

Hi, my name is Hazel and I'm your current VP for Welfare and Equality in City Campus and I'm asking for your vote to become the VP for Welfare and Equality over all three campuses this upcoming year.

I'm intensely passionate about this role, about the wellbeing of all our students and about fixing the disparity that exists between different TU Dublin Locations. I've spent most of my term covering all 3 campuses due to reduced team members and I'd love for you to support me in my efforts to become your elected officer for Welfare and Equality in City, Blanchardstown and Tallaght next year.

#### *A little about me....*

Over my time in both DIT and TU Dublin, I was heavily involved in student life ranging from societies, volunteering, student council and in the union as both welfare crew and as a student representative at academic council.

Over the past year, it has been my great joy to serve the students of TU Dublin as your Vice President for Welfare and Equality. I am very proud of what we have achieved during this time, including introducing a new officer structure which will implement a diverse range of roles to be a better representative of our student population. This includes part time officer positions for Mature students, Access, Gender Equality, LGBTQ and Ethnic Diversity to name but a few. It is my hope to work with these new officers in the coming year to implement more multidimensional and relevant campaigns to meet students interests and needs.

#### *Campaigns*

Speaking of campaigns, it was my goal last year to bring campaigns back on campus with a range of activities to meet students where they are. Through my term, I successfully led 10 W&E campaigns that were rolled out across all campuses. This included the largest SU led Black History Month in the country which encompassed 16 events over the month, if re-elected I would like to improve on this, as well as implement a policy of inclusion and elevation of the voices of those of global majority into all of our SU campaigns.

I believe the campaign structure within welfare and equality needs to change next year, if elected I would like to re-evaluate how we roll out campaigns, bring in variation in the length of them as the platforms we use to engage students so that we can give you the best possible experiences and opportunities to engage with us.

#### *Engagement*

On engagement, we definitely saw an uptake this year, we brought in "Spill Da T and WTF which encompassed elements of weekly welfare walk ins that featured in my last manifesto and gave students a real opportunity to engage with their elected officers. If elected I would like to continue with this as well as implement other measures such as the initiation of working groups to tackle issues on the ground and to work with the VP of events on bringing back the crew system so students have actively get involved with us and volunteer with the events and campaigns that are happening both on campus and off. Given the return to night life we've seen this year, I would also like to reintroduce our safe space welfare points at all our night time events.

#### *Supports*

We saw good improvements in supports for students this year, but as always there is so much room to do more. This year saw a number of mature student breakfasts across all campuses, if elected, I would love to work with student life to ensure these happen monthly as a way to encourage mature students to meet others and get more from Uni life.

I would also like to work more with the different access programmes, apprentices, International students and those returning to education to ensure they are getting the same supports and services of any other TU Dublin student.

Access to education is of huge importance to me, we've seen the cost-of-living impact so many students in terms of being unable to access exam results because of unpaid fees, to commuting massive distances to get to college. In the upcoming year I would like to work with the university on implementing a proper payment plan as seen in other universities so students are not at a disadvantage because of financial constraints.

Finances are on everyone's mind as we go forward with the year ahead, it is my hope that we can work with the university on alleviating some of the students worries while improving services such as health, with getting equal and free healthcare across all campuses as well as reduced waiting times for mental health.

Finally, I would also like to work with the VP Academic Affairs on a "Scrap the Cap" Campaign to eliminate the 40% cap on repeat exams. I don't believe students should be punished for previous performance in exams, I think the concept is outdated and needs to be changed!

#### *Safety on Campus*

We saw this year an increase of antisocial behaviour across all campuses, with the rise of the right wing, we have also seen racism and anti-migrant rhetoric raise in the communities that surround us. We as a union must challenge these hateful and fearful ideologies and come together to support each other in the year ahead, it is my hope that I can design campaigns and vigils that grow to a national level that empower our students and communities and show that we in TU Dublin embrace diversity and that all are welcome here!

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto, I have loved doing this job and hope I can continue for another year!

Please Vote Doran #1 on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> March