

VP for Welfare and Equality

My name is Sean Delappe I am a final year business management student and I am running for the position of Welfare and Equality Officer on the Tallaght Campus in the upcoming elections. During my time in college I have been very involved in student life. I have supported the Students' Union in various campaigns such as Mental Health Week, Sexual Health Week, Raise and Give and Fund the Future calling on the government to invest in 3rd level education. I have also been a member of the GAA as both a player and a committee member.

It was through my involvement with the Students' Union that I realised I had a real passion for student issues. It was evident to see the importance of the student voice but more importantly the lack of resources and support offered to students in third level education. I am sure you will all agree that this issue became more obvious this year when we transitioned from on campus college to online learning.

My last four years in college have been a mix of highs and lows. I have enjoyed my college experience and I want to ensure you have a strong voice around the table now more than ever, your wellbeing and student experience is vital and I want to make sure your concerns are highlighted and addressed. My final year of college has been completely online and it has been very tough. I want to ensure that whilst you are working online you have all the support necessary but more importantly I want to ensure that if we are transitioning back to oncampus classes that it is seamless and a positive experience for you and your class.

Return to campus

During the COVID-19 pandemic students have had to adapt to online learning which has not only taken the entire social side of college away from students but has increased the difficulty of learning for a lot of people and especially for those who may require additional help. I am aware that the return to campus is eagerly anticipated by students and for some this may be overwhelming. After what has been a difficult and unpredictable year.

I am dedicated to being a support for students and I will ensure the transition back to campus is as easy as possible by working closely with staff within the college. I would like to ensure that there would be sufficient hand sanitising stations and that the facilities be kept to a high standard of cleanliness to ensure students feel comfortable and safe.

Inclusion of all students within the SU

I am a full-time student, so I have not suffered the hardship that some part time students have endured. Our campus has a very even split of full time to part time students, so I feel like it is very important to make sure that part time students are familiar with the student union officers. This would require staying late to facilitate these students and it is something that I would be willing to do as I understand the importance in being recognised and heard and how part time students may have completely different problems or queries than full time students.

I strongly believe that students who enter into 3rd level education from minority groups have had many barriers in their way and I want to ensure our university adequately supports these students to learn and grow. Inclusion of all students is at the core of my manifesto and I will ensure that the underrepresented students have a voice If elected your next Vice President of Welfare and Equality.

Financial support

I would like to work with the elected team to pursue the work done by previous teams in the area of access to education and the barriers that students face when attending 3rd level education. So many students drop out because of financial worries, education should be an opportunity not a burden. There are a variety of different financial support services available for students in this

college. I will continue to work with the access office to ensure the application is user friendly and well communicated with our students.

I want to implement pop up information stands about Student Assistance Fund, Childcare Assistance Fund, SUSI. I will develop a relationship with the local MABS (Money Advice and Budgeting Service) to ensure we have drop in sessions available for students.

The SUSI grant is both a long and difficult application to apply for with many barriers along the way. I want to work on both a local and national level to push for a reform in the SUSI grant to ensure it is accessible to more students. I strongly believe that education should be accessible to all those who wish to attend. I will lobby elected officials and work with the college to ensure our students have as many opportunities available to them as possible.

Examinations

Exam season brings with it post it notes, late college nights and a lot of worry and stress. I would like to continue to work with the education officer to provide DeStress, Exam Information campaigns and pre exam goodies during exam season. I would also like to work alongside the exams office to ensure students receive their exam timetable earlier and where possible that there is a break between exams to reduce stress.

Mental health

Mental health is something I feel very passionately about, and I consider myself to be a very empathetic person who offers support wherever and whenever I can. I want students to know that I will be approachable and I am happy to offer support to anyone who needs it.

I want to focus on the community element of college and ensure that all students can avail of supports both within the college and externally. I will run awareness campaigns that are developed with you, the students at the forefront. We have seen this year more than ever when we pull together as a community what we can achieve a lot, I want to foster this within the students' union and ensure it is a welcoming environment for all.

I have a background in playing sports and I have seen during the past 12 months how exercise has positively impacted on not only my own mental health but that of so many. I would like to run a campaign to highlight key areas of physical activity that can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing. I want this campaign to bring students together to complete activities that are enjoyable, give students the opportunity to connect with others and support each other while benefiting both physically and mentally.

Events and campaigns

I have always had an interest in charity events, and it is one of the reasons that I became interested in the students' union to begin with. I believe all students deserve a chance to be involved in the events that are run in the college. I would like to work with the clubs and socs to host events to allow them to meet new people and to help them with any fundraising during the year.

We have seen the impact of awareness campaigns over the years. I have learnt a lot through educational speakers and the various campaigns the SU have hosted during my time in college. I want to continue to run effective campaigns in our college but a lot has changed and our students' needs are very different to what they may have been pre Covid 19. I want to establish a welfare crew that will help the Students' Union to develop campaigns designed by students for students.

I am asking for you to put your trust in me to be the next VP for Welfare and Equality in TU Dublin Students' union. I am kind, compassionate and I want to be the support that you need and deserve this year.

Vote Sean Delappe #1 VP Welfare and Equality TU Dublin SU Tallaght.

