

WHO AM I?

My name is Sé and I'm a Computational Chemistry student. I know as well as anyone that sometimes, being in college can feel like you're drowning. The SU is meant to help us when that happens, but it's hard to know where to go for help, and with age, the SU is starting to show some leaks.

I want to be a wave of change and build the SU to be more transparent, more resilient and more focused on its goal of helping students when the waves of college get rough.

I've had my ups and downs in college, and what I needed when I was going under was a helping hand. I want that for every student, every time. Let's put an end to the days of students falling through the cracks.

CONTACT ME



VOTING TIMES

Arts Block

Tues - Thurs 27th-29th
10:00 - 17:00

Hamilton

Tues - Thurs 27th - 29th
10:00 - 17:00

TBSI & St James'

Tues 27th
10:00 - 17:00

D'Olier & Dublin Dental

Wed 28th
10:00 - 17:00



Sé

for **EDUCATION**
don **OIDEACHAS**

BIG IDEAS

My core goals are:

Tackle Barriers to Education as an assistant to the Campaigns the Union undertakes within the area of Education.

Rebuild the Union from the ground up, tackling established issues, building a new structure for the Union which is fit for purpose and make a new, healthier culture within the Union.

Work on the classical education issues across the University.

Tackle the bare necessities that are always an issue in college.

Total SU Restructure

- Abolish Council
- Replace out-of-date structures with fit-for-purpose bodies
- Make a Union structure any student can understand, and use when they need.

Touch Grass

- Tackle the opaque nature of the Union by helping reps build networks outside of the Union
- Allow students to join on single issues
- Time-Off and Job Sharing for Union Officers

Working Student Status

- Establish a status for students who work, recognised by college.
- Allow students agency in deadlines and coursework.

Full Course Materials Audit

- Lecture Recordings are the goal, but the real issue is the materials provided for learning.
- Advocate for lecture recordings or comparable materials to be provided across college
- Undertake a full audit, with help of reps, detailing what materials are provided in each course and in what way.

Storms on the Horizon

Whether it be rent, cost of living, long commutes, or just knowing where to go when you're struggling... Everyone in College has felt the pressure of trying to keep their head above water.

The goal of every student is to get an education, so the role of Education needs to be at the forefront of every campaign we have to fight the barriers between students, and leaving college with the degree and education they want.

In short, Education is a political role. I see Education as a campaign's role, as the deputy president, they should be leading campaigns to make college a fairer, kinder and more accessible place in this turbulent world.

**AGENCY
ACCESSIBILITY
EQUITY**

Rent

- Make agreements with Trinity accommodation service to avoid predatory student accommodation
- Lobby government for purpose built public student accommodation, including incoming and outgoing governments
- Conduct feasibility study on additional purpose built college student accommodation for post first year (in addition to halls)
- Conduct an anonymous survey on students in illegal (non RTB renting, cash in hand) accommodation.

SUSI

- Lobby for an increase to the maximum family earnings cut off for susi
- Lobby for grant to assist people in moving out during college, lowering commute times

Cost of Living

- Increase the resources and time devoted to the food bank, including fund raisers within schools for both student hardship and the SU Food Bank
- Conduct a survey on the popularity of different foods offered at the bank to ensure maximum impact
- Look into the viability of perishables at the food bank, including partnering with too good to go, etc.

Funding

- Meet with college schools about their funding situation. Some schools are dramatically underfunded. Some cannot hire professors and some professors are avoiding retirement to make sure their topics are covered.
- Form an alliance of solidarity with college about the current funding situation and campaign based on the goal of education funding being fit for purpose.

Working Student Status

- Lobby college to have a recognised Working Student Status
- For students working a part time job, college can be doubly stressful. Assist the college in developing an initiative to support working students.
- Focusing on moving around deadlines and allowing for agency with deadlines rather than extensions exclusively.
- This status wouldn't be a blanket ability for extensions, rather allowing students the opportunity to discuss reasonable deadlines with lecturers and open the conversation about balancing work and college.

Irish Language

- Work with the newly established Irish language officer to assist college in implementing the Irish language across all schools, in all faculties. Irish will be truly equal on this Island.

Disability and Diagnosis

- Assist college Disability Service in gaining resources to allow more undiagnosed disabilities to be caught early in first year, before they can impact academic performance
- Centre disability and neurodiversity within meetings and education campaigns, discussing the impact of disability and allowing for the increase and diversification of “reasonable accommodations”

Minority status

- As we have seen with the Dublin Riots, minority students face very different road blocks when it comes to college.
- Support Welfare initiatives to normalise and educate on different minority statuses, allowing for spaces to be created for students of different minorities.
- Conduct photo campaigns discussing the joy of being a minority in trinity while not glossing over the bad

Education or Deputy Pres?

- Education is a tough role to campaign for. It is so long term, it's almost impossible to implement anything within one year.
- Deputy Pres has a role to play in setting the tone of the Union, focusing inward and tackling structural issues and working with the rest of the Sabbatical Team to make the Union work for students.



Touch Grass & Restructure

The Union is a generally insular and opaque organisation. Every year, the Union tries to increase engagement with the student body, accessibility, number of class reps...

