Lack of engagement. Inequality. Environmental issues. Absence of mental health provision. The marketisation of education. These are the five areas and issues that I feel need to be tackled most urgently.

I’m Ali Hyde, and I want to advocate an agenda that directly benefits students. Throughout my time in Cambridge, I’ve proven my commitment to working with and fighting for students. As the Vice President of Downing JCR, I’m pushing to make rent fairer in the college and increase the number of cheaper rooms. As the Co-Chair of CULC, I’m working on the ‘Cost of Uni’ Campaign that aims to bring attention to how students are not getting value for money. As the President of CUSU LGBT+, I’ve been working with students in their own colleges to push for gender-neutral bathrooms, dress codes, and administrative policies to better the lives of trans and non-binary students in Cambridge.

It’s very important to me that students actively feel a part of this process. I am absolutely committed to taking on students’ views, and will seek out students who don’t feel engaged and ask how they want to be represented on the issues most important to them.

These are my policies and my intended areas of focus:

* **Engagement**: I intend to table a motion to mandate that the NUS inform students more widely about how they can vote both at home and at university in local elections, and that they can choose tactically whether to vote at home or at university in general elections; I will support motions that widen participation in democratic processes.
* **Inequality**: LGBT+ rights are a focus of mine, as is being pro minority liberation in general; I am also concerned with regional discrepancies in university admissions.
* **Environment**: It has been reported that 100 companies produce 71% of global emissions, and it’s important to remove the notion of individual responsibility from discourse and work towards changing that with boycotts of relevant companies and campaigning for change in the way we go about creating environmental policy – this includes pushing institutions to divest from companies responsible for these emissions.
* **Mental Health**: I will support motions that call for improved provision of mental health support, especially those that recognise that marginalised groups are most at risk and those that emphasise the importance of the effectiveness of the care given. I am also concerned with the lack of support for those with chronic mental health problems.
* **Anti-Marketisation**: Marketisation is bad for students, bad for staff, bad for education, and bad for balanced research; the government’s unsustainable loans system needs to be abolished and be replaced with a either a graduate tax or a system of free higher education.