

My Manifesto

"Reconnect, Rebuild, Revive"

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- 1.) Reviving College Spirit: Igniting Connections and Belonging, Filling the Covid Void.
- 2.) Cultivating Campus Life: Sparking Social Events, Collaborations, and Hangout Spots
- 3.) Fostering Authentic Connections: Embracing a Lively and Open Campus Environment



SOCIETY & CLUB COLLABORATION

The UCD Student Charter, created in 2014, states that the university should:

A. "Ensure, in partnership with the Students' Union, that students are represented at all levels of your university and support procedures and protocols that allow students to make positive suggestions for improvements to ensure effective governance and management of academic, administrative, and social activity."

B. I want to honor that commitment and ensure that we provide our students with the best social activity; that is why I want to collaborate and form partnerships with our societies and clubs to give you the best university experience we can offer.

C. In my two years as Graduate officer, I've seen how difficult it has been for societies to thrive since the end of the pandemic. I want to negotiate with our societies more and help achieve a better student experience where we actively support each other.

D. I want to build partnerships and official working relationships with societies and clubs – acknowledging their sovereignty and independence as a self-governing entity but connecting together officially on common ground for the greater good of students is imperative

UCD STUDENT ARCHIVE

"Passing the Torch"



1. Due to the pandemic, students could not attend in-person classes for over two years and even graduated from UCD via Zoom. As a result, passing on time-honored community knowledge, traditions, and tips to new students about campus life was disrupted.
2. This process, once a norm for first-time students, was no longer feasible due to the shift to online learning, leaving a vacuum in student spirit and on-campus activity.
3. A campus without this guidance, without a point of reference, loses vibrance, loses spontaneity and leaves an impressionable student body vulnerable to a lowering of our standards of college life.
4. I want to set the record straight, that is why a UCDS Student Archive, documenting our achievements, memories, and honoring our different legacies is a critical step in passing the torch onto future generations and sustaining a fun-loving and organically student active campus for all.

BUILDING BONDS THE IMPORTANCE OF SHARED EXPERIENCES IN THE SU

THE SU

• As a Class Rep or College Officer, we must keep ourselves motivated. Everyone who joins the SU has their reasons for doing so. In the aftermath of the pandemic, the SU council remains one of the last bastions for students to partake in free and open public debates. It provides one of the only spaces for students to congregate regularly.

• In the last few years, the SU has seen a change in its traditions. Class Rep trips abroad are no longer allowed. For years, these trips encouraged students to bond together and make deeper connections with friends for life.

• Although I cannot say whether Class Rep trips abroad may return, they were not replaced with enough alternatives that match their energy and significance.
• Bonding is essential to a functional and exciting student union and college year – the SU needs more of these opportunities for this to happen.

• I know that the "unwritten experiences" and the "serendipitous events" make memories last a lifetime. It's not our council debates themselves that matter as much as it is the byproducts that come from them, such as your friend throwing you a funny note in the middle of the council or a themed Halloween council event that everyone can dress up for, should they choose to.

• I want us to have good debates, but I want us to take something tangible from them.

BUILDING BONDS:

- A cohesive SU is an SU that has regular events for Class Reps to be rewarded
- A motivated union is one where Class Reps and College Officers feel the value of their roles
- An active SU is one where the friendships go beyond the FitzGerald Chamber

CLASS REP COLLEGE OFFICER BONDING ACTIVITIES

Here's an idea of what I'd like to see:

- Social Mixers: Organize regular social events where students can mingle, relax, and get to know each other outside formal settings.
- More Team-building Workshops: Plan interactive workshops or activities that promote teamwork, communication, and collaboration among students and officers.
- Movie Nights: Host movie nights on campus, providing a cozy and enjoyable atmosphere for students to watch films together and discuss them afterwards.
- Themed Union Council Events: We only have so many - it'd be nice to mix them up occasionally.

MIDDLE GROUND: RECOGNIZING AND REWARDING THE EFFORTS OF ALL CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS

In showcasing our appreciation for all candidates who take up the call to elections and run a campaign, whether they or lose, I want candidates to exit elections without feeling "empty-handed", and I want their contributions to be recognized officially by the SU in the election process.

This initiative encourages some degree of proportional representation and increases incentivization for future candidates to run, growing the chances of contested elections.

I'd like to see an SU that facilitates this with initiatives such as:

- Consolation prizes
- Participation certificates
- Finding common ground where possible with other manifestos and considering them for the current term
- Feedback on election

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

BACK TO OUR ROOTS



• Showcase Student Achievement and Talents

• Rekindle the Debate

• Diversify Student Union Training and Meet-ups: Hold group discussions, multimedia presentations, and hands-on activities, to make the experience more dynamic and engaging.

• Class Rep Incentives – Reward our Class Reps for their contribution by giving away goodie bags, prizes, small tokens of recognition, or opportunities for professional development e.g. toastmasters classes

• Embrace Spontaneity and Amplify Campus Presence: – Simple analogy - Picture campus like a big, boiling pot of mince – When we don't stir the pot enough, things begin to stick! Like the pot, campus life can stagnate, and ideas can stick to just one area if we don't keep it fresh.

• That's what I've seen enough of; our main lake and the area around it are empty, our biodiverse lake is too cold to sit besides, and the green area beside Sutherland sits there all year, mostly unused. We have an Open Day where this massive tent outside of O'Reilly Hall is erected with music, taken down, and never seen again. Lecture halls need to be used more outside class times, and old empty student society boards have littered the Newman Building since 2008. Where's our footprint?

• Students shouldn't come to campus thinking solely of "lectures, the library and going home." Students should be thinking of the unexpected... students should think, "What's Next?"

• As President, I'd only have one year to make so many changes, so I can't promise I can get everywhere, but I do want to lay the foundation for our campus to be used to its fullest.

• Smurfit Experience in trying new areas – using that campus and areas of that campus for new life.



@Marc4President



MARC MATOUC FOR PRESIDENT

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