All of these metrics fail to address the core issues. The SU's structure is needlessly complex for its goals. Rather than form defining function, the form is seen as a necessary evil to do the good work the SU does.

Every SU member has a dramatically different experience; from the rep who only goes to first council and then helps their class, to the Part-Time Officer who spends all their college life in the Union.

The needs of every member of the Union can be addressed through tackling the structural issues of the SU and creating a transparent organisation focused on supporting the students it represents.

Support network training & being "off"

- Implement training during Class Rep Training on formation of support networks and avoiding burnout. Focus on having a support network outside SU.
- Have an organisational check in system, such that every rep, convenor, PTO and member of SU isn't left out when they need support.
- Get badges for class reps, with an on/off slider. Allowing for very clear communication of when a class rep is willing to engage in being contacted for support, and when it may be better to seek out a convenor/PTO/sabbat. Ensure effective Comms rollout of initiative to allow it to be utilised effectively.

Job Sharing & Time-Off

- Allow SU Officers to take time off and job share their roles in order to lessen the impact being a member of the SU has on studies.
- Job sharing would allow extensive roles such as Chair of Council to be split between two people in order to prevent SU members voluntarily give up 20-40 hours a week.
- Time off would allow an interim person to be appointed to a role during particularly tough times (bereavements, tight deadlines, illness) without forcing resignation.
- Would hopefully allow students with higher contact hours or course load, along with working students, commuters etc to apply for higher positions, potentially allowing for the SU to be a better representation of the student population.

New Union Structure

- Council can be extremely alienating for reps. It is extremely niche compared to a faculty assembly. There is a rigorous culture to council and speaking up can feel extremely difficult.
- Implement a constitutional review to move away from a council model towards a faculty assembly model, with an additional body for wide-reaching political motions
- Should hopefully allow reps to get settled into the Union and choose their level of engagement, rather than forcing additional workload on already overstretched class reps.

Make the SU Fun again

- The SU needs to be more fun and less serious overall. A more jovial atmosphere would massively assist in allowing people to accomplish their tasks within the SU
- The SU has more than enough people power to accomplish it's goals when powers and responsibilities are shared rather than hoarded. A cooperative, rather than competitive environment should be fostered, up to and including intervention into work practices of individual union officers.

Academic Senate, Welfare Senate and Legislature

- Ensure functional bodies exist within the Union for required tasks of political votes, educational policy and welfare policy.
- Focus legislature on internal whole college policy and external political policy.
- Focus academic senate on debate of educational policy, and drafting of policy to enact.
- Focus welfare senate on welfare policy and allocating welfare budgets for long term projects.
- Allow students to sign up separately to each body to facilitate reasonable time management.
- Enact consultation period with student body to future proof the project.

Fit for purpose institutional reform

- Remove old SU institutions which no longer fit the current needs of the Union. Like old Working Groups, Officer Committees and Council.
- Build a new, purpose built structure, in which form equals function. Avoiding vague remits, overarching powers, unclear power structures and absence of separation of powers.
- Implement some form of Post Graduate Representation which fits with both the Postgrad Workers Org. and with the systems of representation currently in place for postgrads.

The Bare Necessities

The role of Education currently has a remit well beyond the capabilities of any one person.

Even a forty-hour work week is not enough to accomplish every job within the Education Officer's remit.

To tackle this issue, I want to pledge to utilise the faculty convenors, deputy faculty convenors, school convenors and class reps, share the role load and allow for the Education Officer to once again be a viable role within the Union.

MAKING WAVES OF CHANGE

Course Materials Audit

- Audit course materials across college using class reps, conduct a full survey on all material provided for each course by college.
- Use this to make policy to set standards for course materials and lobby college to enact stricter criteria and learning outcomes
- Advocate for lecture recordings to be made accessible across all faculties, negotiate with the lecturer's union on lecture recordings. Advocate for comparable course materials to be made available in lieu of lecture recordings where not possible.

SU Transparency

- Publish a clear outline of the SU structure, including each member's role to allow for students to access the right person for the job, including which committees each position sits on

Chatbot

- I Make a Chatbot for the website which will allow people with queries to be correctly directed to the right person
- Prevents convenors and reps being under-utilised while also freeing up time for higher up positions

Funding

- Meet with college schools about their funding situation. Some schools are dramatically underfunded. Some cannot hire professors and some professors are avoiding retirement to make sure their topics are covered.
- Form an alliance of solidarity with college about the current funding situation and campaign based on the goal of education funding being fit for purpose.

Release report on structural issues in college admin

- Conduct surveys and focus groups with students, staff and stakeholders on the issues with college admin.
- Draft a report and vote it through Council/Highest Legislative Body, and present it at university council. Hopefully beginning the slow progress to a more intuitive admin system in the college.

SU Archivist and long term records

- Long term institutional knowledge is not well managed within the SU.
- It's important for both archival reasons and also for reference by the current SU to have accurate documents of each time period.

Policy for class reps and convenors to use in meetings

- Have welfare and academic senates, along with faculty assemblies draft policy for use by reps and convenors in meetings to ensure long term policy is adhered to.
- Form new policy in Academic and Welfare Senates in addition to established policy.



