

Picture



Name of Candidate **ELIZABETH SIMOS**

Position **PRESIDENT**

Having represented you as President this year, I am asking for your support once more - running on my proven track record as a Union President who genuinely cares and successfully delivers on the issues affecting the state of our Union, our education and our welfare. I ask for your vote based on my unwavering passion, principles, policies and experience. Given the opportunity I will once more stand up for the heart of what our Union is about: action so as to achieve positive change. I offer certain leadership and continuity in a time of uncertainty but you can be certain of one thing and that is that I have served, and if re-elected, will continue to serve with your best interests at heart. About me: Current Union President • Law graduate • I have represented students since my first year as Course Representative, Departmental Representative and as President of the Law Society. • I received the award for 'Bringing excellence to Student Led Liaison in Academia' in 2007 • I was brought up in Athens where I went to a British International School leading me to embrace national, cultural, religious and political diversity and actively pursue equality.

Given the opportunity, I will once more ensure that your rights, needs and interests are defended to the highest possible standard. **I believe that actions speak louder than words** and in my 7 months as president I have amongst others: Secured 24 hour access to the Library during exams and the PATS building. • Secured increased lighting and increased security on campus, including issuing free panic alarms • Actively campaigned for the Landlord Accreditation Scheme in Guildford- ensuring better accommodation for students • Secured increased prayer space for Islamic students • Re- introduced the Union Night Bus • Built links with the local community through volunteering activities • Organised welcomes for International Students • Actively promoted HIV awareness • Been elected onto National Council • Actively promoted diversity, equality and acceptance throughout the student body • Worked to improve disabled access on campus • Secured a record number of candidates and votes for the Executive elections • Organised the biggest snow fight Surrey University has ever seen! Through our collective effort we can continue forward. In the most crucial year you will face as students you deserve a strong, vibrant and representative Union lead by a President who can and will deliver. I ask for your support, your trust and your vote and in return you will get a committed, hardworking President with a track record of successfully representing students and implementing positive change.

If elected the following will be my priorities with student needs central to each objective.

1)Uniting, Fighting, Defending Student Rights: Students' rights need now more than ever before to be defended. On an academic level within the university (improving contact hours, assessment and feedback); within the local community (ensuring safe and affordable housing for students) and nationally (having a voice on issues including the increase in tuition fees, graduate unemployment and student debt) **2)Representative, Relevant, Responsive Union:** Ensuring that the Union's agenda is moulded by you through a formalised method of giving and receiving feedback and information whilst ensuring that communication, transparency and democracy is upheld. **3) Increasing employability and creating opportunity for students:** With graduate unemployment rising a strong CV, diverse life experience and honed skills are more important than ever before. The Union is in the unique position to provide students with the opportunity to achieve these desirables through providing strong support to societies, sports, student lead projects and through developing volunteering and campaigns **4)Promoting diversity:** embracing national, cultural, religious and political diversity and actively pursuing equality through raising awareness. *Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for voting.*