

Manifesto for VP Welfare and Equality in City Campus

Hi! I'm Hazel Doran and I'm running to be your next TU Dublin student union Vice President for Welfare and Equality in City Campus.

I've been so lucky to have 6 great years in DIT and TU Dublin. First in the 2-year culinary arts programme and later during my 4 years of event management. Throughout this time, I've really enjoyed getting involved in the union in various capacities and always knew I'd like to run for welfare on completion, so I'm really excited that time is now!

Coming back to college as a mature student has given me a unique insight and has made me fiercely passionate about protecting the rights of all students and advocating for a better university experience for everyone. There is so much good in our university but there is also many outdated systems and policies that hinder students abilities to thrive and I want to change that. I feel my experiences have given me the skills to strongly represent the union and hope you'll consider voting for me on the 29-31 March.

Vote For Doran - Vote for Change!

Experience

- Events/ Welfare Crew for 3 years
- Student Councillor for 3 years
- Polling Clerk for 4 years
- Founding Member of Mature student Society
- SVP Soc Committee member 4 years
- Mature Student Soc Chairperson for 2 years
- Student Rep at Academic Council 2018
- Northsides Societies budget committee for 2 years
- Societies training and leadership committee 2 years
- Organised SVP Sustainable Fashion show 2019
- 3-time recipient of pillar of community gold award for volunteering

My Plans

Student Supports

As a mature student I've been acutely aware of the issues within the university in regard to student supports. If elected I would like to lobby for mature student officer to be reinstated. This full-time position was cut during the recession, and I believe it's vital it return; mature student dropout rates are significantly higher than regular entry and this issue needs to be addressed and more supports put in place.

Similarly, within the disability sectors, I would like to work with the university to better promote current services available to students as well as help to tackle some of the ableist policies that have been introduced since the move. Some of the issues include swipe card heavy doors hindering the independence of those with mobility impairments and larger students feeling uncomfortable and being unable to fit behind the desks in tiered lecture halls. I feel

something must be done to tackle these problems and this will enable students to continue to access quality education with less worries.

Finally, if elected I would like to work to reintroduce the student charter. This document lapsed when we merged to TU Dublin and included protections for students such as “lecturers must give 4 weeks’ notice of an assessment” this rule helped students manage their workload and stress levels effectively and I feel it’s vital this be put back in place.

Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing, both physical and mental is so important for students. If elected there are many supports, I would like to bring back and some new ones I would like to put in place.

I was recently informed the student health centre does not provide abortion care to students on campus and only offers a referral service. I feel this is unacceptable, this vital health care has been the law for over 3 years and should be available from our own campus healthcare as it is available in other universities around the country.

I believe the wellbeing of all students is paramount to getting the most out of the college experience, as such I would like to introduce Mandatory Consent training for all incoming 1st years, the current system of optional workshops is a step in the right direction but to ensure everyone’s safety it’s so important everyone gets the training.

Engagement with the Union

Student engagement has been dwindling over the last number of years, including before covid. I believe the union needs to take a new approach in order to rectify this issue.

I would like to introduce “Biweekly Welfare Walk Ins” where I will travel around the campuses and engage with students in person and see what they need from the union. These walk ins could include activities or workshops or could be an information stand with signups for welfare crew etc. I believe its essential students know their officers and see them regularly on campus and not just on nights out or by email as can be the case currently.

I also want to bring back regular on campus welfare activities, I want to relaunch the welfare crew and get students involved in projects that matter to them.

Some of my ideas include embracing diversity workshops perhaps a collab w/black and Irish, activism workshops on homelessness, mental health and managing stress, I want to bring back the puppy room event! Honestly, I’ve so many ideas and would love to use my event management experience and really allow welfare and equality to thrive.

Facilities for students on campus

The move to Grangegorman hasn’t always been smooth, there are many issues on site and the university/ contractors have been slow to respond.

First on my agenda would be to follow Fionn’s work on reinstating gender neutral bathrooms so that all students can feel safe and comfortable using the facilities.

I would also like to lobby for more seating areas across all campuses, quiet rooms, group study/collab spaces and bookable spaces available to students so they can work peacefully on site without distraction or having to work on the floor which is often the case currently.

Having spoken to students, I would also like to work with chaplaincy on the upgrade or relocation of the current prayer room facilities. As it stands in Grangegorman, the room in St. Laurences is in a poor state and is not fit for purpose. There are similar problems both in Bolton St and Aungier, with spaces being small, queues forming and student unable to access these rooms when they need them. If elected, it is my priority to rectify this.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and again: **Vote For Doran – Vote for Change** on 29-31 March!