

Emma Porters (SU President 2013-2014) advice/tips for welfare & campaign

So, my best advice is don't go too gimmicky, be yourself, and above all focus on your own campaign. The year I ran and the year after some of the candidates spent their time picking holes in other people's campaigns and trying to catch them out with the ERB and stuff, obviously keep an eye out but overall focus on running his own campaign. Make sure your campaigners are polite, enthusiastic and KNOW your MANIFESTO.

Talk to current sabbatical officers to make sure you fully understands what the role entails. Welfare is rough. President is tough in so many ways but Welfare is dealing with people who are down to their last tin of beans, who are having anxiety attacks, who are really struggling with college. It's deciding who gets the student assistance fund and who doesn't, it's going to student funerals as the SU rep. It's tough mentally, be sure you knows what you are getting yourself into.

Be organised. I hit the ground running while others didn't (because the year before had been slow they didn't think it was important) have your days planned out, have a campaign manager who can plan out who's available to campaign where and when, be visible (and posters should be clear and coherent), be energetic, colourful, different, polite, if people have their minds made up on their number 1 ask them to consider you for number 2 (again I don't know how many are running, if there's just 2 ignore that last bit). Go to lectures, talk to people in every department, solid online presence too (I didn't bother making a facebook page specifically for the week, I just tagged all my campaigners in my campaign photos and asked them to share).

Tea and coffee can be more engaging than sweets and lollipops.

And lastly it's important to have a manifesto that is reasonable as well. A lot of people put down stuff that is just in no way achievable, while I would of course encourage him to think big don't take students for granted, they aren't stupid.

and enjoy the week, it's class craic above all else and you'll meet really cool people. Everyone runs for the same reasons - because they think they can make the union better/stronger. Keep that in mind. It's all like minded people.

Oh and also, you should remember that it's a position that is part of a team so you need to be open to working with anyone who's running for the other positions. That can be a really tough part.