

Name: Mark O'Donnell

Position Contested: President

Hello everyone, I'm Mark and I'm running to be your next President of TU Dublin Students Union. I'm currently the vice-president for events and engagement for the city campus. At the beginning of my term, I ambitiously set us the target of equalling our fundraising record by raising €20,000 for our RAG Charity the Irish Cancer Society. Despite the realisation that college would be online, we stuck with the target and are currently at €12,200. Even at a time of huge uncertainty and upheaval, our SU has shown great togetherness and strength as we have dealt with an unprecedented year where we all have worked from home and had to completely change our plans.

The next academic is also going to be challenging. At some point, we will have 28,000 students back on campus again. When that happens, the SU needs to be ready to go with a full list of events and campaigns and be there to support students as any issues arise.

We will also have 10,000 students arriving onto the Grangegorman campus for the first time. This will be an enormous moment after many years of waiting. Having been involved with campus development committees for the last three years I feel I am well placed to lead the SU through this time of transition and to ensure that students' needs and experience are the main priority as everyone settles in to a new environment.

Experience

- Event Society Committee – 4 years
- Student Council – 4 years
- Chairperson Event Society 16/17 & 17/18
- Class Rep 16/17
- School Rep 17/18
- Training and Leadership Chairperson on Societies Executive 17/18
- Organiser Darkness Into Light Grangegorman 17/18, 18/19, 19/20
- Board of Directors DITSU CLG 18/19 & 19/20
- President of Societies 18/19 & 19/20
- Vice President Events and Engagement TU Dublin SU 20/21

My Plans

Manifesto points:

Student Facilities

Renewed focus on the development of the Student Centre and a push for facilities University wide to achieve parity with other Irish Universities. TU Dublin is significantly behind other universities in terms of student facilities, with the proposed student centre not even allocated a plot of land and has no timeline for construction despite a comprehensive 50 page design brief being submitted to the university two years ago. My goal is to progress the student centre project to agree on a plot of land and set a roadmap for financing and design, while also looking at improving existing facilities on all three campuses

Student Voice

Strive to improve the Union's working relationship with senior University management and fight for more student input in University decision making. We need to ensure that student input is welcomed and continually sought across the university for decision making, quality assurance and organisational design as providing the best educational experience is the core reason the University exists. As a team we need to demonstrate the important and large volume of work that we do to University senior management and continue to build stronger working relationships with them.

Clubs and Societies

Pledge to collaborate more and share more information with Clubs and Societies, and campaign for better resources for Blanchardstown and Tallaght. We should have regular meeting with reps and staff from clubs and societies to share information on the big campaigns that we're working on and offer support to one another. There is also potential for us to work more collaboratively and undertake more joint projects. We should also campaign for resources on the Blanchardstown and Tallaght campuses, as they are not allocated enough (any in Blanch) resources to offer the same kind of service as city campus. Students that want to take part in societies should be able to expect the same opportunities regardless of what campus they attend

Events and Engagement

Use events as a key tool for engagement with students, with a focus on increasing the number of small and large events with more officers to be involved with planning and organising events. Once restrictions start to ease, we should use events to get students involved with the union and to get them to know their officers. We should have a large calendar of small onsite events across all campuses and large university-wide events with all officers involved in some capacity over the course of the year.