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Position Contested: Grangegorman Central Quad College Officer

Introduction:

Why hello there! My name is Brian Jordan and I'm a third year Nutraceuticals student hoping to represent you next semester as we (finally) make the move to Grangegorman campus. Whether this takes place through blended learning or a full campus experience – let me be your student union representative and ensure we get the absolute best out of this transition.

I've been heavily involved in societies and the student union for the past three years and with your vote I hope to make the student experience even better. During my time as College Officer this year, I've fought for lecture recording, mental health and student engagement. We're the largest student union in Ireland and we deserve representatives who will fight for what our students deserve.

Experience:

I've been a class representative (3 years), school representative (1 year), student councillor (3 years) and your Central Quad College Officer for the past year; I know how the Union works. I've fought for local issues in Cathal Brugha Street, I've held school meetings with the class representatives in my school and I've brought forward motions at student council. I've had paper usage reduced by over 90% in council, I've gotten almond and oat milk added to the college canteens and I've lobbied for better recognition of Fairtrade products in TU Dublin. I've also passed motions regarding lecture recordings, about social activities online during the pandemic, and much, much more.

I've been chairperson of the LGBTQ society the past two years as well. Despite the challenges of everything being online, I've ensured everything from original events (murder mysteries, escape rooms, niche PowerPoints – all online!), to education (bringing in dietitians, fitness instructors, yoga classes), to charity work (we've raised over €1000 to date). I want to apply this level of organisation, diversity and event management to my potential role as Central Quad College Officer.

I've loved every second of my time here in TU Dublin and I'm not done yet – a vote for me is a vote for security and progress in these coming months of immense change.

What I plan to do:

The list is incredibly long but I have some major issues that I'll be fighting for below.

1) Lecture Recording

By far one of the biggest failings by academic staff to date is their refusal to record online lecture material. Through their inaction, the student experience has suffered immensely. The refusal to record lecture material has disadvantaged students who are already socioeconomically deprived (poor internet availability, limited laptop access), as well as those who are hard of hearing.

I've passed motions regarding lecture recordings and I've advised students on how to speak with their lecturers individually. With the work of the Union, we've even passed a memo at academic council requesting that all lecturers begin recording them. But this is not enough. Lecturers are still refusing, or changing their mind midway through the semester, or claiming that 'we didn't record them before the pandemic'. But students before the pandemic weren't reliant on their internet being stable at all times to attend a lecture. So vote for me and let me fight for you.

2) Events

There has been an exceptional effort made by the Student's Union this year to create online events for students – from 'I hate Mondays', to campaigns about sexual and mental health awareness. But there will come a time when it's safe to be back on campus; when that happens, we need to see a return of on-site events!

My time as LGBTQ chairperson has helped me understand how to run events, know what events all students enjoy and most importantly, I've done it all before in societies. It's time to make college fun again, not just for a small cohort of students, but for all of us studying here.

3) Grangegorman Facilities

Excited about the elusive move to Grangegorman next semester? Were you aware that there's no proper student centre, no sports centre, no Blackbox theatre, no pool, no proper gym (it's tiny) and we don't even have a completed library yet! We have a temporary library in a campus that's been advertised as being state of the art.

It infuriates me that our students aren't even getting the basic facilities we deserve. I'll work with our Student Union Sabbaticals, lobby for what we as students need and I'll do everything I can to make our college experience something worthwhile. If we need to protest, to fight back, then we will.

Conclusion:

The move to Grangegorman after a global pandemic is going to be challenging – but I'm confident that I can represent us in the move to Central Quad. My extensive experience in both the Student Union and Societies has given me the confidence and determination it takes to represent the best and brightest students that this county has to offer. Vote for me in the student elections and let me be your security in the coming year. Let me provide academic security, events and facilities for our wonderful university. Thank you!