

Hi, my name is Esmeraldi, age 25. I'm from eastern European decent and I am studying Business. I am in my final year and am hoping to get elected for the VP Blanch position. I have learnt from class rep meetings and from talking to students during my nomination period, what is really needed from the campus and the student's union to provide students with the optimum student life and experience.

The following bullet points are the aspirations and the Aims in which I deem needed for the year ahead based on my current observations:

- The first point and mostly talked about is the canteen food prices. As a student I find it increasingly frustrating with the constant increase in prices within the canteen. I can vividly remember within the canteen during the start of the academic year 2023, the prices of the food given to Blanchardstown students were priced at 6:50 euros. This I believe was an increase from the final semester of the previous academic semester. This price then further increased to 7.10 euros once the second semester started. The same can be said to the Costco coffee that is served within the provided establishment. A medium cappuccino used to be 3.40 and had then been increased to 4 euros. There is no mitigation for these hikes in prices. Coupons used to be available for coffee in which a student could purchase a certain amount of coffee and then receive a coffee for free, but I think this has been discontinued.
- The gym is a place where students go to help maintain both their physical and mental health. I feel as a constant gym goer I feel that the gym should have no charge or a reduced charge. Last time I had checked there was a yearly charge of 60 euros. An aim for me is to make the gym freely accessible and if that is not possible, I would be pushing for a discount for the yearly pass. This could mean anywhere from 30-50 euros for a student membership pass for the gym. I would also be looking into a potential longer opening period for the gym, need to work out what is viable.
- There have been constant complaints about the bus service that both deliveries students to the campus and brings them back to the Blanch centre. Although I do not use this bus, I am hoping to possibly solve this problem for those who do take this form of public transport as I do understand the annoyance that comes with inconsistencies with the bus.
- One of my high-end goals and which I would like to push for is a potential built student accommodation near the Blanchardstown campus. Other campuses such as Trinity, UCD, DCU and Grange all have student accommodation within the vicinity. With the campus of Blanchardstown being remote compared to other TU campuses, I feel like an investment within student infrastructure such as student accommodation would be very positive for the student body of Blanchardstown.
- Student card exclusion is a big inequality within TU. Although TUD states that all the campus are under one university, with student card exclusion it really doesn't feel like that. My aim would be to develop similar or new cards for Blanch students in which they can access the main campus of Grange Gorman as a specific card only held by Grange students grant them access to the campus excluding both Blanchardstown and Tallaght students. This is further worsened when it is noted that most society and clubs are being held within the main Grange campus, so not only is there inequality but Blanch students may miss out on a certain aspect of freedom and student life.

As I settle in my potential role of VP for Blanch, I hope to add more agendas and potential changes towards my aims and goals for the future. What is listed here is as I have mentioned from talks

with students, my observations as a class representative and what I thought would be an admirable goal to set for the year commencing. (2024/2025).

Thank you for taking time to read my Manifesto. 😊