

re-elect

#1 for block

Edmund

To read this manifesto in another format
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Vote Jesse
Dodkins #2

I'm Dr Edmund Schluessel. I'm currently studying for a PGCE at Cardiff University. I'm an international student, a member of Socialist Students and I'm standing for re-election to the Block of 15.

The past year has been tumultuous for university students. Vice-chancellors have used the police as a hammer against protests. We stood in solidarity with striking university staff, but lost three days of lectures because of the intransigence of pay slashing management. Cutbacks mean we're fighting to keep our courses, even though senior managers are sitting on top of billions in surpluses. All the while, the government is busy auctioning off our loans - potentially resulting in a massive student debt hike.

In Further Education we are no closer than we were a year ago to bringing back EMA or delivering something better - and nobody seems to be talking about grants for adult learners. FE students, who make up 60% of post-16 students, remain underrepresented both in the NUS and in individual colleges.

Over the past year I've led the way on bringing NUS and trade unions closer together, so we can fight to defend education and to help ensure everyone has collective representation whether they work or study. I helped win official NUS backing for the recent strike. I've taken a clear stand on the environment, on helping international students in crisis, and on saying NUS should put students first, no matter what.

I've done this all as an ordinary postgraduate student. On campus, and as a UCU member, I've organised pickets as part of industrial action and protests to support #copsoffcampus. I've helped defend students from bullying and discrimination. I've worked hard to be the most transparent and most accessible member of the NUS National Executive, bringing the concerns of our members the national attention they need. On the strength of my record, I'm asking for your votes for myself and for Jesse Dodkins so we can maintain, and build, the fighting

socialist voice in NUS.

A general election is coming in 2015. With luck, we will see the back of this rotten ConDem coalition. But will we see the end of their policies? We can't rely on the Labour Party - Ed Miliband has promised to continue with austerity and to out-Tory the Tories with benefit cuts and anti-immigrant policies. The majority of students say the big parties don't speak for them. We need an alternative based in the needs of students and workers, and NUS should be part of building it.

As George Osborne talks about recovery, NUS needs to ask why there are no jobs, and why those that are available are with zero hour contracts and rock bottom wages. As the number of vocational students continues to drop, NUS needs to fight for a living wage for apprentices. As student parents are forced out of education, NUS should be demanding affordable and accessible child care and supporting you when you make these demands on your campuses.

Most importantly, NUS needs to start organising serious, national action. The barrage of attacks we are facing must be met with a concerted campaign to defend ourselves. Not only that, we must fight to win the kind of education we deserve - an education that's fully funded, democratically run, publicly owned and

universally free at all levels. We need to start with a properly organised and mobilised mass national demonstration in the autumn and use that as a launch pad for a sustained and united campaign - one organised on every campus and college in the country.

Vote for me if you think "partnership" where Vice-Chancellors use us as focus groups and then make decisions based on profit isn't good enough. Vote for me if you want an NUS that will support you when you have trouble, not stay neutral. Vote for me if you want an NUS that will organise a mass campaign to defend education and fight for a future for the 99%.

I'll fight for:

- **A serious mass campaign to defend education**
- **A national demonstration in the autumn**
- **Stop the loan book sell-off - no student debt hike**
- **Free education - make the 1% pay!**
- **Bring back EMA and fight for living grants in FE**

