

University Council

Manifesto: Oran Cassidy

I believe that I should be elected to the committee as I have an aptitude for organisation, effective communication, and mediation. As a PhD candidate, I have taken on extra responsibilities to lead a few initiatives that increased engagement within the physics postgraduate community, such as a social hike held in October and the School of Physics Christmas party in December. In my recently attained position of class rep, I have also taken on with helping the physics postgrad community become more organised, with regular meetings to discuss issues regarding advocating for increased stipends, improving working conditions in our offices/labs, and organising social events.

At present, there is a growing movement within the School of Physics postgrad community to revise our stipends higher to counteract the growing cost of living in Dublin. I see myself as being well-placed to advocate for this issue; both in being so affected by it myself and having been involved in this movement since an early point in its existence. I would wish to use the committee position as a platform to advocate this issue on behalf of my fellow physics cohort and the wider postgraduate community across Trinity.

My involvement in this physics postgrad movement is also where I believe I have gained the most in terms of the skills which I see as useful for a committee position. Many of the meetings and communications made to organise this movement have been contentious, owing to the diversity of perspectives and views that exist within our cohort. In all of these I have sought to understand the positions of all sides and act as a mediator. This has helped us to have more constructive dialogues and make progress in advocating for improving our conditions, notably in writing and sending an open letter to petition the provost to meet with us to discuss this issue.

I would hope that my application can be considered and that I can attain this position of university council student representative.

Regards,
Oran Cassidy