

VP For Education Manifesto

Introduction

What's up, my name is Seán Farrelly and I am currently clubs' officer for TU Dublin Tallaght Campus Students' Union. I am currently in my final year of Electronic Engineering. In the upcoming elections I will be running for the position of VP for Education. In my second year in IT Tallaght I was a Student Leader and was involved in the orientation of the incoming first year students'. From this day onwards I took a massive interest in the Students' Union and knew it was something that I really wanted to be apart of, so the following year I took it on myself to run for the position of Clubs' Officer. This was a position that I massively enjoyed and after working in this role for two years I realised the positive impact that the Students' Union has on students' lives whether that be enhancing their student experience or offering support. This is something I am greatly interested in and hope to pursue in the future.

● Class Reps

Class Reps are a vital part of the Students Union. They are the voice of the class and the link between the Students Union and classes. I want to continue to give a high quality class rep training for all class reps and also host regular and informative class rep meetings. This year alone I have seen massive engagement and networking between student councilors, and I would love to create the same atmosphere with all class reps by organizing meet ups and social activities. I was also part of the class rep reform which elected the most class reps and I would love the opportunity to be able to build on this foundation. After seeing that a class in the college organised their own class jumpers, I would love to look into other colleges and Student Unions' and see how we as an SU can help and hopefully set up a system to work with class reps to organise jumpers for each class that is interested.

● Part – Time Students'

In this college there is almost a 50/50 split between full time and part time students. I want to make sure that the part time students know their SU and the services that it has to offer for them. If elected I will work with the elected deputy president to stay back late after hours regularly to make sure that part-time students know who the SU are. I would also like to hold forums so that part-time students can express their concerns and have their voices heard and feel just as much as part of the community as the full time students.

● Access to Education

In June I took it upon myself to attend the USI lobby day. Throughout the day we lobbied TD's with regards to all the problems that Students face. In Tallaght alone we are lucky enough to have a college on our doorstep, but the extortionary education fees prevents people from attending 3rd level education. After Brexit we became the highest fee-paying country in the EU. I also feel that the SUSI grant needs a complete reform, SUSI grants have not been reinstated since 2011 while the cost of living has increased. If elected I want to work with the relevant organisations to continue to lobby TD's to decrease the cost of fees and strive towards this SUSI reform. As a student who received SUSI, I admire students who

must work to pay their own fees. I want to work with the full team to get publicly funded education to relieve the financial burden that students are faced with

● **Exams**

Over my four years as a student in this college I am well aware of the stress and pressure that students put themselves under when it comes to exams. I want to work with the appropriate staff members in how students can take this pressure off themselves and maximise their exam potential. By doing this I would also offer support with exams and whether that be offering my advice or working with senior management to ensure that appropriate exam information is published well in advance. Another issue that I witnessed as a student was that the exams were not spread out. In my opinion I feel that there should be at least one day between each exam to give students the best chance and ensure that they are able to obtain optimum results

● **Feedback**

As a fourth year student I had the opportunity to fill out the studentsurvey.ie. I am of the belief that the feedback from students on surveys and other forums such as focus groups and polls. These are all vital to identify trends and implement necessary changes. Students want to enhance their student experience. Students are the most valid stakeholders. Following on from this point I am currently aware that there is a system in place with regards to lecturer and module feedback that may not be being implemented correctly. I would like to find out more about this and how it can be improved to ensure that students receive the best education possible. As well as this I would also like to be open minded as to how students believe that the Students Union could improve.

● **Events**

Events are obviously a major part of ensuring that students are enjoying their college experience. In my opinion I feel like events are the perfect way to de – stress from the stress of college. If elected I would like to ensure that there is plenty of day events for students who may not be able to attend night events because of work or other commitments. I also feel that when there is an opportunity to organise free events it should be taken because I am well aware of the financial strain that students are under. Another area I would like to focus on is working with the events team to make sure that there are more events spread out and also link up with the other campuses in organising bigger events together.

● **Campaigns**

After working in the Students Union for the past two years I have seen the importance that awareness campaigns have on the student's lives and student experience. It is for this reason that I am dedicated to providing a number of different campaigns throughout the year to focus on key areas that affect students. I will make these campaigns relevant and relatable. An area that I am really interested in and focus a campaign around is the Universal Learning Design. I would like to work closely with the elected VP for Welfare and Equality and relevant staff members to implement this on our campus and make people aware of what it is because I believe equal access to education is massively important.

