

## **Leigh Taylor**

For the best fit, you need a Taylor

My name is Leigh Taylor and I am the best fit to be your SU Vice President.

I want to run for the SU vice presidency to play my part in improving the experience of future harper students and I want to ensure EVERY student feels at home at harper.

I pride myself on being friendly, approachable, and a creative problem solver which are important qualities of someone whose job it is to listen to your experiences and ideas for improving your student experience and figuring out how to make meaningful and long-term improvements.

I am a very proud and visible member of the LGBT+ community. I am a trans-masculine non-binary person, something most people I meet don't really understand, so I know how it feels to be different, but I have the confidence in myself to not let it hold me back.

During my second year I was the chair of the LGBT+ society the first year it was officially supported by SU and have been pleased to see the university lean into better support for my community, however, there is still a long way to go. A key finding of the student voice survey found LGBT+ and BAME students have a lower feeling of safety and belonging. I would like to improve this is by advocating for sensitivity training around sexuality and gender for staff and any students that are found to be exhibiting intolerant behaviour, I believe understanding will have a greater capacity to change behaviour than simple bar bans. I would also like to see a staff member volunteer to support the LGBT+ society to provide more stability to the society than is currently achieved though a yearly change in leadership by those that may not be as experienced or equipped to handle the welfare issues that can come with discovering your identity.

Other findings of the student voice survey that concerned me and that I want to improve are that the student body seem unaware of what the SU can do for them academically and that they feel they aren't getting value for money from their clubs and societies. My plans for improving this is to make the inner workings SU more visible and understood by the students it represents. I want students to feel comfortable coming to the SU with their concerns by making them more aware that we are a separate entity to the university and are on their side. I would like to improve the lines of communication by being proactive and keeping in regular contact with student representatives, raise trust by putting emphasis on following through with all suggestions and feedback, and by personally sitting in on course tutor sessions for every course area and year.

In summation, I believe you should vote for me because, if you appoint me to this post, my goals are to improve the integration of the student body, create a safer campus environment for all, and improve the visibility of the SU and its activities.