



Manifesto for VP for Academic Affairs

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.

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

My name is Eughan McGrath. I am a final year law and language student, with experience studying abroad (hello international students). I've had the opportunity to serve as both class rep and student councillor. Also of import, I'm great at complaining, or as it's now called, advocating.

On a personal note, I'm the oldest of 8 children and I come from the delightful suburbs of north Dublin. I've worked for the Central Statistics Office for the last few years, going door to door and asking the important questions. You probably know some of my work without realising it, I'm part of the team that publishes the national employment rate and other statistics you would know of. All this is to say, I'm someone who gets the job done.

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

I've been complaining since birth. At 16 I filed my first complaint against my employer, and many since. I take it very personally when the 'little guy' gets treated unfairly. In the role of Academic Affairs, it's about ensuring that the student is treated fairly, whether that's in lectures or exams. In my view it's the most crucial role because it affects our careers. I like to think of the role as class rep but on steroids. Fundamentally I believe that this is the purpose of the Student Union, to fight for students who would otherwise be brushed aside by the University.



3. What do you think is the largest barrier in terms of third level education? What will be your priorities when advocating for students on those education related issues in TU Dublin?

First things first, and money makes the world go 'round. Financial barriers are faced by many students. It'd almost appear that whether you have a comfortable University life is dependent on your riches or on receiving SUSI maintenance. This system is not adequate, and further supports are necessary to enable students to reach their potential.

One category of student which is particularly in dire straits are PhD students. Looking at the financial support for PhD students is alarming. The sheer amount of work done for little reward is an injustice that needs to be addressed.

4. How will you ensure the quality of education in TU Dublin remains student focused?

Without the Students, the University is nothing. If the University is not providing for the education of the Students, it's not a University at all. This means that all students need to be supported, whether apprentices, undergraduates, postgraduates or PhD students.

The Union's role is to enforce this. Its sole purpose is to represent all students and to engage with the University on their behalf. It's important to keep the University on its toes at all times to make sure the student is always heard.

It's essential as a representative of the students that I pursue what students need and ask of me, regardless of any personal convictions.

5. How will you support students during exams' periods?

Exams have always been the most stressful period for me. I'm more of an assignments type of guy. I've personally come across a few problems with exams, one is the confusing timetable where all our exams are just thrown in together. The other is the lack of information on how to perform in an exam. I think information is key to supporting students, I know I'd well have benefitted from it. It's essential to iron out any difficulties as soon as they arise, as the exam period is time sensitive.

Another important part of exams is the travel aspect. Morning exams are what seem most unfair especially to students who have a long commute. In some cases, it's even near impossible to make the exam on time. Exams should be fair for everyone, especially students with additional needs. Exam centres should always be able to accommodate all students so that we all have a fair opportunity.



6. What would you like your legacy to be as VP for Academic Affairs?

My legacy would be an imprint in how this role is viewed. I will leave behind not only countless resolved issues for students but also a template on how this role is to be performed in the future.

While I'm no drama queen, I won't go quietly in the night. Whatever issue may arise I'll kick up a fuss and be a pain in the ass until that issue is resolved.

7. How will you ensure that as many Class Reps as possible are elected and are adequately trained for the role?

Having class reps elected can be difficult, especially in first year. You've got to make it clear that the class rep is important because things can and do go wrong. Having been a class rep I know that most issues can be resolved quite easily but there needs to be someone who will do that, the class rep is that person.

In order to be of assistance to their class, the class rep must be equipped with the appropriate tools for the job. Training is but one of those tools, the support of the Union and other class reps is essential the role. That's why it will be a paramount objective to have lass reps attend meetings, including Student Council, to ensure that the class is represented.

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

I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read through my manifesto and should you have anything you wish to ask please reach out to me.