

My name is Sinéad and I am currently in my final year of studying community and youth development. I am putting myself forward for the role of Vice President for Welfare and Equality. I feel I would be suited to this role as I have a substantial amount of experience in this area given my area of study for the past four years.

I feel my area of study reflects my genuine devotion to empowering and supporting people. I believe inclusion is very important and so I value the inputs and experiences of those around me, that's why I feel it is imperative to include voice of students in policies that directly impact them.

Having volunteered with many community and student-based organisations including crisis helplines, I feel that I bring a great deal of experience to this role. I am an open minded and optimistic person and believe that students should be supported as best as possible during their time in college. As a student myself, I understand how difficult the experience can be, but I can also appreciate how insightful and fulfilling it can be when support is available.

Having come from a small town, the transition to college was a big shock for me. As a result, I am passionate about making the college experience as comfortable, safe and enjoyable as possible. I am deeply passionate about positive sex education and I feel that this is a concept that needs to be heavily promoted on Blanchardstown Campus.

I believe that sex education should be factual, realistic and inclusive and should be accessible to all people regardless. If elected, I will make it my duty to promote inclusive, comprehensive and factual sex education to all students.

I am also very passionate about the environment and feel a lot more could be done to make our campus a greener and cleaner place. There is huge potential for more sustainable options to be implemented in all areas of our campus and if elected, I propose to push for a move towards these sustainable alternatives. As students, we spend a huge percentage of our time on campus and so I believe it is an environment that should be comfortable and positive for all.

Harm reduction related to drugs is another area that I feel strongly about. An abundance of research shows that an abstinence-based approach is ineffective when it comes to discouraging drug use so as part of my campaign I will be pushing a harm reduction-based perspective in relation to drug use among students. In my opinion, students are adults and so are free to make their own choices, however I feel these choices should be informed and ensure that they enable the student to remain as safe and protected from harm as possible.