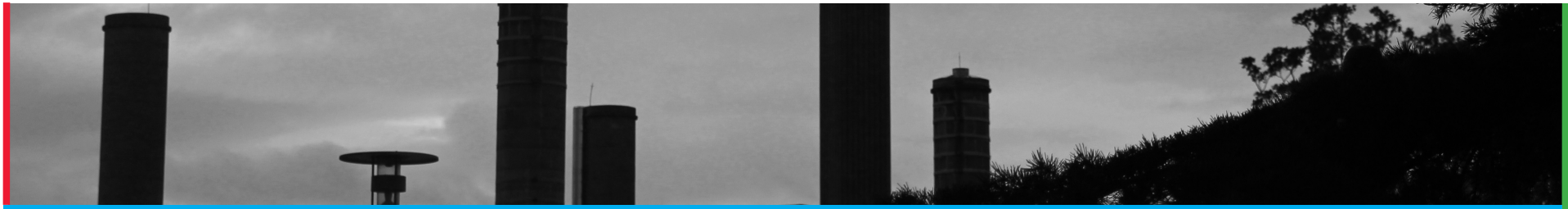


ELECTION SPECIAL



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: DOMINIC DALY

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTION 2021: SYNOPSIS.

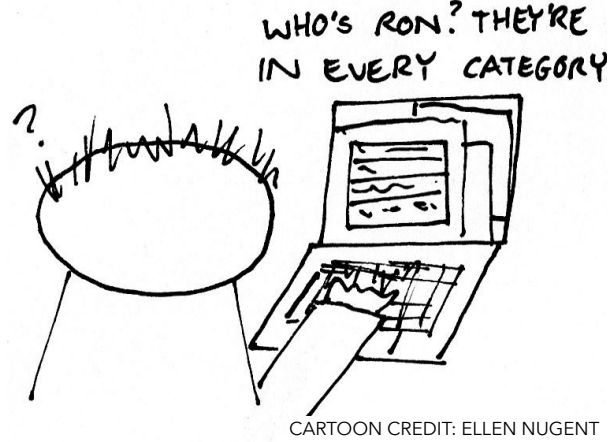
Between 9am on the 31st of March and 9pm the 1st of April, UCD students will have the opportunity to cast their votes in the 2021 Student Union elections. Students must register to vote online through the UCDSU website.

Liam Coyle, Edward Leonard, and current Welfare Officer Ruairí Power are all running for the position of UCDSU President. Molly Greenough for Welfare, Aoife Bracken for Education, and Darryl Horan for Campaigns & Engagements are all running opposed. Carla Gummeron, existing Graduate Officer, and Sarah Michalek, existing Entertainments Officer, are both running unopposed for re-election.

Students will also have the opportunity to vote for their College Officers and Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer). In addition

to Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Louise Mahon), four of the College Officer positions are uncontested; Architecture and Engineering (Meserah Abdullah), Agriculture, Food, and Veterinary (Maria Wall), Health Science (Louise Costello), and Law (Eoin Martin). The Science College Officer position will be contested by Billy Egan and Eoin Fagan, and Ronan Cloney, Shane Lynch, and Miranda Bauer are running for the two Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) College Officer positions. There is no candidate running to become Business College Officer.

Voter turnout for the 2020 Students' Union elections was exceptionally low, approximately only 1,200 of the over 30,000 students eligible to cast their ballot. With the only alternative to so many of the candidates being to Re-Open Nomination (RON), it is hard to imagine voter-turnout will hugely exceed low expectations.



CARTOON CREDIT: ELLEN NUGENT

ELECTION SPECIAL

THE SU SABBATICAL RACE - COVERAGE AND ANALYSIS INSIDE



EDWARD RUAIRÍ LIAM AOIFE MOLLY CARLA DARRYL SARAH

THE COLLEGE OFFICER ELECTIONS: MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

A REFLECTION OF THE SABBATICAL OFFICER RACE, MANY OF THE COLLEGE OFFICER POSITIONS ARE UNCONTESTED, WITH SOME CANDIDATES NOT HAVING PUBLISHED MANIFESTOS AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION - JUST DAYS BEFORE THE STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS.

In addition to the Sabbatical Officer Elections on March 31st and April 1st, there are eight non-sabbatical executive seats up for grabs. These are the 8 College Officers representing 7 colleges, and the Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer). Only two of the eight positions are contested, those of Science College Officer and the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) College Officer, and there is no candidate in the running to become the new Business College Officer. This state of affairs is not unprecedented as during the 2020 Student Union elections the role of College Officer for both Business and Health Sciences went uncontested, with only one candidate in the running in each instance.

All eight of the candidates have a presence on social media, with the preference being for Instagram above all other platforms, although the amount of content put out on each one varies widely, with Meserah Abdullah (Architecture and Engineering) having zero posts in comparison to Shane Lynch's (AHSS) ten. It is worth noting that Abdullah is running unopposed to become the Architecture and Engineering College Officer, while Lynch has set his cap for one of the only two contested races, which may account for the disparity; however, Maria Wall (Agriculture, Food, and Veterinary), Louise Costello (Health Science), and Eoin Martin (Law) are similarly without competition but have all posted information on their respective campaigns.

Maria Wall is a Dairy Business student at the School of Agriculture and has also served as a Class Representative. One of her key goals as a college officer is to create a dedicated page for UCD students that will aid them in making sustainable choices about their food consumption "by providing information on farm produce and husbandry practices", which she writes are not "as readily available as they should be". Wall describes herself on her page as "highly motivated" and the "ideal candidate for AFV college officer".

Louise Costello is a first-year student of Biomedical Health and Life Sciences who "strongly believe[s] [they'll] make a big difference in the School of Health Sciences". She lists three main aims on her page: increased engagement with the Health Sciences Instagram page,

continued support of campaigns pertaining to health students (such as fees freezing), and improving communication between Class Reps from different years and courses.

Eoin Martin, a twenty-one-year-old student of Law hailing from County Clare, is the hopeful candidate for the school's Law College Officer position. He is running unopposed, and at time of writing has not shared his manifesto on social media. His manifesto includes points on student resources such as the library, Sutherland functional issues such as increasing the downstairs seating, at distance learning issues such as maintaining recorded lectures, as well as promises to be accessible to his constituents such as operating an Instagram page.

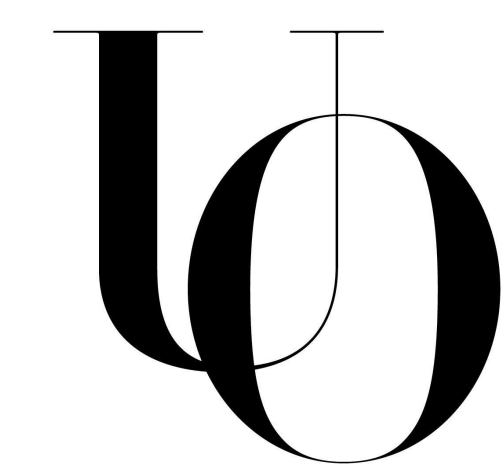
The position for the School of Science's College Officer is being contested by Billy Egan and Eoin Fagan. Egan's manifesto highlights issues such as the availability of recycling and compost bins on campus, organising opportunities for science students to interact with "industry experts across different scientific fields" via Q&A sessions and talks, arranging Freshers events, "establishing a science book exchange", and designating budget towards vouchers for science textbooks, as well as reinstalling microwaves in the science building. Fagan, a third-year Experimental Physics student, has made lobbying for better student facilities in the O'Brien building (including microwaves), "more funding for the student health services", reading weeks for science, computer science, and BAFS, as well as "driv[ing] class rep recruitment with the aim of filling the traditionally hard to fill spots" key points of his manifesto. Fagan has served as a Class Representative these past two years, in addition to sitting on "student-staff forums, teaching and learning forums and the programme board for science".

