



BRAVE
WITH **MAEVE**
MANIFESTO

VOTE
MAEVE
RICHARDSON
For Equality

#BRAVEWITHMAEVE #UCCVOTES

Hi, my name is Maeve Richardson. I am a BSc Government Student here in UCC and I am running to be your equality officer for 2018/19. I strongly believe in promoting equal opportunity and support within UCC and UCCSU. I believe an equality officer needs to be able to highlight issues affecting every student and should do their best to ensure that the diversity of the student body should be reflected in all aspects of university. I am capable of doing this. For the past year I have served as the Welfare and Equality Officer of the Irish Second-level Students' Union during which I developed strong links with USI and the department of education. I am also the Schools Program Coordinator of UCC LGBT, First Year Rep of Gov & Pol, and on the welfare crew. I am also the vice-captain of UCC Rovers. I have completed many projects in these roles and attended many events such as Pink Training, FemFest and Women Lead. I have held many other positions which have equipped me with the organisational and teamwork skills required for the role of equality officer.

My plans for the year involve making the role of Equality Officer more visible as well as improving the visibility of the Equality Working Group. I wish to improve their ability to be a support and signpost structure in the college. I also wish to run consultations with all students to find out what issues are affecting them. I also wish to make sure the EWG has more meetings with the executive about their issues and to liaise more with the welfare officer.

Student Rights

- I wish to run a student housing rights information campaign. As rents go up, students need to be informed about what is happening around them.
- I will support the pro-choice movement more than ever. Pre and post referendum for healthcare rights.
- I will run a student rights in the workplace campaign. USI have an advice service with the Workplace Relations Commission and I will make students more aware that they may avail of this service.
- Introducing a cyber safety training for class reps as some class groups and group chats can get out of hand with their use of offensive language. Class reps need to be equipped to deal with this.
- I want to carry out a survey on student homelessness in UCC as accomodation prices are rising.
- I believe consent classes should be an integral part of student orientations. Students need to be aware of this simple concept and use it in their lives.
- I will do my best to ensure that tampons and pads are accessible on all campuses with the welfare officer.
- To ensure that birth control is accessible. It has been brought to my attention that student must pay for birth control prescription renewals with can be economically unfeasible for some.

Disability

- I wish to highlight where accessibility can be improved on all campuses, for example the path between Western Gateway Building and Brookfield, highlighting bollards, and improving lighting around campus at night.
- Ensuring a sensory room for Raise & Give Week for students with ASD and other conditions. The noise of R&G week can hinder some students' learning experience on campus.
- Providing more support for Disability week and the Disability Activism Awareness Society.
- Improve location of separate exam centres as some are not appropriate. This would include avoiding more noise riddled places on campus.
- Providing better supports for those with long-term illness in UCC, launching research on how best to do this

Mental Health

-I wish to work with the welfare officer to ensure mental health services on campus are at their best to support the students. This will involve doing workshops and campaigns.

-A men's mental health campaign will be run on campus to support more men to talk about their feelings and seek help. 80% of suicides reported last year were men, I believe we in UCC can make positive steps towards helping men.

-I wish to provide more SAFE talk trainings throughout the year for the welfare crew and various people in clubs and societies. In order to ensure there is support everywhere in UCC.

-I will highlight external services as well so students still have support over the holidays, for example Samaritans and Jigsaw, which are based in Cork City as well.

-Going on placement can be very stressful for students so I want to make placement packs with tips on how to deal with placement at home or abroad.

LGBT*

-I will hold a yearly LGBT* pride event on campus for students who aren't out at home or who cannot travel to prides during the summer. Every member of the LGBT* community should have this experience, and I will work with the LGBT* society and ensure this will become an annual fixed event with the SU.

-Currently there is no system in place for trans students to change to their student card and documentation, I wish to work with the administration of UCC to fix this.

-As equality officer I plan to campaign for the lift of the ban on MSM blood donations. It has been proven that the blood of men who have sex with men is safe to donate and is a waste if it is not utilised.

-Supporting marriage equality in Northern Ireland

International Students

-I wish to ensure there is proper peer support for international student in UCC, especially those who enter at the start of semester two

-I will work to ensure that the International Students Society receives more support and promotion throughout campus and I will encourage every society to reach out to international students in order to foster a welcoming atmosphere

-I will make sure the International Students Officer liases with the society to keep myself aware of the issues which surround international students.

Mature Students

-I will ensure Creche Cois Laoi will continue to support students with who utilise the childcare facility. Currently, their service closes at 6pm, but as some lectures do not end till 7pm, I will lobby for longer hours or find some sort of alternative to relieve pressure from students.

-I will encourage societies and clubs to reach out to mature students more so they feel included in the community on all campuses. This will mainly be through campaigns.

Thank you for reading my manifesto, do not hesitate to contact me on my social media

Facebook- Maeve For Equality UCCSU

Twitter- @maeve4equality

Snapchat- @maeve4equality

Instagram- @maeve4equality