My name is Ross (he/him), in my final year of a BA in Social Sciences and Cultural Innovation, as a class rep as well as being on the Sustainability Working Group. However, my experience stretches far beyond the confines of the college, with various roles with SpunOut, Text 50808, Plan International Ireland, just to name a few!

When I told people I was running for this position, they told me I was a perfect fit and encouraged me to run, even when I wasn't sure. However, I wanted to leave DCU the same passion that I got when I first went into college as someone nervous talking to new people, let alone doing things.

My manifesto combines the past three years of my learning inside and outside lecture halls, through being part of some amazing societies and learning so much and pursuing my passions of mental health, global development and youth participation in politics.

I have seen first hand how the Students Union can be a force for good in empowering voices and in political change. I want to continue being that catalyst in my role, and ask for your vote on the 24th and 25th of March!
My pledges to you

Sustainable, safe and affordable commuting

Volunteering to your potential

Creating a truly sustainable campus

A Global Campus starting at a grassroots level
As restrictions ease, many commuters want to be depended on having a safe, affordable and sustainable commute. As a commuter myself until the college closed, I exactly know what it is like to have to travel 45 minutes each way by bike, usually in the rain and the wind on dangerous bike lanes and isolated parking. Even when travelling by public transport, the lack of safety at night as well as inconsistent bus times make it hard for students to have certainty.

If elected to the role, I want to directly ensure commuter students are represented. Commuter students have called for better facilities for what seems like millennium, and I want to ensure it’s more than just microwaves but awareness of showers, larger shelters at bus stops to avoid the weather and lobbying with the USI to reduce commuter costs.

As someone passionate about cycling, I also want to increase cycling options around campus, including journeys between campus. I want to significantly increase journeys between campus by bike, e-bike, and e-scooters by improving sheltered bike parking, pursuing a private bike hire scheme similar to what UCD have done for International Students and safe routes in the local area between Glasnevin, All Hallows and St. Pats.
I want to make it easier for you, not only to be able to enjoy your college experiences but learn as much outside of lectures as inside. I want you to be able to pursue your passions and feel supported across your volunteering and be able to record it easily and give you the edge on whatever you pursue in life, for jobs, learning or just fun!

I want to expand the Student Volunteer website initiative, to become a truly accurate volunteering CV that can go hand in hand with your work CV and give you the extra hand in applying for internships, graduate programmes, and full-time jobs.

I want to send weekly emails that give you the first-hand knowledge of how you can start your volunteering or expand on it, through opportunities that are flexible to you, either in-person or at home. As a Humanities student in Glasnevin, I also want to encourage students from all backgrounds involve, whether it be education, languages or any skill that may not seem fit for you, but most certainly can be!
Creating a truly sustainable campus

As someone who has been involved in climate activism locally and nationally, DCU has a lot of opportunity to create a truly sustainable campus, in light of the climate and biodiversity emergency. As someone who has worked on the Sustainability Working Group, the same issues time and time again come up, of basic steps the university can take, and I want to create that mandate for proper climate action.

If elected, I want to ensure climate action is at the forefront of the university. Simple steps such as actually separated bins (which go into the same large bag!), increased wildflower planting as well as increasing sustainable mobility between campuses would be a massive step towards this. I also want to ensure we achieve becoming a plastic-free campus, while still allowing those who need to use plastic cutlery still have that option and look at new ways to reduce plastic usage and to improve more locally-sourced materials in both the cafeteria as well in general produce.
DCU is blessed to have an incredibly diverse campus, with more societies than ever representing different cultures across the world. I want to expand on that, in two major ways.

Firstly, I want to increase awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals and promote linkages between different cultural societies in order to make society life richer in value for all those in it, as well as continue and increase engagement with the local community on a number of initiatives.

Secondly, I want to create a political awareness that stretches beyond just voter registration that comes at election time. As we have seen, issues can come at any time and I want to empower the student population to advocate for these issues. To do this, I want to facilitate workshops that teach you how to lobby TDs and create grassroots campaign, with the expertise of the SU, to create changes on a local, national and European Level.

This will enable students to create the change they want to see, and truly show how the knowledge in lecture halls can be applied well outside the walls of Glasnevin, St. Pats and All Hallows, even if virtually.

#RossForAll

@Ross4CandC

@rosspjboyd

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