Of the seven colleges represented in this election, the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is the only one to have two seats available. The race for these places consists of Ronan Cloney, Shane Lynch, and Miranda Bauer. If elected, Cloney intends to "[focus] heavily on the community aspect of AHSS" and make moves to bring up levels of student engagement with the SU by hosting a range of events. He

also emphasises the importance of communication in his manifesto, and wants "students to clearly see the work being done by their Class Reps [and] College Officers and know that their votes are being put to use in their best interest!" He is also concerned with standards of online-learning and navigating the transition back to in-person learning once such an issue becomes relevant. Lynch, who is running with the slogan "Our voice, your vote", is committed to sustainability, social enhancement, and career enhancement for AHSS students. In addition, he hopes to use the position as College Officer to lobby for improvements to the Newman Building: such as improved WiFi service, an increase in seating, and an increase in available plug sockets. He has committed to lobbying building management to ensure the Newman Building is entirely wheelchair accessible. Bauer's manifesto is divided into four points: Diversity, visibility and career help, advocating for separate college officers for AHSS, and student supports and office hours. She wants "to know the students from a grassroots level" and promises "to be there whenever students feel that they're not being listened to or whenever they see themselves struggling, either mentally or academically". Bauer has also made available a survey for AHSS students, requesting input on things that could improve their experience at UCD.

Sole Oifigeach na Gaeilge candidate, Louise Mahon, is a Law with Irish student. With experience both as the Cumann Gaelsch secretary and a residential scholar in Gaeltacht UCD, Mahon hopes to make "almost every service and aspect of campus to be bilingual". Her manifesto itself is short, with only three points: "Ensuring services on campus are available through Irish"; "Starting discussions about modules being taught through Irish in various disciplines across campus"; and "Publicising existing Irish services in UCD more among students"

Voting for College Officers and the Oifigeach na Gaeilge will run in conjunction with the race for Sabbatical Officers, and commences on the 31st of March at 9:00 and ends on the 1st of April at 21:00.



PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:
RUAIRÍ POWER
PAGE 2

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:
LIAM COYLE
PAGE 2

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE:
EDWARD LEONARD
PAGE 2

PRESIDENTIAL RACE ANALYSIS
PAGE 2

WELFARE OFFICER CANDIDATE:
MOLLY GREENOUGH
PAGE 3

EDUCATION OFFICER CANDIDATE:
AOIFE BRACKEN
PAGE 3

GRADUATE OFFICER CANDIDATE:
CARLA GUMMERON
PAGE 3

C&E OFFICER CANDIDATE:
DARRYL HORAN
PAGE 3

ENTS OFFICER CANDIDATE:
SARAH MICHALEK
PAGE 4

SU ELECTION ANALYSIS:
TALLEYRAND
PAGE 4

EDITOR
DOIREANN DE COURCY MAC
DONNELL

DEPUTY EDITOR
NATHAN YOUNG

ART & DESIGN EDITOR
LAOISE TARRANT

ELECTION COVERAGE TEAM
ANDREA ANDRES
ANDREW NOLAN
AOIFE ROONEY
CAHAL MC AULEY
CAOILFINN HEGARTY
CHARLES MAURICE DE
TALLEYRAND-PÉRIGORD
CHRISTINE COFFEY
E. KEOGH
ELLEN NUGENT
ERNEST REMINGTON
GRACE DONNELLAN
HEATHER REYNOLDS
LIAM FERGUSON
MICHAEL TUOHY
PHILLIP DU MOULIN
SOPHIE FINN

RUAIRÍ POWER
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

RUAIRÍ POWER IS ONE OF THREE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES RUNNING IN THIS YEAR'S STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS. CURRENTLY SERVING AS THE SU'S WELFARE OFFICER, THE 21 YEAR OLD PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT WANTS TO CONTINUE WITH THE WORK HE AND OTHER SABBATS LAID OUT THIS PAST ACADEMIC YEAR, AS WELL AS WORK ON NEW PLANS FROM HIS MANIFESTO.



PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG O'BRIEN

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

The biggest issue, he sees, is affordability; the fees imposed on students, the rest fees, the student contribution charge and the cost of materials for each course. Power plans to scrap the charge through means of public funding. "It makes a lot more sense for the university and students to be in alignment, ours had been slow on that". Power has said he's been in contact with the relevant people in UCD to try and get the levy reduced, and over the fact that international students were led to believe that they would get more in-person class time. When questioned about the more radical moves the SU have taken, Power says he sometimes disagrees with the term: "I feel that what I am proposing, and what the sabbatical officers have been proposing for the last few years is actually the bare minimum. We're looking for proper public investment in the higher education sector". Power says UCD should be pushing for a publicly funded model of higher education, and if higher management isn't open to the idea, he believes the SU, with students, should stay true to what is in students' best interests.

In terms of student supports, Power is focused on continually working to provide the same supports that other universities currently offer their students. Power cites the issue of academic supports as the SU's greatest failure, as well as Anderson's responsibility too. "So, I think we need to ensure that going into this semester we've a very clear line of what we're looking for: the abolition of repeat and rest fees, uncapped grades for rests, and the automatic right to defer. That's something I will be advocating for throughout the duration of the Covid crisis".

When asked about student engagement with the union elections, and if students care, Power stated "the student union can be seen as irrelevant, as a bit of a white elephant that doesn't achieve much, we've done a lot of work behind the scenes this year... but says he plans to aim to get the elected sabbats to be more transparent. He makes it known in his manifesto that transparency and town hall meetings are the way he intends to allow students to engage more with the union. He believes the town hall meetings are key to union properly representing students; "as it's not just the sabbats talking at them, whereas it needs to be more open, there's a democratic deficit", and believes by being more transparent and having these town halls, students will see that the SU wants their input.

On the question of rejoining the USI, Power thinks rejoining is a very significant decision, and that students should decide. "The reason why I feel we should join is because we're severely impeded in our lobbying efforts. We have quite good connections to the media at the moment, we can exploit those but I think our lobbying efforts were significantly disadvantaged". Power also spoke of the advantages of joining, "USI have regular consultations with government officials, and they have significance, I suppose, the pool of resources...".

One of the methods he intends to use to get the sabbats to be more accountable is monthly statistical reports. When asked about how viable this was after the number of late reports presented in the council meetings over the last year, Power commented: "It's essentially a sheet that takes two minutes to fill out... basically you tick off how many students you saw in a certain day, what the queries were about... and it would be of great value to students". He sees it as something very achievable for sabbats to complete, and commented that it was general "carelessness" more so than sabbats being unable to complete and submit their respective reports on time.

One of the main points in his manifesto is the *Right to Disconnect* policy. "So what it essentially means is that all employees, which I would hope include PhD students, would be entitled to basic working protections. There's no implicit expectation that they'd have to work outside of their contract hours". This would have a major impact for PhD students.

LIAM COYLE
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

LIAM COYLE IS A 20-YEAR-OLD COMMERCE STUDENT, HOPING TO WIN THE UCDSU PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WITH HIS BUSINESS SKILLS AND ANTI-MILITANT VIEWS.



PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG O'BRIEN

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

County Clare native and Social Democrats member Ruairí Power believes that he is suitable for the role due to his experience in the Students' Union as the Welfare officer: "I've worked quite closely with the current president (Conor Anderson) on a number of campaigns and initiatives." He believes that his role as an auditor, his activism, and "the welfare of students having affordability at the heart of the decision making process" is his edge for the campaign. He believes the most important position of president is leadership: "that you're representing students well... and bringing students in... making sure we're engaging people and making sure every student in UCD feels represented by their union".

