

Hi, my name is Cormac Watson.



I'm a third-year history and political science student. I started writing for *The University Times* just over three-and-a-half years ago as a starry-eyed first year, reporting on GAA matches. Since then, I have worked as a senior staff writer, deputy sports editor, sports editor, and this year became deputy editor of the paper, gaining invaluable insight into how to run a successful newspaper.

The thousands of hours I have put into writing, editing and working for *The University Times* has benefitted me so much and given me a home in Trinity. Now it is time that I give back to the paper as editor, and make sure that it is a better paper than the one I found as a lost first year.

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

ARTS BLOCK AND HAMILTON

Tuesday 25th: 10am-5pm
Wednesday 26th: 10am-5pm
Thursday 27th: 10am-4pm

TALLAGHT AND ST JAMES'S

Tuesday 12pm-2pm

D'OLIER STREET AND TBSI

Wednesday 26th: 12pm-2pm

TRINITY HALL

Monday 24th:
Following JCR
Hustings, 8am-10pm

MY OTHER IDEAS

INSTAGRAM: Increasingly, people are moving away from Facebook and Twitter, and on to Instagram. *The University Times* must keep in step with its readers and become more active and creative on Instagram. This means thinking of new ways to get our coverage across, via stories and an increased number of posts. A better Instagram presence will also make the paper more attractive to advertisers.

WORKSHOPS: Every year, the different section editors of *The University Times* run workshops to teach new contributors about writing for their section. I want to make these workshops more streamlined and accessible by creating thorough, well-thought-out presentations, printing out comprehensive handouts with all necessary information – and making the workshops more interactive.

FEEDBACK: Mentoring is a massive part of being an editor in *The University Times*. It is vital that new writers are receiving detailed feedback on their work, and I will make sure that every editor understands that teaching new writers is a central part of the role of being an editor. Trinity does not have a school of journalism, and *The University Times* fills that gap, so teaching should be the foundation of what we do.

HAVE A QUESTION? GET IN TOUCH

watsonco@tcd.ie

083 046 0448

Twitter: @CormacWatson



Cormac FOR EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY TIMES: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The University Times has many functions but its main function is the same as any other newspaper's: **TO HOLD POWER TO ACCOUNT**. Ireland is going through a turbulent time, and students are really feeling the effects. Every year, attending Trinity becomes less feasible for students struggling to make ends meet. As students, we cannot fight for a fairer education system without knowing what is going on in government and in Trinity.

The paper is run and paid for by students, and what justifies its existence is making sure that the powers that be in Trinity are kept in check. That means it must be breaking stories and **SHINING A LIGHT ON THE IMPORTANT ISSUES**. That is a tradition that I, throughout my three-and-a-half years in the paper, have tried my best to uphold.

I know what it is like to be a lost and scared first year. I have always been lucky to have a helping hand in *The University Times*, showing me how to be a journalist and reassuring me that I can succeed and fulfill my potential. Now I am ready to be that helping hand. *The University Times* has a long tradition of **MENTORING YOUNG, ASPIRING JOURNALISTS**, and that is another tradition that I have tried to uphold during my time as deputy editor, and a tradition that I hope to continue to uphold as editor.



THE THREE PILLARS OF MY CAMPAIGN

Accountability

TO ENSURE THAT THE PAPER FOLLOWS BEST PRACTICES

The University Times has been given a lot of responsibility by students, and for that reason, the newspaper must set a high bar for itself. As editor, I will set up a Board of Advisors, made up of journalists, media experts and former student leaders, who can give guidance to the editor on how best to manage the paper and handle coverage. This will ensure that the paper meets best journalistic practices and standards in everything that it does.

I will also introduce a standards editor, who will sit on the Board of Advisors. In conjunction with the editor, they will ensure that writers are dealing with students and student issues in a sensitive and compassionate way. They will also pass serious complaints on to the Board of Advisors and provide another student voice on the Board.

Sustainability

PUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AT THE CENTRE OF THE PAPER'S MISSION

The world is in a tumultuous state at the moment. The climate is changing and more than ever we need people to stand up and be counted. *The University Times* needs to play its part and put climate change at the centre of its coverage. I will introduce a climate change editor to cover in depth the marches and environmental initiatives going on in

Trinity and to ensure that the College administration is doing its utmost to tackle climate change.

The University Times must also walk the walk. I will therefore cut the number of papers we print per issue by a third, massively cutting down on paper waste, while also making sure that every student who wants a copy of the paper is able to get one. I will also improve our online presence by rejuvenating our Instagram account and making sure articles are going online as fast as possible, as part of a wider effort to reduce reliance on the print issue and to become more sustainable.

Adaptability

KEEP UP WITH A DIVERSIFYING CAMPUS

To grow, the paper must adapt to a changing student population. To improve awareness of the paper, I will organise outreach meetings in the Trinity Centre for Health Sciences, the Hamilton, TBSI and D'Olier St. We must also include international, mature and TAP students in our future through collaboration with the Students' Union and initiatives such as the Global Room and TAP. *The University Times* should be a service that every student feels a part of.

The paper must become more financially independent of the union. As editor, I will set up an alumni network, bringing together every former writer who has passed through *The University Times* since the paper was created in 2009. From there, I will organise fundraisers where our alumni can reconnect with each other and financially contribute to the newspaper.