

## **Manifesto for the position of VP for Welfare and Equality in City Campus**

My name is Fionn Collins. I'm 23 and I'm in my final year in DT416, Culinary Entrepreneurship in Cathal Brugha Street. I'm the current College Officer for Cathal Brugha Street in the City Campus.

I've known since I started my course that I would one day run for the position of Welfare. I feel as though I am well suited for the job and could bring a great attitude and atmosphere to the position. I've been involved with the union a lot in my last four years in college. The union helped me become more confident in myself and allowed me to express myself the way I wanted. I'm passionate, honest and an extremely hard worker. I made some of my best friends in the union and have some of the best memories here. I want to help people feel the way the union has made me feel; safe, comfortable, and happy.

I've got a lot of experience that I think I can bring to the table for this position;

- Current College officer of Cathal Brugha Street 2019/2020
- School rep for Culinary Arts and Food Technology (2 years running)
- Student Councillor (4 years running)
- Welfare Award received by the VP for Welfare 2018/2019
- College Officer Award received by the college officer for Cathal Brugha Street 2017/2018
- Events/Welfare crew (4 years running)
- Access Peer Mentor 2017/2018
- Jigsaw Peer Mentor 2019/2020
- TU Dublin Promo Crew- working on leapcard, Polling clerk, General onsite events & much more!

**I've many ideas for the role. Here are some of the ideas I have in mind;**

### **1. Health:**

#### **Sexual Health**

Being a part of the LGBTQ+ community, I understand that there is a lack of sexual education taught in schools. I want to run a campaign to help students from the community who may have questions that they were too scared to ask in school. I want to provide information on HIV rapid testing and PrEP. I want to investigate getting the Health Service within the University to help give out PrEP and learn to administer hormones for Trans students. I want to continue the work of the current VP for Welfare with Consent workshops and raise more awareness on nights out and how consent is key!

#### **Mental Health**

Like previous VP for Welfare's, I want to run a campaign on mental health. I want to work with students and have an open conversation about mental health and start a conversation. I would like to focus on men's mental health and help break the stigma and boundaries around that. In order to achieve this, I would like to run a men's mental health week. I want to raise more awareness on mental health in young adults and how to support someone you know with poor mental health.

## **Physical Health**

I want to run a 'Healthy Nutrition Week' where we can encourage students to eat healthy as it will improve their overall well-being and ability to focus on their studies. To facilitate this, I would like to have stands on all campuses that can encourage students and show them other alternatives to junk food. I want to also ensure that gym facilities are up to scratch for students and a cycle campaign for students to encourage them to cycle to college. I would also lobby TU Dublin for more bike racks to encourage students to cycle from home.

### **2. Grangegorman:**

#### **Students moving to Grangegorman**

The biggest move we have all been waiting for! I want to make sure everyone who has moved to Grangegorman is comfortable with the move. It is going to be crazy, and I want to have a campaign at the start of the year to figure out how we can help accommodate the students moving from one campus to the other. I particularly want to focus on the 3rd and 4th years, as well as the postgraduates, and make sure they have all the facilities for their final year projects! I want to lobby TU Dublin into achieving green campus status via several more environmentally friendly practises, such as getting proper waste disposable bins installed. In Grangegorman, a lot will be moving, and I understand the frustration of final year projects. It's stressful enough as it is to be in final year, never mind moving campus!

### **3. Student Well-being:**

#### **Financial Help**

I am an ACCESS student. I received a lot of help from the services here in TU Dublin and I would love to work with them further. I want to help students with getting supports from the college with Student Finances and lobby with Union of Students of Ireland (USI) for a SUSI grant review. I would love to run a campaign for tips and tricks of saving money in college for students who are really struggling in college and introduce them to facilities such as MABS.

#### **Disability Awareness**

I'm a member of the disability service in TU Dublin and I would like to work closely with the services here to making them more visible and show students how to sign up to the service. A lot of students have hidden disabilities and I want to listen to those students and hear what they have to say. I would also like to run the same campaign that the current VP for Welfare ran with the PC1 forms and showing students how to access the forms.

### **4. Facilities:**

I want to ensure facilities are up to standard within the college. Students should feel safe on campus and not have to worry about broken chairs or dodgy tables! I want to hold the college accountable if everything in Grangegorman isn't to the standards we have hoped for. I want to ensure that facilities are adequate for all students!

*I have a lot more ideas as well. I would like to continue some of the work already started by the current VP for Welfare and the ones previously as well. Some more of my ideas involve; accommodation, direct provision, harm reduction of alcohol and drugs, trans rights, and much more!*

The union has become such a huge part of my life and I really hope you will vote for me and vote for me on ***Tuesday, 31st March & Wednesday, 1st April 2020. #FionnNumber1 #VoteFionnNo.1***