EDWARD LEONARD
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

EDWARD LEONARD, A FINAL YEAR LAW WITH POLITICS STUDENT, DEMONSTRATED A STRONG FAMILIARITY WITH THE ROLE OF SU PRESIDENT DURING HIS INTERVIEW. A QUALITY WHICH LIKELY COINCIDES WITH HIS LENGTHY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE UNION, WHICH GOES BACK AS FAR AS 2017.



PHOTO CREDIT: DOUG O'BRIEN

When asked about campaigning in general, Edward Leonard said that the more radical approach the SU had taken this year did not work, due to lack of student engagement with said campaigns. He admits that he never voiced these concerns as a member of Council, but believes that the motions brought by himself and others to council were not radical. He does not support a referendum to rejoin the USI, as he feels that UCDSU can stand on its own as the largest student union in Ireland. He is currently a member of the Fianna Fáil party, however, he would not consider himself an active member.

As his manifesto demonstrates, he is not lacking in relevant Student Union experience for the role, and he believes this, as well as his involvement with external groups such as SpunOut and CoderDojo, make him uniquely qualified for the role. As for the role itself, Leonard believes that the most important aspect of the role is how it functions as a position of leadership. "It is ensuring that all of the positions work in harmony, it is about getting the most out of the SU", however he also stressed the importance of making sure that the union remains a "focal point" for students, tying into his manifesto points on engagement. These ideas include the potential installation of an SU noticeboard on the concourse, and the introduction of specific social media accounts for the President, rather than all information running through the general SU account. He feels this would create a sense of more immediate connection to what the SU, and specifically the President, is doing.

Moving along from the perennial issue of engagement, Leonard's main issues all trace back to costs and accessibility. The specific issues he named are re-sit fees, rent costs, and accessibility to online course materials. His manifesto also touches on fighting for increased access to mental health supports, and ensuring that all of UCD is accessible by wheelchair.

Regarding re-sit fees and rental costs, Leonard endorses active campaigning for reductions, citing the rest fee reduction achieved by the SU in April 2018 as an example of why he thinks this is feasible. As for rent reductions, he plans to lobby both on and off-campus for reduced rents, but is overall vague on what that means. Leonard is passionate about the issue in question, explaining how this particularly affects disabled students who have no choice but to live on campus, however when questioned he did not mention any specifics of what this campaigning would look like, nor did he mention the termination of the SU housing officer.

Leonard also hopes to instate a rental bursary, targeted to help students on Erasmus or on placement, which would provide rent relief to struggling students. This bursary would be means-tested, however, he says that no one would be barred from accessing this assistance so long as there were funds available to be distributed.

A large portion of the interview was spent on the issue of online accessibility to course material, both during Covid-19 and beyond. Leonard is pushing for recorded versions of all class hours to be made available, including in-person lectures as campus reopens, as well as for all key course material to be made available to students either through the library online, or through Brightspace.

When asked about the continuation of online learning after a return to in-person teaching, Leonard said that continued access to recorded lectures would remain important for students who cannot attend for a multitude of reasons, including sickness and transport issues. When the question of lecturers choosing whether or not to partake in this system arose, he said that he "would personally like to see the policy brought in that they cannot opt out." However, this is in contravention to intellectual property laws, which state that lecture content cannot be recorded or distributed without the consent of the lecturer in question. When asked if he had spoken to any UCD employees about this specific plan, Leonard said that he had not.

A goal on his manifesto that he has very clearly planned is the introduction of electric scooters to UCD's campus. He is in contact with Zipp Mobility, a UCD Nova company, who are currently pushing to have them introduced to the campus. However, while he appears to have a firm grasp on how to introduce the scooters themselves, the implementation is less clear. When questioned about whether or not there would be regulation on the use of scooters, as there is for skateboards in certain parts of campus, no clear answer was given.

ELECTION SPECIAL

ANALYSIS
SU PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Three candidates have presented three campaigns touching on similar issues for this year's Presidential election, but each plans to approach the role in a very different manner. Improving student engagement appears to be a priority for the candidates and Liam Coyle, Edward Leonard and Ruairí Power are all largely concerned with financial support and accommodation affordability, student mental health and the Students' Union's relationship with both the university and the student.

Leonard probably summed it up the best when he referred to the three Presidential candidates as 'SU hacks', although he used the term somewhat reluctantly. Each of the candidates has occupied a variety of positions within their respective colleges and the SU, and as such are familiar faces on the SU political scene. Leonard, who is a current member of the Academic Council and a former member of the University and Law Programme Boards, has occupied many roles within the SU. His knowledge of SU structures are broad and couples well with his role as an Access Leader and engagements outside the SU with groups such as SpunOut.

Coyle brings his time as Business College Officer and Class Representative to the table, along with work as an Access Leader and skills developed through his college studies. His record as a College Officer was damaged, however, when he used his SU email to promote his own candidacy for SU president, a breach of campaign rules that ultimately led to a two-week ban on campaigning. He has since apologised for what he calls "an honest mistake", but has also admitted that he was present at a meeting of the Union Council in which the Returning Officer laid out the rules for candidates.

Power holds the distinct advantage of being the only candidate with experience as a sabbatical officer, currently occupying the position of Welfare Officer within the SU. This also means Power will be a familiar name to students voting in the election who pay less attention to SU politics. Power has worked closely with the current SU president and would have good insight into the everyday responsibilities of the President and the dynamics within the SU.

In terms of budgeting for manifesto promises, Power had the most concrete idea of the funds that would be available to the President of the SU, while Leonard had clearly consulted sabbatical officers about the scale of the budget and sought assurances about the feasibility of his promises. Leonard had also spoken with Zipp Mobility (a company based in NovusUCD) about his plans to introduce e-scooters to UCD. Coyle admits that he is "not fully in the loop" about the amount of money that would be available to him were he to be elected, but is nonetheless confident in his ability to "definitely put [the funds] to brilliant use".

Looking at UCD's finances at large, both Power and Leonard were familiar with FRAMC (Finance, Remuneration and Asset Management Committee), the committee which oversees UCD's finances and on which the president of the SU sits. Coyle was unaware of what FRAMC stands for or its purpose when asked by the University Observer.

Coyle places a lot of stock in his negotiating ability and business training in the hopes of securing financial support for students. He hopes to work on developing relationships with the UCD administration and the government to alleviate some of the financial burden on students, and that by engaging in constructive dialogue with UCD and other groups that there will be many potential avenues open to the SU for negotiating on behalf of students.

Leonard believes he brings a unique perspective to the topic and a keen awareness of the necessity of good supports, with a focus on both on and off-campus accommodation accessibility and affordability high on the priority list for his campaign. "Quality of life" for students, rest/repeat fees and accessible course materials are mentioned, as well as being " vocal in campaigning for reduced fees... not just for undergraduates, but also for post-graduates and international students. They cannot be used as gateways for UCD to make large amounts of money". Power disagrees with the student loan scheme approach that UCD President Deeks has previously spoken favourably of, and is an advocate of a publicly funded model for higher education. He also proposes measures such as withholding of the Student Levy as a leverage tool and marks rent prices, course materials, and rest/repeat fees as areas for change. He is the most militant candidate on these issues, stating that while he may work with UCD on areas of shared interest, he is prepared to campaign on funding issues without UCD, should UCD management not endorse publicly funded higher education.

On mental health, all three candidates have relatively solid manifesto points and relevant experiences. A university-wide outreach programme is a key segment of Coyle's manifesto, which he sees as a scaled-up version of one he ran during his time as Business College Officer. He also advocates working with groups such as Healthy UCD and Access & Lifelong Learning. UCD counselling services and Student Advocates to provide support in this area. Power sought to tap the outsourcing of counselling services and reduce the wait times within UCD as Welfare Officer and plans to build on the mental health forum, working closely with the new Welfare Officer if elected. President Leonard aims to improve mental health supports and provide potential ways of addressing financial and academic stresses faced by students to help in this capacity.

