Introduction

Hi, I am Zhiyuan Bai, a first-year mathematician at Fitzwilliam College. I am running for Undergraduate Student Representative in the Council of the School of Physical Sciences.

Better Representation from Students’ Feedback

The School of Physical Sciences is responsible for the study of mathematics, physical sciences and geography in the university, and its decision affects every student whose subject area falls under these three categories. So it is crucially important that feedbacks of students can be brought to the Council of the School, so that students’ opinion can be taken into account when a decision is made. The role of the Student Representative is to convey the messages from fellow students to the decision-making body of the School. Therefore, if there is anything relating to the decisions and actions of the School that you feel necessary to speak out, you can contact me at my email zb260@cam.ac.uk. If the matter is related directly to the decisions made by the Council of the School, I will try to raise the issue in the nearest relevant meeting of the Council, and get back to you as soon as a clear answer is produced.

Recorded Lectures

Despite many requests from students, most subjects still do not provide video recordings of the lectures. For students who cannot go to lectures due to illness, injuries or personal issues, they may not be able to catch up with the materials that have been covered. Although some of the courses provide lecture notes or similar study materials, it is widely accepted that there is a clear difference between studying through lecture notes and having a lecturer deliver it in speech. Thus, I will try to extend the possibility for recorded lectures to be made available to students in order to ensure that students will not be put in a disadvantaged situation due to uncontrollable events or faults that are not their own.

Improvements of Lecture Theatre Facilities

Some of the facilities in lecture theatres cannot satisfy the needs of the students. For instance, the Babbage Lecture Theatre, where the first-year maths lectures are taken place, is not equipped with blackboard or whiteboard, so the lecturers often have to project their handwritten materials onto the screen, in which case a technical difficulty (e.g. projector malfunction) can cause a serious disruption to lecture proceedings. I believe that frustrations like this should be put into attention. Therefore, I will be open to suggestions about the improvements of lecture facilities that have failed to accommodate the needs of the students, and I will bring reasonable requests to Council meetings in order to discuss the possibility of either allocating part of the budget to solve the problem, or other ways to make the lecture room capable for the lectures to take place smoothly.