Manifesto for
VP for Tallaght Campus

Please read and follow the following **guidelines** cautiously.

1. Answer each question with a maximum of 150 words per question.
2. Don't delete any question.
3. Feel free to include colours, graphics, images, links, etc.
4. Submit completed form in both Word and PDF format to elections@tudublinsu.ie before Nominations close.

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1. Please introduce yourself. What would you like students to know about you?

My name is Abdullah Zaidi. I'm a 4th year data science/ml student and I'm also currently a student council officer as well as the treasurer for Tu Dublin Tallaght's Islamic society. I'm a results and data driven guy and recently I, together with the rest of the Islamic society organized a charity auction in collaboration with UCD, Trinity and NCI – with our campus being the main initializer – a massive success with over 4k raised. On a personal note, I like enjoy programming and reading as well as astronomy and biology. I also have 1 cat, she is grey and white

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2. How would you ensure that the student voice is heard? What does it mean to you?

The current issue with lack of student voice is due to absence of any real push to engage with students by TU Dublin – there are emails that get sent around to fill out forms etc to engage with students, but the reality is that, these methods are ineffective – students see these and 99% of the time ignore them. Essentially, they lack soul.

My solution for this would be to push for a more human centric approach where there is more engagement via social media and in-person on campus for example stalls as well as have an incentive to actually get students to voice their opinions. Another extremely important point of engagement to is to have class reps engage more with their fellow students as well as have a system to enforce each class to have a class rep – something which is currently lacking.

3. How would you ensure that events and campaigns are appropriate for Tallaght campus?

Through Data – we already have some events, but they suffer from engagement due to disinterest. As vp I would figure out which events are most liked by students – this would be done through class reps. Once a month class reps would take a survey from each of their respective classes. These results would be brought in via monthly class rep meetings. From this I can gauge which are the most popular events and what type of events students like instead of just choosing random ones – through this these events would be specifically tailored for students in Tallaght.

4. What would you like your legacy to be as VP for Tallaght Campus?

I would like for this campus to flourish and not just be something of an after-thought. Each TU Dublin campus should be treated as an equal and not have majority of resources and attention go to Grangegorman. I would like to set up a base strong enough that my successors can continue whatever I have implemented without much hassle – something which I will work strongly towards as I know the feeling of starting from scratch. I would like to my legacy to be known as someone who worked with the students and the staff of this campus closely and hopefully leave a great impacting effect on them.

5. How will you ensure that students in in Tallaght Campus feel heard?

One of the biggest motives I have is connecting students together to allow their voices to be heard via their class reps. The reason I'm saying this, is because for example if there was a system where each student from every class was able to email the vp, many, concerns would just be ignored simply due to the volume of information. Class reps represent a democratic option as they are students themselves and can offer what the majority want – the class reps then can forward all information to the VP. Its efficient and quicker to address any problems that students may have. Additionally, anyone who does not agree majority can always message the vp directly and their voices will always be heard.

I know I keep bringing up class reps but they are an extremely powerful group that allow students to voice any matters that they come across.

6. How will you support the recruitment, training and retention of Class Reps on Tallaght Campus?

For recruitment of reps I would introduce initiative such as food vouchers or implement a reward based system where the more a class rep engages the better rewards they get. In terms of training, there needs to be a more rigorous oversight, accountability and engagement from the vp themselves. The vp needs to look out for reps who are not engaging, people who are putting in a lot of work. The vp should also be actively helping out class reps who are struggling and should keep in contact with every class rep regularly overall.

7. How would you improve campus experience in Tallaght Campus?

In terms of campus development - If there are any new developments that are going to take place on our campus, the students should be informed and have somewhat of a participation in the development plans. Also would try introduce more study pods(something which is requested a lot) and better equipment for the library. In fact the library overall need a refurbishment – a massive undertaking but I'd like to at least get something moving. I could also organize direct engagement with students to get their input on anything they require.

I would also engage with lecturers to get an overview on what they require and their outlook on what needs to be improved.

8. Is there anything that you would like to add?

Nope 😊