

## Josh Blacker - Education Officer 2009/10

### Accessible to you, accountable to you and working for you

•**Arguing your corner effectively and vehemently** As current President of the Debating Society, you can be sure I'll argue your corner when it comes to making sure you get the education you're paying for. If that's arguing for better library provisions, keeping Wednesday afternoons free from teaching, or ensuring your finals aren't all in the same week, I'll be there for you.

• **Coming to you, so you don't have to come to me** I'll make it easier for you to raise issues with me: why should you have to tramp up four floors to the office to see me? I'll schedule regular drop-in sessions not only in the CSC but around campus - in department common rooms and halls of residence - so I can come to you. I'll also spend time working out of the office in places like Gordon's and the JBR, all of which will make me more accessible to more students.

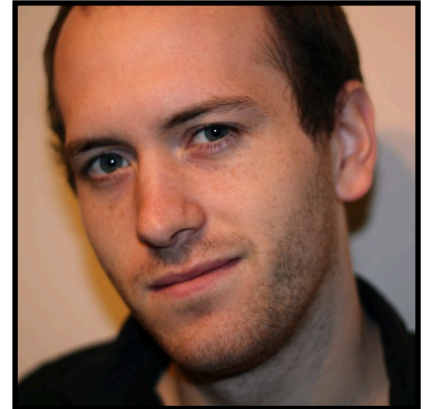
To keep you informed, and to keep me accountable to you, I'll make better use of the Union blogs to let you know what I'm working on and what I've achieved, so you know I'm doing the job I said I would.

•**Getting your money's worth** University is expensive and I will work tirelessly to make sure the costs are kept down. There should be no hidden extras when you're already paying so much, and the libraries should stock as many copies of set books as possible so you don't end up having to buy. I will lobby College to keep grad fees and international fees down so UCL is still accessible even during the economic downturn, and stop international students in particular being treated as cash cows.

•**Standardisation of the student experience** Why do different departments provide materials in different ways? All students should be able to access their course materials - lecture notes, seminar handouts, tutorial information - online. If a department isn't making it incredibly easy for students to catch up on a lecture they missed, that department is letting students down, and I will lobby College to standardise the student experience, so all students get value for money.

•**Campaign for more innovative learning spaces** Not everyone learns well in the same environment. With so many students at UCL, we need more varied learning spaces for students to work in. The revamp at the bottom of the Science Library is a start, but many students don't go there. I promise to lobby College to invest in innovative learning spaces where you feel inspired and comfortable working - spaces that help you work, rather than make you cold.

•**Better notification for cancelled lectures** It's the little things that annoy us the most. Why, in 2009, do students still turn up to lectures that have been cancelled without them knowing? This is the sort of issue that lets students down when it could be easily solved, so I will work with College to ensure it doesn't happen.



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Overall, I would be a great person to represent you, and be there for you when you need me. I will be accessible to you. I will be accountable to you. And I won't stop working for you. I will be your Education Officer 2009/10.

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