

My name is Aoife Meagher, I'm a final year student studying Commercial Modern Music in BIMM and I'm running to be your next Vice President for Welfare and Equality in the City Campus.

I've been heavily involved in the students union for the past 4 years, being a school rep twice, class rep once and a part time officer last year. Some other experience I've had is being on the committee for the LGBTQ society in the city campus for the past 3 years and have also had the opportunity to deliver workshops at USI Pink Training as well. I've been able to facilitate and organise countless events for the society and for the SU in the past in a part time capacity and so I know I can bring that same determination and passion to this full-time position if elected.

Getting involved with Societies and the Student Union has made me much more confident and ready to fight for what I believe in. I'm very passionate about the student experience, especially because mine has varied so much being from such a small campus. I'm very outspoken about issues that relate not only to my experience but all students' experiences. Societies and the Students Union made me feel safer and enjoy my experience as a student more. I hope I will be able to deliver that to other students if elected.

I have many ideas for what I want to do for students, but here are a few of them;

Welfare

- **Physical Health-** Nutrition and diet are so important to our physical health and I want to continue the work the SU has been doing around this topic. However, I would make it into a "Nutrition Week" to be able to give students advice on eating healthier (that isn't just eating more fruit!). It would also involve recipes which would be cheaper and healthier than a takeaway but be easy enough for any student to make. I want to run this campaign as college students can struggle with cooking for themselves on such a tight student budget, I might even be persuaded to reveal my family's secret brownie recipe (and they are award winning!). I would also lobby for more bike racks and Dublin bikes to be stationed near the Grangegorman campus and scattered around the area due to there being a lack of them there which can make it difficult for students who wish to cycle to college.
- **Mental Health-** Mental health is extremely important to me especially coming off the year we have just had! I want to have mental health awareness be at the forefront of our attention next year as mental health is always important to look after. I want to focus on positive mental health so building campaigns to help cope with mental health. I would like to run events such as fun exercise classes (for beginners) such as ZUMBA and yoga with the sports office, coping skills workshops, book clubs and such so that students have more opportunity to interact with each other outside of classes. I would also like to run a campaign to destigmatize mental health as unfortunately this is still very prevalent in Ireland, especially men's mental health. I want to link up with the USI about running training for students such as boundary training and mental health first aid training. I am extremely aware of the long waiting lists for the counselling service in TU Dublin, so I want to work with the counselling service to try find solutions and ways to cope with the influx of students requiring this service.
- **Sexual Health-** There are many aspects of sexual health that students need to be aware of, especially those who are also in the LGBTQ community. I want to help

continue the work of the union by working with the health service in TU Dublin about providing PREP and Rapid HIV Testing alongside USI. I aim to expand our SHAG week, being sure to link up with socs so we can reach as many students as possible. IBSA is an incredibly important issue in Ireland, I aim to educate students about this issue and create campaigns that are gender neutral. The reason for this is so many campaigns around this issue can focus on one gender always being the victim etc. and can diminish the experiences of people of other genders going through this.

Equality

- **LGBTQ Rights-** The SU has done a lot of work to set up a T fund to help trans students in the university, I will continue that work and hopefully it will be up and running next year. The MSM blood ban is also still a serious issue in Ireland, I want to continue to lobby alongside USI to remove this ban especially since there is a shortage of blood being donated year round. I will also continue to work with USI and the This is Me campaign to improve the healthcare service for trans people in Ireland.
- **International Student Rights-** We need to continue to lobby on behalf of international students on campus who are being treated as if they are cash cows for the university. Fees for international students are extortionate and are rising, some courses even raising the fees for international students this year. We need students to be aware of this issue so all students can work together to alleviate some of the costs for them to study here.
- **Students with Disabilities-** I will continue to run campaigns similar to the previous VPs to show students how to access the PC1 forms. I want to learn from students' experiences to try to solve issues by creating a forum or a feedback form to ensure we represent the needs of all students.
- **Sustainability-** Sustainability is a big passion of mine and I have a lot of ideas of how we can improve sustainability on campus. First of all, I want to work with Green Campus to make sure there is an investigation done about recycling contamination on campus, if there is still a high level of contamination, I will run a campaign to educate about how to recycle. I will also run upcycling events so we can reuse items instead of relying on recycling, these workshops will show the basics of sewing (so you don't have to throw away all your old clothes), and also give helpful tips and tricks about how to reuse stuff around your house. I would also like to work with Green Campus to look into the possibility of starting a small garden on the Grangegorman campus to highlight how easy it can be, but also to offset our carbon footprint even a little.
- **Grangegorman-** While a lot of students wait to finally go to Grangegorman, we need to prepare for when students are there for the first time. Running onsite events and having information for students is key to make sure this transition can run smoothly. I want to continue the work of the current students union to make sure that there are enough facilities for students. I would focus primarily on 3rd and 4th year students so they have everything they need for their projects.

I have a lot more ideas too, involving direct provision, student accommodation, drug harm reduction and more. If you have any questions or feedback, feel free to contact me!

Remember to vote Meagher #1 for welfare on the 23rd and 24th of March.