All candidates agreed that student involvement with the SU was very low. Power was of the opinion that last year's sabbatical term achieved success with 'Town Hall', particularly with tackling specific issues and plans to organise more of these. He also proposes statistical reports to increase accountability amongst sabbatical officers. Leonard's approach to improving involvement centres on accessibility. He outlines clear steps to make the website more accessible, providing different, easier to read options, such as a greyscale and larger font size. Coyle singles out 1st and 2nd years in his 'Making up for the Lost Year' campaign, and hopes that by improving transparency and trust in the SU that engagement will improve.

The issue that the candidates differ on most greatly is what the relationship between UCD and the SU should be. Leonard thinks that "SU lobbying efforts would be hampered if the SU and the administration were at odds with each other" and would look to have a "working relationship" with President Deeks but claims that he "wouldn't be afraid to tell someone that [he] disagrees with them". Coyle's campaign centres on creating the space for dialogue and negotiations, and as such heavily depends on developing a strong relationship with the administration. Coyle makes it clear that protesting is a "last resort" and prefers a more diplomatic approach, citing his training in business and communication skills. Power claims that the SU "can negotiate with dysfunction" and claims there is a "huge gap" between what is in the best interest of the students and the agenda the management is pushing. He proposes looking for common ground and aligned interests, but in the absence of this providing a clear alternative to proposals from the management.

Ultimately, this election will serve as a referendum on the militant SU of the past year. There are several other questions that voters will be asking on issues such as whether Coyle has convincingly demonstrated he understands the role of the SU president in UCD, despite not knowing the committees he will be representing students on, and why it is that both Leonard and Coyle chose not to use their positions in Union Council to voice their criticisms of militancy. However, the largest issue for voters is likely to be: has Power convincingly shown that the militant union he was a Sabbatical Officer of, and wishes to continue, has been the best approach to representing students? Both of the other candidates have to show that this approach has failed to bring about change. They may have a point too, as UCD management has been largely disinterested with SU demands, or even replying to emails from Sabbatical Officers.

MOLLY GREENOUGH
WELFARE OFFICER CANDIDATE

GREENOUGH IS A STAGE 4 LAW WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE STUDENT AND THE CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH CAMPAIGNS COORDINATOR FOR THE STUDENTS' UNION. SHE IS RUNNING UNOPPOSED FOR THE ROLE OF WELFARE OFFICER.

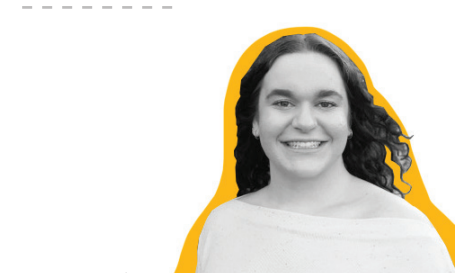


PHOTO CREDIT: AINE MURPHY

Greenough wants to reform the current Counselling Voucher system, create living & rental guides for international students in Dublin, and make consent training mandatory for all incoming first year students.

Greenough is well versed in all of the basics of the SU, and knows well the many duties and boards that the Welfare Officer sits on, such as the UMT Student Experience Group, the Governing Authority, the ESHTe... also the Reopening Working group for Covid and "...the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Board".

Greenough is experienced as an SU Member having been an active since she was in second year. She ran a successful election for Class Representative that year and went on to volunteer with the ENTS forum. She then decided to run for Law College Officer 2019/20 and subsequently won that election. She says above all else, what makes her most qualified for the job of Welfare Officer is her experience of some of the struggles UCD students face, saying "the experience I've had in UCD, struggling with my own mental health... I feel like I really understand what it feels like to be on the other side of that table...That combined with my SU experience and the fact that I'm a very empathetic and approachable person make me the perfect candidate for the role". When asked what she expects from the upcoming year she stated; "I'm prepared to be dealing with a lot of people that are angry, I expect people to be angry, and honestly I hope that people are because I'm very angry at the way that UCD has handled this pandemic".

Greenough believes the most important work a Welfare Officer does is their casework and will focus on this above anything else. She wishes that UCDSU had a proper mental health professional as the first point of contact for students experiencing issues, and not just another student, but that she is okay with doing the work expected of her currently. She believes it's important to "receive the proper training for SafeTalk and sexual assault disclosure" and that being someone that "students can talk to and listen to is the epitome of the role". She also stated that if elected she will pursue ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) outside the current training SU Sabbatical Officers receive, and would be in favour of the re-introduction of mandatory ASIST training for all Sabbats.

Greenough says that she sees "the benefits of re-joining the USI, there's a lot to be said for collective bargaining power on larger student issues like accommodation and mental health... but at the same time it would be very expensive for UCDSU to re-join USI and at this point in time... I don't think it would be fair to shift this burden onto students". Greenough also stated that she believes there isn't enough support amongst students to justify even discussing a referendum in great detail.

When speaking about this year's budget, Greenough stated that from conversations she has had with current Welfare Officer Ruairi Power, she won't have to take money out of her budget for condoms and menstrual products as Power had already done so last year. This means she will have her full budget available to her, though the budget is reduced this year after Covid losses for the SU. She has not yet decided what exactly she is going to spend her budget on if elected, stating; "Honestly I haven't really given it a great deal of thought". She did state that she'd like a good portion to be set aside for Nteline, the mental health support group. When asked, she was aware of SU constitutional constraints regarding funding of external organisations, which prevent Council mandating money be spent on external organisations.

When asked if she knew figures on how many students had called Nteline and SilverCloud in recent years and whether these supports were worth the money required to promote them, she responded; "even if ten or fifteen more people found out about these supports, I think that that would be beneficial". Greenough also hopes to set up Welfare pages online, separate from the SU pages "so that people know where to go to find relevant information". Greenough supports the re-introduction of a Housing Officer to the SU staff and would like to lobby the government for regulations for students renting in the private sector. Finally, Greenough wishes to bring in 4 week-long, mandatory once a week consent training for all 1st year students, but did not clarify how she would go about making it mandatory.

ANALYSIS
THE WELFARE RACE
UNO ELECTION SPECIAL

Molly Greenough knows her stuff. She is an experienced candidate, and passionate about all the causes a Welfare Officer should be. Greenough has a lot of positive ideas that will be great for students should they be put into action, but there are areas where she falls short.

Her awareness of the SU constitution about funding external organisations is worrisome, given her willingness to incur costs on her behalf. Her plan to make consent training mandatory for all incoming freshers is not as well planned out as voters may wish manifesto points to be. When asked how she would introduce this, she referenced expanding current Bystander Training, but did not reference any of the work currently ongoing in this area.

While Greenough's manifesto contains several points that have not been expanded upon, her understanding that case work will be her main priority seems in line with what many previous Welfare Officers have said of the role. She promised to seek training beyond what was mandated of her to improve her ability to deal with student cases.

Greenough is someone with an understanding of the importance of case work makes her a formidable candidate for Welfare Officer. A RON victory is unlikely.

AOIFE BRACKEN
EDUCATION OFFICER CANDIDATE

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDENT
AOIFE BRACKEN AIMS TO BRING HER SKILLS AS CLASS REPRESENTATIVE AND AUDITOR TO THE ROLE OF EDUCATION OFFICER.



PHOTO CREDIT: FIADH MCELROY

Aoife Bracken is a 21-year-old student in her final year of Politics and International Relations. She views the most important aspects of the position as the hopeful transition back to campus, making casework a priority, and helping students who need guidance and support. Bracken believes that students should vote for her due to her particular interest in policy, her experience as being a helping hand during her tenure as a class rep, and her understanding of the difficulties students face when seeking help.

