About Me

Hi, I'm Jacob, I'm a final year PhD student and auditor of Arts Soc. Most people I've met at UCD have expressed frustration with the university and the SU. Many of you probably don't even want to vote because you don't think it will make a difference. I can't blame you, I've felt exactly the same. That's why I decided to stand.

I'm not pursuing this role because I see it as a stepping stone to a political career, I'm running because I've had enough of inaction and compromise which fail to address students' issues. I've encountered many problems with UCD over the years and I'm determined to create real, positive change. In my second year I saw first hand the overstretched nature of our counselling service when I was diagnosed with depression. The feelings of despair that I've struggled with were exacerbated by the dysfunctional and alienating nature of UCD, from the financial pressure of high rents and GP visit charges to obstructive admin and bureaucracy.

I have a range of relevant experience to help me shake things up and get the SU working for you. I have been a PhD rep in the School of English, Drama and Film. My time tutoring in the School of EDF has made me determined to work with the Postgraduate Workers Organisation in advocating for an end to precarity in postgraduate employment. Before joining UCD, I spent two years working in student accommodation at the University of York, which has given me an insight into how to improve UCD residences. As auditor of Arts Soc I have been driven by a desire to build a sense of community that is often lacking at UCD. But I want to do more. I want to be a voice for all of you who have felt the same hopelessness that I have.

Together, we are powerful. We outnumber university management and the greedy landlords. All too often, that power has not been harnessed. I'm prepared to bring students together in forceful action against unfairness and injustice. If we stand together, we can achieve real change.

VOTE for **JACOB #1**

WELFARE

Putting 'fair' in welfare

Housing

Reduce rents and improve conditions- The cost of renting on-campus has reached record highs this academic year. Conditions are also often substandard, with the Smurfit campus being particularly neglected. Residents in Smurfit have been denied 24-hour access to hot water, face long waits for maintenance, and have endured issues with bedbugs. I will engage in confrontational actions if UCD does not meet our demands for lower rents and better conditions, including a rent strike and occupations of university buildings.

Abolish lock-out charges- Currently on-campus students are charged €5 each time they are locked out.
I propose to abolish the lock-out charge and replace it with a €5 charge on temporary cards not returned within 48 hours. This policy is based on my time at University of York, where we successfully implemented a similar system.

Year-long lets- I will lobby UCD residences to reintroduce 12 month lets for postgraduate students to save postgrads the uncertainty of summer extension applications.

Accessibility

Universal Design for Learning- I will work with the education officer to expand the universal design for learning. I will run focus groups and surveys on UDL to encourage its expansion.

Lecture Theatres- I will hold the university to account regarding the inaccessibility of lecture theatres and seminar rooms by engaging in protests and sit ins, as well as setting up working groups and focus groups to highlight the issue.

Recorded Lectures- I will push for an expansion of recorded lectures by conducting a survey on the issue. I hope the results of the survey will also encourage the university to change rules around the ownership of recorded lectures which are currently discouraging staff from recording.

Health

End GP visit charges- UCD has some of the highest GP visit charges of any university in Ireland, with students being charged €30 per visit. Most other universities in Ireland offer free GP visits. The current system is not only unaffordable but penalises those with long-term and recurrent health conditions.
I will fight to replace the €30 appointment charge with a small fee levied on each student at the start of every year.

Trans healthcare- Trans students have informed me of difficulties in the referral process and in accessing essential healthcare like blood tests. I will partner with organisations such as Trans Harm Reduction and Trangress the NGS to improve access to trans healthcare. I will also set up an independent, trans-led complaints procedure to hold UCD student health to account in providing trans healthcare.

Mental Health- I will push the university to make more funds available to expand our counselling service. I will also work with counselling to get the application form open at more convenient times for students.

Safety

Safe taxi scheme- I will liase with taxi companies and platforms like FreeNow to introduce a safe taxi scheme for students who lose their posessions on a night out. Students would be able to get a free taxi and pay at a later date. This scheme is based on a successful one ran at the University of York.

Lighting- UCD campus should be a safe place for all, but many students have raised that there are some poorly lit areas of campus where they feel unsafe. I will campaign for more lighting across UCD campus, particularly in areas around Richview and the concourse where there is currently a lack of lighting.