

Garry Clawson - SoCS School Rep Manifesto 23rd March 2020



You have to be part of the change you want to see. I see an incredible amount of effort within the School of Computer Science to continually build better modules, to reach out to students for feedback on all areas of their experience and importantly providing guidance to students on how to maximise their university career. I personally feel that every member of SoCS wants to see each and every student sustainably perform at their highest level to arm themselves with the best possible set of opportunities when they come to the end of their degree.

When striving for continual improvement, some areas move faster than others. I want to focus on the areas that I feel can be strengthened to build a stronger SoCS community. 3 key areas call out to me:

1. I see opportunities for improved interaction from students. There is so much opportunity and resource available and I don't see students make the most of this. I want to change that by leveraging the course reps to help disseminate this across the year groups in a more relatable way.
2. I feel that workshops are a key and integral element of the learning process. On a local level I feel demonstrators can be more proactive during workshops, especially in approaching students. On a higher level, workshops should be more than an isolated session. These workshops are an opportunity to learn in a dynamic way and I want to help explore making these workshops an interactive environment; building on ideas as well as honing new skills learnt in a lecture. Demonstrators are integral to this. I feel they need to play a larger role.
3. I also see gaps in how we can support those whom may be academically struggling but don't feel confident enough to ask for help. University is not meant to be easy and it's ok to find modules difficult. What is not ok is feeling you cannot talk to anyone or feeling anxiety if you have an academic problem. The new Blackboard Collaborate Ultra tool which we have begun using this week I feel can play a significant role in helping students gain access to enhanced lecture support.

I don't have a clear plan on how to achieve the above. But what I do know is that I will make myself open to all students. I know that I will be transparent on the whole school rep process so that each student can feel fully engaged in what is actually happening. I also have a personal commitment to make the SoCS a better and more fulfilling experience than when I first entered it. We all have it within our gift to do this.

I'm excited and I feel the school is at the beginning of what will be a very rewarding and successful journey and I want you to feel part of that too. My name is Garry Clawson and I hope that you will vote for me.