Bracken acknowledged the difficulties relating to students' engagement with the SU, suggesting that "The SU should be more forthcoming with what they do day-to-day". Commenting on the potential disconnect between the students and the Union, she said; "sometimes the Union is too vague with their goals, and therefore students become disillusioned with what the Union can or can't do". To remedy this, she highlighted the strength of a "multi-pronged approach" would offer, noting how "making as many small but important changes that benefit students as possible is the best way forward". Considering the election process, Bracken sees the online voting system as having a place upon a return to campus. She links this back to her point on student engagement, stating "If you want to engage with more students, it should be as easy as possible for them to vote".

When reflecting upon the online learning experience students had, she pointed out both UCD's achievements and shortcomings. Some lecturers and schools have been "totally onboard", and she gives credit to UCD for "implementing a certain amount of training with Zoom and Brightspace", as well as having praise for the routine of lecture recording and uploading. However, she also highlighted the pushing back of provisional grades, noting how it hindered students in accessing supports such as IX grade applications. She went on to describe how UCD had to spend time "catching up on their mistakes". She also acknowledged the online workload and the mismanagement surrounding the Covid-19 Assessment Guidelines as issues, claiming that it is "unfair to expect students in a pandemic to increase their workload when they weren't aware that the workload would increase". In light of a recent surge in discussion surrounding e-proctoring, she expressed an understanding of the University wanting to prevent students cheating but noted that UCD had "jumped into it without really considering issues such as data protection and how stressful it is for students".

Bracken's manifesto contains five main points she hopes to achieve, broken down further into three more long-term ambitions and two short-term goals. Many of these goals focus on the readjustment back to on-campus learning, such as a focus on developing the library campaign and a reorientation programme. When asked about plans to address students' current concerns with online learning, Bracken expressed a desire to reach out for student feedback regarding their coursework to be presented to individual schools. Considering lobbying to UCD as a whole, she explained that targeting individual schools and programmes "would be more efficient in that there would be a quicker resolution to the problem". Bracken voiced concern with how little attention is being paid to the library services in the current climate, noting how there had only been one University Management Team Library Strategy Group meeting of the academic year. To combat this, she is prioritising availability for the library by lobbying for increased booking availability and opening hours.

One of the most ambitious goals of Bracken's manifesto is her desire to establish a fund for students to pay for rest and repeat fees. She noted that the source of this funding would come from her budget as Education Officer, as well as part of fundraising initiatives from the Union into it. This scheme would be built upon a receipt-system, describing this as "the best way to ensure that it isn't abused". The full fund has not been costed out yet, as there is still work to be done deciding if it will be used as a supplementary system or one that pays the fees outright. The exact budget has not been accounted for yet, and in its current form, Bracken assumes that there will not be a vast discrepancy between last year's budget compared to this year's.

The fund will not be means-tested. Bracken used examples of other funds available on campus that are means-tested and highlighted their strict nature, saying how "while it is used to ensure that students who need the money get it, it can be quite strict and can cut students off who are just on the edge, and makes it a lot more stressful". This fund will be made available to all students.

Aoife Bracken views helping students as a top priority. She has laid out plans so that student life, whether back on campus or a continuation of online learning, is as seamless and stress-free as possible.

ANALYSIS
THE EDUCATION RACE
UNO ELECTION SPECIAL

Sole Education Officer candidate Aoife Bracken's manifesto outlines a set of goals that would be a huge win for students should they be implemented, but it is hard not to approach these with some scepticism.

Her promise to establish a rest and repeat fund to support struggling students, while a fantastic idea, may prove to be insurmountable. It may allow some doubt to listen to Bracken explain the intricate work that has already gone into planning such a fund, but the sheer volume of students applying may be the policy's downfall.

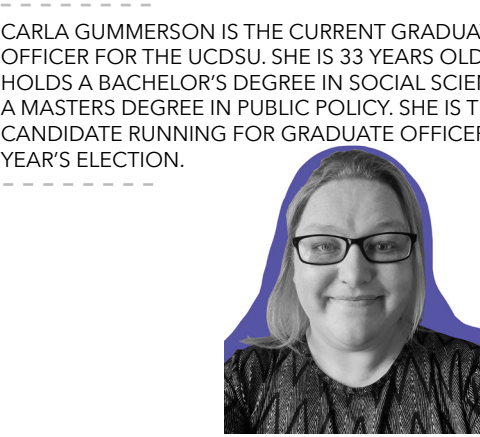
Throughout her interview, Bracken was not only able to emphasise her skills in planning and risk assessment, but she also highlighted a level of attention paid to operations at a Union level. Discussing the Union, she showed that she understood how budgeting had been structured throughout a financially tight year, while also honestly assessing some of the Union's prior work, noting their strengths and weaknesses where applicable.

Bracken demonstrated perhaps the most important qualities of an Education Officer - her understanding of policy, and willingness to help students. Offering stories of her own experience seeking out work-related supports, it became clear that being there for students is a priority of hers.

With a well thought out but perhaps over ambitious manifesto, and more importantly no opponents, Aoife Bracken's tenure as Education Officer seems both probable and promising.

CARLA GUMMESON
GRADUATE CANDIDATE

CARLA GUMMESON IS THE CURRENT GRADUATE OFFICER FOR THE UCDSU. SHE IS 33 YEARS OLD AND HOLDS A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND A MASTERS DEGREE IN PUBLIC POLICY. SHE IS THE SOLE CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR GRADUATE OFFICER IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION.



Gummesson deems that casework is an important aspect of her role as Graduate Officer; "The case work, and helping students and supporting students and advocating for students I see as a major part of my role".

But she also adds that the Postgrad Workers Alliance Group (PWAG) has been "quite a part of [her] work this year, supporting them" through spreading awareness and publishing things for them. She thinks that the PWAG is effective, she said of them that "they're keeping the pressure on". She wants to keep advocating for "pre 2010 restoration of their money" and has been trying to spread awareness on their behalf.

Apart from advocating for PWAG, she is campaigning for the Back to Education Allowance for Masters Students as high fees are such a barrier for low-income students. She hopes to accomplish this through an email campaign, videos and hashtags. She doesn't "see why some reduction can't be done" and that the problem of high international fees comes down to "lobbying the government for more money for the university" so the money can further support things like student advice, counselling, ACCESS and Life Learning, but also reduce fees.

She also wants to work on campaigning for publicly funded education, and campaigning spouses of PhD students who have come to Ireland (when they are not allowed work and PhD stipends are not enough to support two people) and period poverty.

She feels that her biggest achievement is "welfare-related", as vending machines in the student union bathrooms for free period products will be available. She describes it as a "milestone" for the Students' Union to have period products freely accessible for students. But she hasn't "done enough for Masters students", she says. Despite her organizing coffee mornings and attending open days, "it's not enough" and "I know I haven't done enough" she adds.

As part of her manifesto, she wants to organize "Master student orientated events" and hopes to do a college by college, working with College Officers to engage students in that after having observed Sarah Michalek, the current ENTS officers organize similar events for first years. She wants to do more social events like quizzes, but also career related events and give them a space of their own. She thinks that she has done a lot with Smurfit students, but neglected Masters students in Belfield. She has done work bringing up the concerns of Smurfit students and acknowledges that they have been "disregarded" this year. She wants to further support Smurfit students by talking to management more.

It's not just Master students who are getting their own events, Gummesson plans to dedicate a Postgraduate Month with "social events, well-being and health events" and gives space to PhD students and Master research students can and spread the word about the work and "to celebrate their work" as they are a "very hidden group".

With regards to the "Shut Up and Write" Sessions, Gummesson is trying to fill in a gap for more sessions similar to what is being organized by the graduate students. These sessions would involve students sharing their writing and peer-to-peer support. She has already spoken to Dr Jenna Carton who already organizes these sessions in order to try and "replicate to some extent what they do".

