

Dear Student,

I've always felt, since I was a student here myself, that the position of Rector should not be party political. That's why I'm standing as an Independent candidate. And, if elected, I would seek to represent ALL students – irrespective of their other allegiances – on a fair and equal basis.

It's also clear that there is a real desire and a genuine need for a Rector who is active, accessible – and around. The Rector needs to chair the University Court, where the real power lies and the big decisions get made. It's vital that the student voice is heard loud and clear at that level.

And, to achieve that successfully, the Rector needs to be able to work well with the various autonomous student institutions on campus, which have served us all well over generations. That's why I'm so grateful for the formal confidence and backing of GUSA, GUU and the QMU in this campaign – and would want to take that constructive approach forward into the job ahead.

I also see the Rector as being something of a constituency MP for the campus generally – available easily and confidentially where the problems and concerns of individual students are involved. I know from many individual and personal conversations with students already that there's a real job here just waiting to be done.

The Rector also needs to be able to command a national platform, when addressing the issues affecting students and the university alike. I would want to articulate the needs of UK tertiary education and funding generally at Westminster, as well coordinating with decision-makers at Holyrood.

So this is where I'm coming from and how I would intend to go about the task. It would be a great privilege indeed if you could give me your support and your vote to tackle the opportunity – on your behalf.

I promise you nothing but my best efforts.

Charles Kennedy.