Student Engagement - more than just a buzzword.

Hi, my name is Edward and I’m standing to be one of your Union Development Campaigns Officers on the CUSU Part-Time Executive. We often hear about the importance of ‘student engagement’ when it comes to CUSU elections, but encouraging greater involvement with CUSU is much easier said than done. It’s vital that this focus on student engagement is more than just a buzzword that gets thrown around in campaigns. I believe that the policies outlined here will provide clear ways to improve CUSU’s connections with the students it represents. If elected, I will work hard to increase student engagement with CUSU and ensure everybody's voice is heard. As part of the Union Development Team, I would seek to:

* Re-establish the ‘Presidents and Externals’ forum, providing the opportunity for JCR and MCR representatives to directly feed back their students’ problems and concerns to the CUSU Executive in a more informal setting.
* Work closely with JCRs and MCRs to improve individual student engagement with CUSU across the colleges, developing strategies for consulting students on CUSU policy, encouraging attendance at CUSU Council and facilitating more direct involvement in college life.
* Support efforts to keep the student community up to date with the work of the CUSU Executive and the decisions made at CUSU Council, whether through social media, the student press or the CUSU website.
* Explore ways in which CUSU Council can be made more accessible and easier to understand, while also providing a space in which students feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and opinions.
* Campaign for better facilities in the CUSU Lounge to attract more students to CUSU events and encourage more direct involvement with its activities.

Having served as JCR President at Jesus for nearly a year, I know how important it is to make student voices heard and ensure that our interests are not overlooked by those in charge. CUSU provides us with a powerful vehicle to bring about positive change within the university, but proper student engagement is crucial in making that happen. While progress has definitely been made, there is still a lot of work to do when it comes to student engagement with CUSU. I want to use my experience as a JCR President and a member of CUSU Council to campaign for and deliver effective change, helping to facilitate greater student engagement with CUSU and ensuring that student voices are heard. I hope you will consider voting for me. Thank you.