These events including day trips and events will cost around half her UCDSU budget of 9000 euros. She increased the PhD conference fund from 20 to 35 places last year, and hopes to further increase the places from 35 to 40 as it is a "good resource" and "invaluable". While Gummesson acknowledges that the increase of five places is small, events like the "Shut Up and Write Sessions" will cost money. "I feel if I'm doing both, I can only increase it only a small bit with the aim then with someone else to increase it if that's their choice to do so a further down the line I feel that at least 30 is two-thirds registered I don't know if I could spend 6000 on the PhD conference, but I can justify the 4000".

ANALYSIS
GRADUATE RACE ANALYSIS
UNO ELECTION SPECIAL

Gummesson demonstrates a clear understanding of what is involved in being a Graduate Officer and the governing structures involved. Her manifesto is ambitious, but practical and has overarching themes of building a relationship between the postgraduate student and the SU.

Gummesson has demonstrated that she listens to students as she acknowledges in her manifesto that the "Shut Up and Write" Sessions were a student's idea. She has also shown an understanding of how to make certain events appeal to postgraduates.

Gummesson has a concrete idea on how to conduct the "Shut Up and Write" Sessions and the Postgraduate Month. She has already done some homework on how these sessions and events will be conducted, having already reached out to the relevant people and organizations and how to budget for these events. But she seems a little unsure on how to conduct the sessions, the Postgraduate Month and the day trips should restrictions still be in place.

Having already done great work to increase places for the PhD conference fund by 15 places, it is disappointing that she is only aiming for 5 more places. But she calls this incremental increase due to the budget being taken by Postgraduate Month and the day trips. She could also further work on ideas on how to campaign for causes she has mentioned in her manifesto.

Gummesson is a reliable candidate with a great understanding of the role coupled with her vast knowledge of how the UCDSU is run and ambitious ideas. With her victory a near certainty, graduate students can expect, at the very least, competent and experienced representation.

DARRYL HORAN
CAMPAIGNS & ENGAGEMENTS

DARRYL HORAN IS A 23 YEAR OLD MASTERS STUDENT STUDYING GLOBAL HISTORY. THE PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT MEMBER IS RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION AS THE SOLE CANDIDATE IN THE RACE. THE THEME OF HER CAMPAIGN IS BUILDING ON WHAT SHE HAS LEARNED OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHER SABBATS AND SOCIETIES.



PHOTO CREDIT: DON O'SULLIVAN

When asked about the single most important part of the position, Horan's answer is short: "engagement, probably". Probing further into the role of C&E officer, Horan responded "The role of the C&E officer is firstly to engage with the campaigns committee... but as well as being partly the face of the union when you're trying to engage with [students] and bring them into what the union is doing, as well as promoting what the other sabbat officers are doing". Horan did try and evade the question of what he thought last year's C&E officer's biggest failure was, but when the question was rephrased to ask what he would have done differently, Horan stated he would've done more thematic weeks and more town halls, but "these are lessons we've learned this year, and that's what works".

Horan believes he has plenty of experience that would qualify him for the position of campaigns and engagement officer. "I've been involved in a number of campaigns both in UCD and nationally. In UCD I've been involved in the No to Student Centre Levy, Fix Our Education, UCD Fair and Free, the UCD Climate Strike protests, and more nationally around a number of campaigns around fees, housing, and anti-racism". Horan also says the experience that would allow him to effectively communicate with students is that "I have experience working with apps like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, I'm very capable of using them, and by a large I think I'm a quite a personable person, so I'd be happy to get down with people".

Horan says that students should vote for him as he wants to "see a higher education that's radically transformed to one that works for all". In response to being asked about the main issues that students are concerned about he replies, "housing fees and academic supports".

On the issue of class rep recruitment, Horan states "In groups where class representation is severely underrepresented, there needs to be lectures addressing in the first weeks of term... but I think that is the best way to encounter them, especially if we're still doing online classes". Horan believes the current constituencies are correct and that attendance at council is high due to Zoom, he does acknowledge that there's a general disconnect between students because of Covid.

When asked if students care about SU elections, Horan stated "Given that last year's voting, that like, I think about 1200 people voted with over 30,000 students, it's hard to say yes". In fact, there were only 975 votes out of the 1262 registered voters that elected the current sabbats in place, according to the SU's website. Horan attributes the low votes to Covid and registration, the latter adding "increased difficulty that you wouldn't have in other universities". When quizzed on how he would bring students to engage more with the SU, he said "more thematic weeks, more town halls, that's the kind of time that you, beyond council, that you're actually interacting with students".

Horan also remarked that "Covid dependent, is a campus leaflet that we will canvas to all on campus students". Horan further explained the leaflet campaigning would be to provide information for the students renting on campus. "I wouldn't say there's a particular focus on on-campus renters, the primary issue is we don't have the address for off-campus renters". Horan does recognise that "the issues off campus are a lot more prominent". When questioned about the contradiction of running a leaflet campaign while UCD tries to promote a more environmentally friendly campus, Horan said "If you're looking at leaflets for 3000 people, this is not a massive environmental burden, and the role of the SU is to engage with students".

Horan believes UCDSU should rejoin USI, as "the issues in UCD aren't exclusive to UCD, they're national issues, and we're not going to solve them in UCD alone". In relation to how isolated UCD has become in terms of asking UCD management, "a better way of going about that probably would be appeals to external organisations that can support us and put further pressure on management...".

Another big part of Horan's manifesto is anti-racism. He intends to build connections with anti-racist groups, such as Le Chéile, by signing up to them. "We're already working with other groups, we're working with groups like Unite Against Racism". Horan wishes to continue the work that's been made on Decolonising the curriculum. As he mentioned in the interview, he's spoken to the current diversity inclusion officer, and school officials about it. On the issue of CETA and what the effects of it are, "in terms of do people generally understand it? No, certainly not, there needs to be work done to promote what it is and why we must fight against it". He does note that "it will probably be a long process, getting it negotiated and to the table".

ANALYSIS
CAMPAIGNS & ENGAGEMENT OFFICER RACE
UNO ELECTION SPECIAL

Running uncontested, it is incredibly unlikely that Horan will lose this race. His manifesto is ambitious, but seems achievable. Horan's promises are all related to the nature of the campaigns he will run, not what they will achieve. They are radical and militant in nature, which is no surprise to Union observers. His unsuccessful campaign last year for Education Officer, his work in People Before Profit, and his time as one of the most vocal and active Class Representatives this year are all indicative of a proactive left-wing project for students.

Horan will also have to be aware of the democratic legitimacy of his militant radicalism, should either Liam Coyle or Edward Leonard win the presidential race. His own victory against RON may seem an insufficient endorsement of militancy should students choose the less radical candidate in the only race where they were given a choice.

Regardless of who wins the other races, students can expect Horan to win against RON, and a year of militant campaigning on left-wing issues, such as workers rights and tenants rights. He has a strong understanding of what his role entails, and of how UCDSU, UCD, and national politics function. His main challenge will be getting the student body on board.

SARAH MICHALEK
ENTERTAINMENTS OFFICER CANDIDATE

22-YEAR-OLD ENTERTAINMENTS OFFICER AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE, SARAH MICHALEK, IS RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION AS THE SOLE CANDIDATE IN THE RACE. THE THEME OF HER CAMPAIGN IS BUILDING ON WHAT SHE HAS LEARNED OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AND COLLABORATING WITH OTHER SABBATS AND SOCIETIES.



Sarah Michalek is a 22-year-old Psychological Science graduate. She is the current Entertainments Officer and is running for re-election as the sole candidate in the race.

Regarding her past year as Entertainments Officer, Michalek told us that "I think I have done my best to adapt this year. I think I have still put on a number of good events, good workshops, good competitions".

