



President

Officers Elections March 2025

# Manifesto for President

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](mailto:elections@tudublinsu.ie) before Nominations close.

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

Hi guys, my name is Naomi and I'm currently the Tallaght Campus Vice President, and I'm re-running to be the Students' Union President. Before this role I studied Bioanalytical Science, where I was a Class Representative for 3 out of the 4 years, which has had transferrable skills to my current role in the Students' Union. Within my role, I have become aware of the processes of how everything works; I've been able to help in multiple areas and have had an overview of the inner workings of how things are run. Due to my familiarity with how everything is run, I believe that I will be able to adapt to the role of President easily.

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

I think the first step is making sure that I'm echoing the students' voice/message correctly. Once that happens, it's all about utilising my seat and my voice at the table rather than just sitting there. If there is a specific issue faced by many students, the best thing to do is bring that up in relevant university meetings as well as to the relevant staff members. I think it's very powerful to be able to vocalise issues on behalf of the students as promptly and effectively as possible. For me, this also includes having follow-up meetings and discussing how they plan to tackle the issues raised. Adversely, this also means that if things aren't going as planned, and this has been raised multiple times, actions may need to be taken by the Students' Union.



**3. What national issues do you think affect students most and how would you seek to solve them?**

One of the main national issues that affect our students the most is the TU (Technological University) Borrowing Framework. This is essentially a process which enables TUs to be able to borrow from the government as a third-level institution – this policy is currently not in place. If this were to come into action, the university would have the ability to borrow in order to obtain more buildings, for example, student accommodation and a student centre, etc. Liaising with the University President and Lobbying the Minister for Higher Education are great ways to fast-track this process and get the much-needed student accommodation that the students need.

**4. What do you think the most important part of the role is?**

I think it's important to recognise that although overall, most of the campuses may have similar issues, for example, canteens (prices, opening hours, etc.), each campus has its own identity as well as specific needs. For instance, I'm aware that there's a need for water fountains for Bolton Street (a basic facility which they don't have), as well as occasionally maintenance issues, which also happen in Linenhall too. For Tallaght and Blanchardstown students, the essential ability is to have all card access to the same locations/facilities that City campus students have, i.e., common rooms, library, gyms, etc. In addition to making sure students don't feel neglected during any campaigns and events, it's important to make everyone feel included.

Although I am aware that not everything can be done, working to get microwaves, lower pricing or campus-specific issues fixed is something that I wholeheartedly aim to do.

**5. How would you ensure that your whole team stays motivated and delivers high quality standards?**

From being a full-time officer, I realise how important it is to check in with people. As president, this can be done without being overbearing and allowing each individual officer to flourish in their own field. It is important to know when to come in and have a check to see how people are doing and if they need help/reassurance. The main thing is realising that officers are just people too. Therefore, if they need help or feel like other perspectives are important in their work process, they should feel comfortable and like they can come to me and bring up any issues that may arise.

We have always had progress check-ins with the team to see how people are doing in terms of their campaigns and events. I believe quality over rushed quantity is something that I would focus on if high-quality standards came into question.



**6. How would you ensure the relationship between the university and union remains productive?**

I think for me, the question would be how could you not ensure the relationship remains productive? As someone who sits on more than three university committees, I understand that there is always work being constantly done, and as student representatives, we always try to ensure that the outcomes of each meeting are beneficial to the students. Apart from being in the meeting itself and advocating for students that way, I think that following up on proposed actions and ensuring that there is constant honest, clear and respectful communication between the Students' Union and the University. This is vital in protecting the relationship that has been built up over the years, as can be seen with the Student Partnership Agreement and making sure that's upheld throughout my term. Including frequent communication with the new university president, as this is something that is currently being done that I'd love to continue.

**7. What do you think it means to be the spokesperson for the union?**

First and foremost, there should be a level of transparency and honesty to be had when communications are made on behalf of students. It's a role of high importance and of high honour. As the spokesperson of the union, you represent tens of thousands of students. It is vital that the voice of the majority is always heard and voiced. It is important to note that there may be a few students that may not be pleased, but it is critical that awareness is brought to the consensus of the student population. It should also be noted that the rest of the executive (full time officers) should also be able to have input as to what is being said, when necessary.

**8. Can you share an experience where you had to deal with conflict in a group setting and how did you deal with that conflict?**

During my college breaks, I worked in a restaurant, and due to the hospitality environment, customer conflicts and disagreements arose naturally. There weren't any specific incidents that stuck out, as many happened over the years I worked there. However, the main takeaway and outcome of each conflict was that there was a calm discussion and a compromise (if needed), ensuring that the customer was heard and left with a desirable outcome.



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**7. What methods would you employ to increase feedback from students to help shed light on important issues and/or improvements needed at TU Dublin?**

The best way to do this is by enhancing our current system, which is the class reps. Recruiting as early as possible and highlighting the importance of being a class rep and the incentives that follow is something that should be showcased to students. Emphasising that any feedback is good, and no input is bad needs to be made known. I believe strongly highlighting this factor is something that could work. Depending on the level of engagement, this information could be collected through a specific forum that class reps have access to without breaching GDPR guidelines.

**10. Is there anything that you would like to add?**

I would finally like to wrap this up by saying that I will strive to complete what I have outlined above. I will admit that not everything may be accomplished, as I can't promise anything, but steps will be taken toward each point to the best of my ability.

Thank you for reading, I hope you consider me when voting for your Students' Union President.