Ivett Kaufman

I am a final year student studying International Business Management and have decided to run for the position of Sabbatical Officer of the Guildhall School of Business and Law. I believe that in our perfectly imperfect London Metropolitan community real commitment and a strong leadership is necessary to represent students’ voice and facilitate positive change to continuously work towards an improved student experience and a better place to study.

Since starting my fantastic student journey at London Met, I have been actively involved in the work of the Student Union. I have set up The Hiking, Walking and Sightseeing Society and previously got involved in the running of the Banking and Finance Society. I am proud to represent you as a StaR and a Member of Student Council. I have also volunteered to participate in a Course Design and Delivery project, which allows us to actively engage in shaping our own education.

I believe it is necessary to show real commitment on issues that affect the UK higher education sector as a whole and our university.The recent vote to leave the EU is likely to have a negative impact on 15,000 UK students and puts the invaluable Erasmus program under threat. The removal of the maintenance grant and the plans to allow tuition fees to creep up to £10,000 are further discourages those from low and middle income families to enter higher education. Due to the decreasing student numbers, our university is trying to reduce its financial burden by the implementation of the One Campus, One Community project, which will see the Holloway campus accommodating all students. The jobs cuts will continue, and nearly 400 teaching and support staff jobs are planned to be axed in the forthcoming years.

I’m not afraid of the challenge and I’ll provide a strong voice to ensure you have the best experience and I will leave a better London Met behind! If elected, my priorities will be:

* Improve communication and reporting mechanisms regarding One Campus One Community Project and ensure that students are regularly consulted throughout the changes.
* Try to negotiate the cut of academic staff to ensure teaching quality isn’t damaged and students receive the support they need to make to most out of their studies.
* Lobby for more accredited volunteering opportunities, including participation in societies, and more part-time jobs for students; opportunities to work in the library and the hub, and having student-run catering facilities as well as better interaction with London Met Accelerator start-ups.
* Lobby for a designated silent study area at the Moorgate Campus, longer library opening hours and improved library materials and computers.
* Campaign for more support from academic staff to run subject-related societies and more training, support and recognition for all societies.
* Fight on the national level to stop further fees increase and devaluation of higher education degrees. Lobby and demonstrate against education cuts and government policies which hit disadvantaged students the hardest.

I will communicate these ideas effectively and represent London Met students across all campuses to work together for a better student experience and London Met.

**Believe in better – Ivett for Sabbatical Officer!**