, and luckily there's never a shortage. I've run, curated and in a few cases, founded platforms that covered all kinds of creative endeavours. From hand drawn illustration, 3D renders to videogames and music. If you can name it, chances are I'm going to want to check it out and find reasons to fall in love with it. I frequently try to contribute to the scene, and am constantly trying to pick up new mediums to throw myself into.

I'm running to become a part of the SWINE magazine team, because I believe the SWINE embodies something larger than it appears to be; something incomparably important.

It embodies inception (not the Christopher Nolan film).

It takes your hours of work and breathes a tangible life into it, creating something wonderfully self-actualizing. Personally, getting a piece of work into the SWINE was indescribable and genuinely made me realise that I wanted to chase a future in a creative industry.

It can be disheartening pouring yourself into a piece of writing, illustration or whatever it may be, only to publish it into the ether and be met with a like from a page promising '100 followers in 1 minute!' in return. The SWINE gave back in spades. I grabbed four copies and was immediately on the phone to my best friend, completely overjoyed.

If successful, I'd attempt to put a greater emphasis on the less known creators, but maintain the same high quality publication that you deserve.

Aiming to provide a feature spotlight to get your work out there amongst the student body, allowing it to inspire others, make your mum super proud and, of course, to give you a killer portfolio listing.

"I got my work into a real magazine, you'd be crazy not to hire me".

What my goal is, in becoming part of the SWINE magazine, is to enable that same 'Aha!' moment for everyone that is in the same situation as I was, because I understand how powerful that first helping hand can be.

If you let me, and you can by voting, I'm going to do my utmost to be the conduit for you to get where you want to be.

I want to be your conduit to where you want to be.

Aleks Vujicic

VOTE [1] EVOLVE!

Media Committee Editor – Page 2 of 3

Felix McPhie (EMPOWER)

Hey everyone!

My name is Felix McPhie, I am in my first year at Swinburne, studying Communication design (honours), and if I were to be elected, I would fill a position as designer for the Swine magazine.

A little about myself; I was born in Carlton. I was the 8th heaviest baby on record at the hospital (a whopping 10 pound 11). since then I've always been into art and aesthetics. I used to draw contemporary masterpieces with my crayon, and the walls of my house as my canvas.

I lived in Germany for 6 years, in France for a year and a half, and then in Australia for a combined sum of over 10 years.

In France I designed logos for a cosmetics company called Kitty, and for a The Doors cover band called The Doors on fire, and a smaller band called Red Dog Mad Cat; you probably won't find them online.

Since I've enrolled in Swinburne, I've designed one public thing; the Comedy Fest poster that's hanging around, and am working on a few projects to come concerning the SSU.

I'd love to be elected and to work on the magazine!

Vote for me and I'll make your dreams come true, if your dream is that you want swine magazine to look totally sweet.

Lorena Perez Pena

I am an international student in Mexico with experience in editing of both print and film. I would love to be a part of the committee and bring new ideas to the editing of Swine Magazine. I feel there is room for improvement and I would love to be a part of the team!

Kody Anh Nguyen

Hi students of Swinburne, I'm Kody Anh Nguyen, your wizard to any kind of graphic design and photography. I'm an experienced UX/UI Designer, undertaking professional photography career in Bristol, UK for past 3 years and now moved to Melbourne, completing my Master degree in IT this year. I've been involved with a lot of design meetup events in Melbourne, has a large connection with other freelancer designers. I've been supplying photos for WesternEye student magazine in Bristol and recently iStock photos of Getty Images. With solid skills in Adobe Creative Suite ranging from the raster-type Photoshop to vector-go-round Illustrator, publisher-favorite InDesign to Insta-lover Adobe Lightroom, I've got them all. My photography portfolio can be accessed from here: <http://kodz.tk/>

With my expertise in design, I strongly believe in taking SWINE magazine contents to a whole new level. I've participated in many Swinburne events, traveled with Swinburne Explorer, helped with the volunteer team, represented Swinburne for Youth Parliament in 2016 at the Parliament of Victoria, helped photograph Swinburne career workshop and events, ... also an active member on StalkerSpace Swinburne to keep myself informed with the most trending meme in town. Thus, as the Media Committee for managing contents for SWINE magazine, I can guarantee you a wide range of news and contents for your entertainment!

Sam Roberts (EVOLVE)

Vote [1] Evolve!

Iman Rifai

Have recently become an SSU member, to be part of the learning and helping experience.

Media Committee Editor – Page 3 of 3

Kelvin Chong

Having worked for 4 years in the education sector doing various tasks such as managing classrooms, creating content for slides, managing websites as well as data entry tasks, I have been exposed to a multitude of jobs throughout my career.

Coming from a multimedia background, with my BA in Creative Multimedia, I majored in Motion graphics, VFX, 2D animation but have been exposed and well versed in design applications as well such as Photoshop, illustrator.

Willing to learn, to commit and to work really hard to prove myself usually. I tend to focus on very minute details to and stick to strict deadline under pressure.

Thanks

Victor Huang

I believe that if the target audience; the students' at Swinburne, dislike the editing of the Swine mag, then the editors have failed at their job.

What determines the success of the magazine, is the enjoyment of the readers. Thus I will always have at the back of my mind, would this work? would the background compliment the picture? Sure, these are basic questions, but the answers to those questions would always be looked through from the eyes of the audience.

With Confidence in my Photoshop skills and other programs that may or may not be needed, I believe I can take up this position and really help the quality of the production of the Swine Magazine.