

Brian Jordan

Contested Position: President

Hello everyone! My name is Brian Jordan and I'm running to be your President of TU Dublin Students' Union for a Second-Term. I could go on and on about my previous experience, all of the societies I was involved in, or what I studied in TU Dublin. But really, to be President of the largest Students' Union in the country, there are only three things you (very rightfully) want to know.

1. Can You Commit Your Life To the Union?

The job description for President of a Students' Union is clear; are you willing to work relentlessly, day in and day out, for students? The answer was, is, and always will be a resounding Yes. I've devoted my life to the Union this year, because I can see the impact it has. Every single student that becomes a class rep, who fundraises, who protests, who advocates for themselves, is an achievement to me. No matter how hard it gets, no matter how cruel people can be, I know that the work we do not only makes the college experience better, but in some cases, it can indirectly save lives. If you want a President who will risk everything to advocate for what you deserve, then vote for me.

2. What Have You Done for Us This Year?

When I ran for election last year, I promised to do four things in my manifesto. I'm happy to say that I've achieved all of them:

1. I said I would pass a referendum to update our Students' Union Officer structure and stop money being wasted on positions that didn't tangibly enhance the student experience. I did exactly that, passing a record-breaking, university-wide referendum which saw the highest turnout in TU Dublin history.
2. I promised to significantly increase events and overall engagement on ALL campuses. We had the largest Freshers Fortnight in TU Dublin history (60+ events), innumerable events across every single campus, and raised over 15,000 so far this year via individual fundraisers and our RAG week. Even our social media engagement is up several hundred percent; we've improved quite literally all of our KPI's (Key performance indicators), and the statistics are there to prove it.
3. I said I would bring back engagement within our democratic structures. For the first time since the creation of TU Dublin, we've had 100% student councillors, 100% of our part-time officers, 90%+ of all class reps, and 100% of our faculty board reps elected. Students are quite literally at the centre of all university structures again, and I plan to keep it that way.

4. I promised that I would improve student facilities in TU Dublin. Everything from microwaves and seating, to sensory rooms and gender neutral bathrooms. Additional microwaves are, as we speak, being procured for every single campus. Sensory rooms are being assigned and constructed, we're sourcing funding for additional seating in the Quads, and gender neutral bathrooms are weeks away from being completed, after extensive discussions with the EDI department.

These are just the things I promised. Aside from these, I've done far more than even I thought possible. We're on the verge of signing off on the first partnership agreement ever between a Technological University and a Students' Union (one of the commitments of which is these enhanced governance structures). I'm about to agree a 3-5 year funding agreement with the University, protecting our Union for years to come. I've championed rallies against racism, vigils for Turkey, and protests against the cost-of-living crisis. I've amplified the student voice on radio, TV, and newspapers. I've worked tirelessly to ensure that all issues, no matter how big or small, get addressed.

Now, we've seen some of the achievements that I'm most proud of (so far) this year. But why re-elect me? What am I going to do for you? Well, I'm glad you asked:

Priorities for This Year

1) Radical Student Action

For far too long, we've seen the inaction of Students' Union, who fail to properly advocate for students. We've seen promises get made, and nothing happens. Worse still is Unions who are mere extensions of the University, entirely co-opted to the point where they can't even speak out against injustice towards the very students they represent.

My number one priority is to make our students activists again; I want to see us protesting against issues that sometimes cannot be solved behind closed committee doors, and I want students to feel empowered. One annual Walkout is not enough. We'll train our class reps better. We'll train our Student Councillors better. And we'll fight for what we deserve. Because we are the leaders and protestors of tomorrow. We as students won't be treated like consumers anymore. There are nearly 30,000 of across TU Dublin; together, we are unstoppable.

2) Safer Campuses

We've seen how terrifying the city of Dublin has become. Far-right protests, anti-immigration rallies, and racist attacks across some of our biggest campuses. Students quite literally do not feel safe coming to our campuses anymore. Whether they fear being attacked due to poor police/campus security measures, or their bikes being stolen due to poor storage facilities, or just feeling like bystanders won't intervene in an emergency.

Every student deserves an education. And every student deserves to feel safe when accessing that education. I'm going to mobilise students to increase pressure both locally and nationally, until we see tangible change. Police and campus security should be visible in high-risk areas, and should be trained in how to intervene effectively. Bike facilities should be protected and located in intelligent areas, where they can't be stolen. And our students and staff need to be trained in how to protect our most vulnerable students. Violence, intimidation, discrimination and assault is everyone's problem. We need to protect each other, and I will not stop until students feel safe in TU Dublin.

3) Secure our Funding

Anyone who knows me knows that I plan for the future. It's tempting for Union representatives to focus on short-term, news-grabbing promises, that will allow them to gain some reputation as being an exceptional Officer. But that's not what being an Officer is about. We are standing on the shoulders of all those who came before us. And we're benefiting from the years of work they've put in, to allow us the platform we stand upon now. And I intend to make the Union better for those who come after me.

That is why, if you elect me, I will secure funding for the Students' Union for the next 3 years minimum. I'll make sure we have the funding to start a news media outlet, to hire student advisors in Grangegorman, to significantly enhance training for students across all campuses, particularly in the areas of activism and allyship. With security of funding, we can commit to a T-Fund, solve period poverty, and make the Union stronger than it's ever been. Security of funding means bigger events, a better student experience, and an empowered student population. Vote for me, and we'll make history.

So Why Me?

I will give my life to the Union. I will achieve each and every point on my manifesto. And more importantly, I'll do far more. More than I could ever list. Vote Brian Jordan, and I'll give the power back to our students.

