

Vote Socialist Worker Student Society...

# TOMAS EVANS

## #1 for Vice-President Higher Education

- Build a movement against the cuts. Fight back now!
- Stand up in unity against the fascists, racists and bigots
- Free all political prisoners – defend the right to protest
- Victory to the Arab revolutions, freedom for Palestine

### Fight austerity

**T**his year's NUS conference will take place again under the backdrop of austerity. We face two problems: a national leadership unwilling to lead a fight and a government that is intent on forcing through cuts.

Austerity involves huge attacks on the welfare state while the richest in society benefit. We face cuts to education, healthcare, and social services; bankers continue to get their bonuses, companies like Starbucks dodge their taxes, and unpaid labour is exploited in the workfare schemes.

But it's not about a lack of money: The Tories are trying to make students and workers pay the price for a crisis they did not cause.

### Higher Education

We have already seen the tripling of tuition fees to £9,000 a year and the slashing of EMA for college students, which has put higher education out of reach for many.

The alternative being offered to us is to wait for the next general election



when fees might come down to an unaffordable £6,000 a year. As students we should not forget the pledges of the last election: now is the time to fight for a free, fully funded education system that is accessible to all.

The Tories are now trying to finish the job that the new fee regime was trying to achieve. The White Paper lays out a strategy for transforming education in the interests of the few and opening it up to the market. There is now a polarisation between elite research and teaching intensive universities.

The events at London Metropolitan University were not a one off. The effects of privatisation combined with the government's racist immigration policies to create the conditions in which 2,600 students could face deportation.

I campaigned in London over the summer and at Cardiff University to fight the deportations, but also linking it to the broader austerity agenda.

There is now the threat of the wholesale privatisation of universities. Such places will be driven by profit and, like the high street chain HMV, the moment they stop making money will collapse.

UCLan is currently in the process of becoming an entirely privatised company limited by guarantee. Our national union is doing nothing to prevent this happening.

**Build a mass movement against austerity – Vote SWSS**

- Tomas Evans #1 for Vice-President Higher Education
- Shereen Prasad #1 for Society and Citizenship

## Another education is possible

While we fight to defend higher education we need to put forward alternatives. Education should be about the pursuit of learning not how much you can afford to buy.

Solidarity with lecturers and staff is the key to building successful campaigns, but it also shows the possibility of how universities could be run. Instead of power centralised in the hands of unelected managers – who are steering our institutions into profit making ventures – both students and workers need to articulate a collective vision of education.

Our campuses must have liberation at their heart. I will support campaigns for the liberation of Black, Women, LGBT, and disabled people both on and off campus.

## Building campaigns that can win

We cannot wait until 2015 and the general election to fight against the attacks on education and austerity. By 2015 the damage done to education will be vast; the public university will have been transformed into a neoliberal nightmare.

Across the world students have played an important role in mass movements. In Egypt students kicked out their Mubarak-era principals and now have a say in how their universities are run. In Quebec students defeated a government over tuition fee rises and are now starting a campaign for free education.

Our union should be at the forefront of publicising and organising solidarity with these and other international struggles. We can learn a lot from these struggles, but the key lesson is that building mass movements can win.

Last year I got my SU to back the NUS National Demonstration. I fought for the biggest mobilisation, despite the lack of strategy from the national leadership. However the fight against austerity will require more than an annual demonstration. We need a national union that supports local activists and campaigns and draws them into a national strategy. Local campaigns strengthen the national fight, while national actions give confidence to local campaigners.

The cutting back of resources and declining quality of our courses is not the fault of our lecturers: we need to stand together in solidarity to oppose privatisation.



Protesting against the closure of a Remploy factory

Students should be involved in building links with trade unions on the campuses to coordinate action across different unions.

We will need more than one national demonstration a year to win. We need to build a mass movement that involves all of our membership and a range of tactics. From petitioning to protests, strikes

to sit-ins, it is time our national union led a fight to win. As a principled and committed socialist I have the experience – both inside and outside NUS – to organise a fight back that can win.

We need a national union that will fight austerity – we can't wait until the 2015 general election!

Vote Tomas Evans #1 for VP HE!

## Why we're supporting Tomas

*Tomas brought students and workers together on the picket lines to defend education, making the slogan of 'students and workers unite' a reality in practice. His drive to build links between the NUS and other trade unions is desperately needed. Vote Tomas #1 for VP Higher Education.*

**Kate Hurford**  
Goldsmiths SU

*Tomas is tireless in his commitment to fighting for free and democratic education. He mobilised students for #demo2012 and linked our struggle in education to the struggle for Palestinian liberation on the Global Intifada Bloc. We need a union that campaigns around national and international issues, and Tomas is the candidate to do this.*

**Arnie Joahill**  
University of East London

*It is essential that anti-racist and anti-fascist politics are at the heart of our NUS. Tomas has regularly mobilised against the fascist English Defence League, and has organised Love Music Hate Racism gigs in Cardiff to celebrate multiculturalism. Elect Tomas for a union that campaigns for liberation.*

**Jamie Woodcock**  
NUS NEC

*We need activists who challenge the Tory's austerity in our colleges, our streets and in our national union. Tomas has fought against the cuts both in education and elsewhere - alongside the workers facing pay, job and pension cuts. We need a voice that poses alternatives to the cuts and privatisation of this government - Tomas is that voice.*

**Jonathan Giles**  
University of Glamorgan

*Electing a candidate like Tomas, who has experience building campaigns around such a wide range of issues, will be a positive change for the NUS. We need a democratic national union that inspires students to resist the attacks they are facing.*

**Søren Goard**  
VP Education Goldsmiths