When discussing the SU's involvement with charities, Michalek said "I think it was a wise decision to focus fundraising on one charity and focus time resources on the other charity". As Entertainments Officer she designated monetary funding to Jigsaw while setting up a volunteer programme for Empower the Family. She considers this volunteer programme a success. Her manifesto states that she believes the charities deserve "more". When asked about this Michalek said: "I just think there would have been more in person meetings". She believes that in-person events would generate more fundraising.

Considering the move to online and its impact on engagement, Michalek said "I definitely do think people are saturated with computer screens. We're on our phones even more, you have all your lectures online, if you haven't seen your friends in a while you're probably zooming them. So in terms of getting people to come back to the screen to come to an event that has been a barrier". She continued that she believes as the year has progressed people have accepted that "this is the way things are for now... for now this is my way of getting my entertainment".

Michalek said that she would have liked to grow the Entstagram more. Regarding growing the Entstagram further Michalek said she would chat to the previous Entertainment Officer Thomas Monaghan, who started the account. She said that lack of in-person interaction has made it "kind of difficult to get the message across especially to first years, which is kind of where the growth mainly comes from". Her plan for the next year is to have more collaborations with societies, keep up competitions and keep getting different departments in UCD to share things from the Entstagram. She also said she is looking into getting ENTS cards moved online and using that to increase engagement. Michalek sees Instagram as "one of the more engaged with social media platforms", she continued that she would "almost look into making a TikTok because that also gets a lot of engagement from people".

While Michalek is hopeful that students will return to campus, she said "I do think there will be at least some time that will be spent online". Her plan is to continue any successful events, workshops or competitions while being more creative and innovative.

Michalek said that "I definitely want to do something on campus and in person, and it will be great, but I don't want to make empty promises. I just don't know what is going to be possible yet". Michalek has reached out to the Clubhouse and said they are open to collaborating but "they also don't know what is going to happen yet". She said she would definitely be open to having students perform at live events.

In her manifesto, Michalek emphasises events for next year's second-year students who "never got the proper ENTS welcome". When asked about how she would balance this with events for incoming first-year students she said she didn't think it would be an issue. She had no specific plan for how this would be run, but plans on working with societies.

Considering the specifics of the safe alcohol and drug use campaign she proposes, Michalek says she would brainstorm with the Welfare and C&E officers. She said that "one thing I have learned this year is that you get so much more done and more effectively when you collaborate with the other sabbats". She hopes to "get creative with it" and not just stick to one medium. Nightline has approached Michalek regarding mental health-focused events and she is interested in working with other organisations.

When asked whether she believed she had done enough to dissuade students from meeting up or gathering in UCD residences, Michalek said that she has attempted to do this by leading by example and telling students that if they are meeting with other students do it safely and within their bubble. She thinks she has offered sufficient alternatives to keep bored students entertained.

ANALYSIS
ENTERTAINMENTS OFFICER RACE
UNO ELECTION SPECIAL

While lone candidate Sarah Michalek's knowledge of UCD is not totally comprehensive, as she was not able to name the UCD Bursar, and was not aware of what FRAMC stands for and does, she has a thorough understanding of what the role of Entertainments Officer entails.

There is ambiguity surrounding a number of Michalek's plans, due to the ambiguity around when and if a return to campus is possible. However, Michalek also lacked certainty regarding the details of a number of her manifesto points, including how she would balance events for freshers and her proposed welcome events for returning second years who are yet to see UCD campus. The potential for continued restrictions on gatherings combined with a possible small budget due to an SU low in revenue from the SU shop means that many of Michalek's ideas may not be feasible.

The theme of her campaign is building on what she has learned over the previous year and collaborating with other sabbats and societies. Michalek has experience from her term as Entertainments Officer, having had to adapt to a challenging year. In the very likely event she beats RON, students can expect more of the same, but with lessons learned.

HARPY

RECORD 8 STUDENTS REGISTER TO VOTE IN SU ELECTION

A record-breaking 8 students have registered to vote in the upcoming UCDSU executive elections, *The Harpy* has learned.

Documents obtained through blackmail and theft reveal that after spending €58,000 on state of the art online voting systems, and a further €34,000 on promotional campaigns, UCDSU has smashed last year's already high record of 6 students registering to vote.

Speaking off the record to a bugged reporter, President Conor Anderson told *The Harpy* "Look, this idea that voting is important is a big problem. Most students are what, twenty years old? That's too young to have read any serious theory. Tell those dumb dumbs to read Kapital before they come babbling on about engagement".

The company responsible for hosting the online voting system, Democratising Inclusive Engagement (DIE), provided the following statement to *The Harpy*: "We will sue you and whoever leaked you our price lists if you print them. Student democracy is too important to leave to some raucous students.

"This email is private and confidential. Any unauthorised dissemination of its contents may result in legal action"

It was previously reported in *The College Tribune* that Campaigns Officer Leighton Gray had threatened to kill any student who had not registered to vote, but it has turned out that this was incorrect and *The Tribune* have sorta apologised for misrepresenting Gray, kinda. As only their fourth apology this calendar year, it is understood that *The College Tribune* still think they are doing a good job.

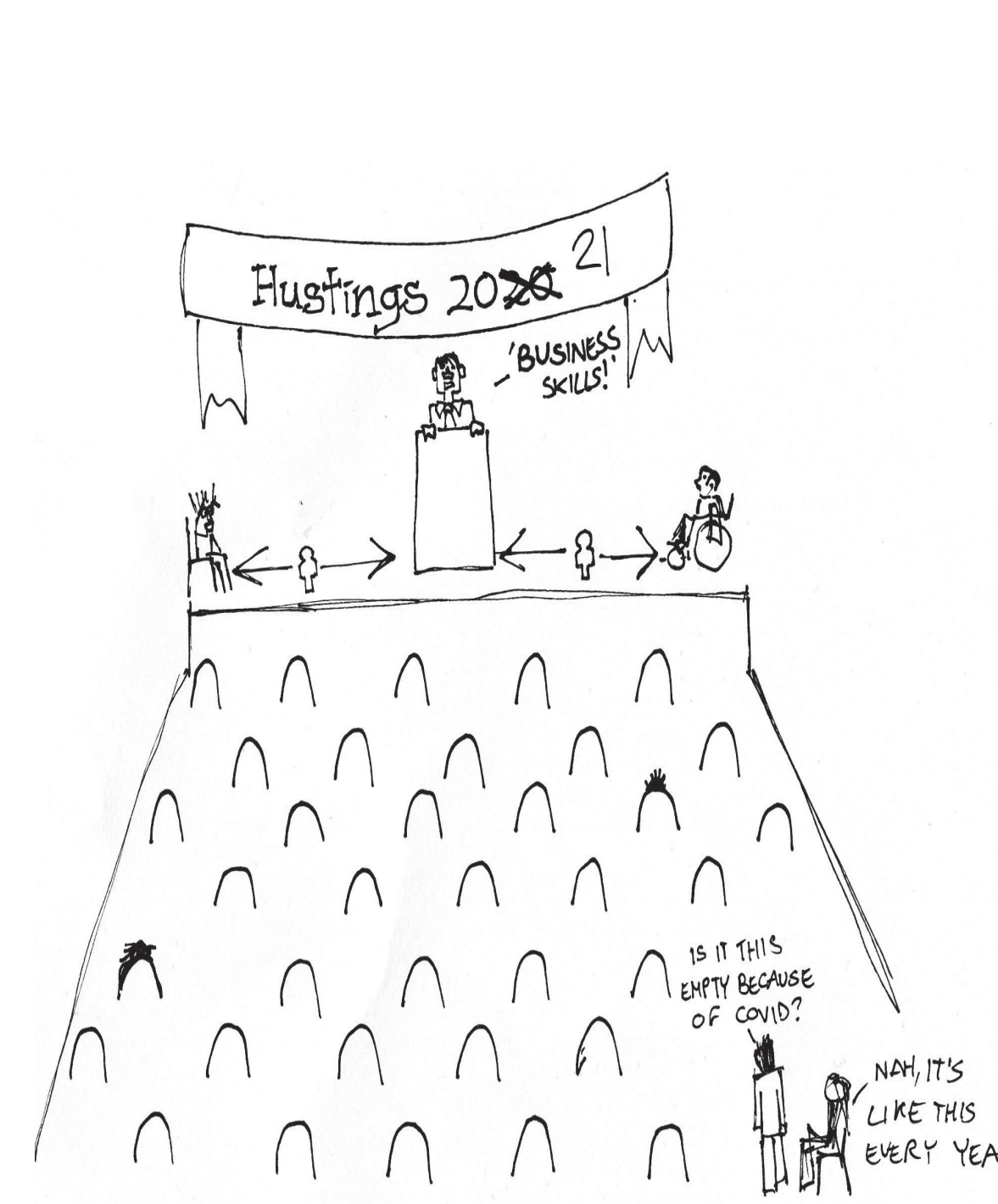
President Deeks also responded to request for comment, saying:

