My time at University has been the most memorable experience of my life. Like most students, this experience is best compared to a rollercoaster. There are many ups, a couple of downs and we are all there for the crazy ride. Becoming the Vice President Welfare and Community Officer will not only allow me to help those experiencing the downs, but also allow me to elevate those ups because that is what the University experience should be about.

Starting somewhere new can be very daunting and something we all experienced when we first arrived at the University of Southampton. It can be difficult to feel grounded somewhere when you have not quite found your place- even more so if you have not found friends in those you live with. If I were to be voted in, I would make it my personal mission to make sure nobody feels this way. To make sure that people feel like they belong at the University of Southampton.

The way I would go about this it to build upon the pre-existing work done by the amazing societies by helping promote their events. This is important as societies are such an integral part to wellbeing at University. By attending societies, I can see how much a community can be built within one. It was in societies that I and many others found our place at the University. It is also the place I have had the privilege to continue to create a community as the President for the Debating Union. Everyone has different interests and with the 214 societies currently on offer, there are 214 different communities to help people find their place and improve their wellbeing.

I would continue to celebrate the diversity seen at the University of Southampton and encourage other ways of show casing this amazing part of the student community. I would do this by leasing with the current student officers to make sure that everyone is being represented at our Student’s Union, as the Student’s Union is a place for every student. I would help to support societies that represent different communities with their projects and ideas to ensure that the voices of as many groups as possible are being heard and listened too.

I would also make sure that all students know that they are able to freely raise concerns surrounding wellbeing and community, and that these concerns will be dealt with. This will be done by promoting pre-existing systems such as ‘You Make Change’ as well as talking to students to see where they feel communication could be improved between the Student’s Union and them. By working together, I hope to create an environment where all students feel that they can openly and safely communicate with their Student’s Union about concerns they have.