

## **FIRST YEAR REPRESENTATIVE NOMINEE**

### **Bevan Willoughby**

I believe that the role of First-Year Rep on the LSS is not one of representation, but rather one that demands an open ear and a willing ability to 'shut up and listen'. Although I am a principled and opinionated person, so too are the large body of highly qualified individuals who I stand to work with if elected. With an interest in gaining stories and diverse perspectives, what I want to get out of the First-Year Rep position is a better understanding of those I am studying with and what I hope to contribute is an environment of tolerance, openness and a culture of 'being heard'. My particular focus would be that of the vulnerable or marginalised within our MLS community.

I am descendant from a long line of people who not only benefitted from the undermining of those considered 'lesser' but, in many instances, perpetuated the belittling of such people in so doing. Growing up in South Africa as a white, heterosexual male was easy considering the generations preceding me who had set up society to serve the interests of someone like myself. After a great realisation of the effects of prejudice and the ways in which I subconsciously fuelled its ferocity, I developed a drive to eliminating its impacts.

I can offer the LSS willingness to patiently engage, a mind-set open to learning and the drive to reduce the harmful experience of prejudice in all its forms.