"Aw hell, eight students? Of course I think that student engagement is important, but with such a demonstrable mandate for the incoming leadership, I may be forced to abandon my plans on building a temple to Beesbeebus on the grounds where I buried 14 first-year students from lower-income backgrounds as part of the Gate-way project".

Despite not being asked, Professor Gemma Doherty also provided comment, saying "I am a stupid and cruel bigot, hoping that if I get fired I can claim that I've been martyred by the woke lot, even though it's clearly just because I'm off my rock and an active danger to myself and others". When asked how this is relevant to student elections, she added; "I don't know to much about that, but I've heard they are gay".

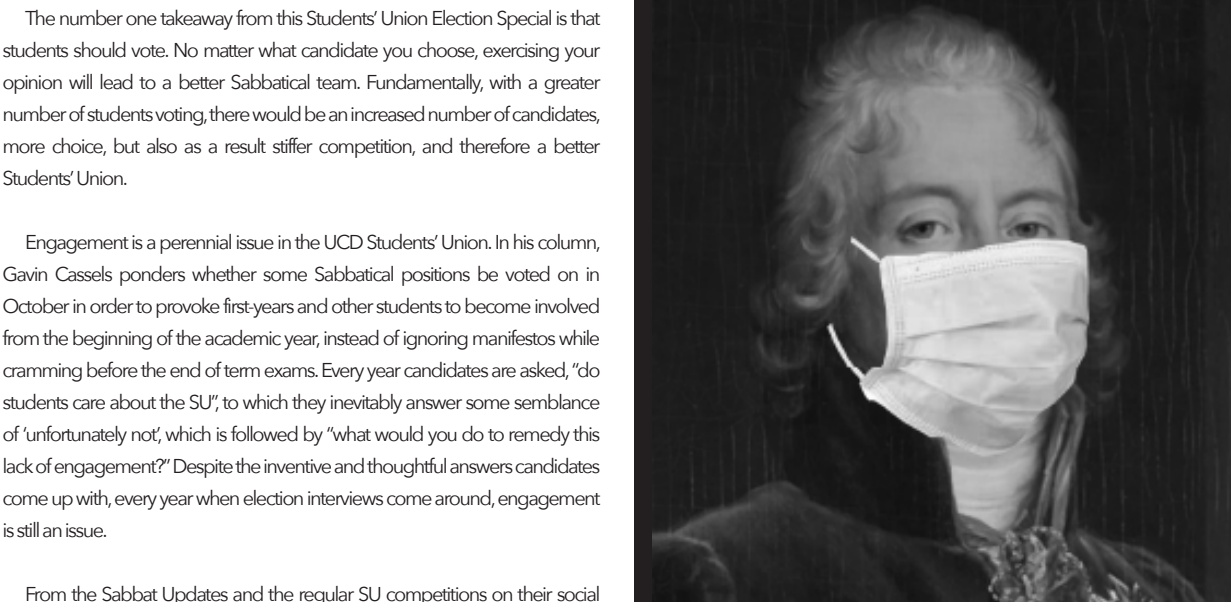
So even if the presidential race of militancy v can we just talk v something kind of in the middle doesn't rouse the spirits to motivate you to head to the virtual voting booth, vote anyway, and encourage your friends to also - even if it's just to ensure that five of the six Sabbatical Officer roles are not filled by default.

CARTOON CREDIT: ELLEN NUGENT



EDITORIAL

TALLY



Greetings, students,
And commiserations on once again having the worst options possible to represent you in the snake pit.

Of course, I don't for a moment trust you babbling apes to make up your own mind, so I have gone to the trouble of evaluating the candidates for you.

In all the uncontested races, I recommend voting for RON. RON is the only option not guaranteed to break election promises and waste YOUR money mucking about.

In the race for Campaigns & Engagement, Daryl Who-ran (last time and lost) is looking forward to defeating nobody and she is, then she hasn't the foggiest-fart of what's going to hit her in the face soon enough. Hundreds of students whining about their insignificant nonsense. Pish! Why even have a welfare officer? In my day, if you couldn't hack the academy, you had your father pay your tutors off!

In the race for Welfare we have but a single candidate also, and a law student at that. If Mawlie Greenoaf is nervous now, and she is, then she hasn't the foggiest-fart of what's going to hit her in the face soon enough. Hundreds of students whining about their insignificant nonsense. Pish! Why even have a welfare officer? In my day, if you couldn't hack the academy, you had your father pay your tutors off!

Carlos Bummerson has decided to definitely stick with her role as Graduate Officer until her retirement next April. As part of the day trips she's planning she looks forward to visiting the castle ruins around the country which she fondly remembers being built and which I once used to enjoy a romp in.

Ah, ENTS Tsar Miss Dalek, it is great to know that she has learned a lot during her past year which she spent working hard organising Zoom calls. This year, she was able to name the UCD President and the Registrar. The Bursar and FRAMC don't matter anyway - Liam Soil-ed-himself told her so, and he is perrettitly confident that, with his business skills, he will be President next year - and dealing with the people that actually matter, like Bertie Ahernia.

As for the returning Entsman, she spoke about doing 'more' for her charity partnerships - which in my eyes is a good plan, as she raised a grand total of €1000 over the course of 9 months from a student population of over thirty thousand. Legend has it that over €600 was from what Jerry Mayo didn't get to spend in the clubhouse. When asked, Entsman actually thinks she did a really good job and wouldn't change anything, so either Entsman or I don't quite understand what 'more' means.

In the contested races, I also strongly endorse the candidacy of RON.

He would do a better job at being progressive than Dev-loving Eddie Leonardo anyway. Like any Fianna Fail man, Leonard found himself some decent looking principles right around election time, and is happy to pretend he has always had them, at least until the ballot closes.

Rory Powerless is living up to the proud tradition of the sock-dems, and pretending to want the same thing as his Communist Colleagues while having even less of an idea about how to achieve it.

As far as Liam Soil-ed-himself and Eddie Leonardo understand, there's no real difference between Soc Dems, Communists and Women looking for the vote. Speaking of understanding, Soil-ed-himself didn't seem to have much of that either. I'm glad to see someone is this god-awful excuse of a university has had a proper up-bringing dose to my own; one of privilege, and pomp, and where financial hardship can be alleviated by asking nicely.

Whatever may come of this farce of an election, I look forward to another year of laughing at it from the outside while the drink-sodden suffragettes and sodomites of this rag allow me my column.

Au revoir, my baiseurs and baiseuses
xxx