



# KELLY

## FOR DEPUTY & CAMPAIGNS



## About Me

Hey folks, if you don't know me already my name is Kelly Coyle and I am running to be your Deputy President and Campaigns Officer for UCC Students' Union 2018/19. Just to let you get to know me a little, I have been your Welfare Officer on the SU for the past year. Before that I was involved in the Suicide Awareness and Mental Health Society (SÁMH) as Campaign Manager and PRO, I co-founded the Harry Potter Society and I recently joined the Aussie Rules team and won the European Intervarsities (woo sports).

## Why vote for me?

Further on in my manifesto I will discuss what I plan on doing if elected but first let me give you a few reasons as to why you should vote for me on March 6th and 7th. For the past 8 months I have been the Welfare Officer on the SU which mainly involved meeting with students on a one to one basis to help them with any issues they faced during the year. This hands-on experience has put me in the best possible position to campaign on student issues for the next year as nobody knows the issues faced by students as well as I do.

To expand on that, there are a number of campaigns and policy changes that I have been working on this year that I would like to continue with. Change takes time and change in UCC takes longer, so by voting for me you can ensure the work that has been done this year is continued. Finally, no other candidate knows the union as well as I do. It takes time to settle into a role in the union and to figure out how to get things done in UCC but after 8 months in the job I can safely say that I have settled in. This means that if you elect me as your Deputy President and Campaigns Officer I can and will hit the ground running to ensure that time is spent effectively to serve the needs of the student body



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Now to get onto what I would do if elected

## Deputising for the President

Before I launch into what I will do for the campaigns side of the job, let me tell you why I am the best candidate for deputising for the president. From the last 8 months as Welfare Officer I have seen the ins and outs of the role of presidency. I am confident that I will be able to deputise for the president when they are not available along with assisting them and the rest of the team wherever possible.

## Mental Health

Mental Health is a massive part of student life, whether you're struggling with it or managing it, it's constantly present. If elected I will ensure that 'mind your mental health' campaigns will be run throughout the year and will feature in all prominent weeks during the year as well as maintaining the two mental health weeks that I organised this year. This all feeds into the idea of prevention as a preferred solution instead of intervention when it comes to mental health.

One major mental health campaign that I hoped to run this year was the 'Can You See It' campaign; unfortunately, with the high level of casework I have yet to get the opportunity. If elected as your Deputy President and Campaigns Officer I will run this campaign to outline the ease with which someone can put on a mask and hide when they are struggling with their mental health.



In society we have become very accustomed to talking about depression and anxiety when it comes to reducing the stigma around mental health but there is much more to it than that. This year I have started to work on a campaign around mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and borderline personality disorder. If elected, I will run a campaign around mental illness to break down the barrier around how society sees them, as well as campaigns to raise awareness, I will also work alongside student health to ensure the development of the early intervention psychosis centre for the south lee area is accessible for all UCC Students, so that support services are available when students find themselves struggling.



## Consent

Consent, and a lack thereof, is one of the biggest issues faced by students across Ireland. If elected I will work to build a culture of consent. I will do this by introducing consent cards in fresher packs and including consent as a section in all fresher's orientation speeches. I will work to secure the bystander intervention course as a mandatory 5 credits for all incoming first years as it not only teaches students about consent, but also about issues such as domestic violence and healthy relationships. I will introduce consent training for all members of SCS so they know what to look out for when working and how they can help. I will ensure that consent is an integral part of all union events and I will not stop until there is a widespread understanding that UCC is a university where consent is always respected.

## Drugs & Alcohol

This year we started the Alcohol & Substance Awareness Programme where we rolled out videos and harm reduction cards on the adverse consequences associated with alcohol or substance abuse. If elected I will ensure that these campaigns continue and are launched at the start of the year. I will also expand on the distribution of our harm reduction materials so they reach the people who need them the most. We are not a union who tell students what to do, nor should we be, but we can be a union who shows every single student in UCC that we are there when they need us. Whether that be by educating someone on harm reduction or setting them up with one of our addiction counsellors, we will be there to help.

## Sexual Health

This year through my work with student health I got the €20 fee for a full STI check wiped which leaves all STI checks in the Student Health Centre completely free. If elected I will continue to work with Dr Michael Byrne and the rest of the student health team to see where costs in the area of sexual health, including the morning after pill, can be reduced or eradicated completely.

Through my role as Welfare Officer this year, I believe I am in the best possible position to work with my successor in organising SHAG week to ensure that it is bigger and better than ever. SHAG week traditionally has been about promoting safe sex but we often forget about the cohort of students who are not sexually active. To cater for all students, I will run campaigns around the challenges faced by students in becoming sexually active when they come to college. I will also ensure we implement a system to distribute condoms and sanitary products around campus more effectively as it is not always feasible for the welfare officer to be in the office, particularly as they may be engaged in case work at the time.



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## Accommodation

We can no longer deny that there is an accommodation crisis in cork and it is something that needs to be seriously tackled by the Students' Union. If elected, I will run a campaign to highlight the difference between the homeless crisis and the student accommodation crisis to focus the university in on where their input will be impactful. Landlords currently have free reign over student housing which leads to a lot of tenants being ignored. To counteract this, I will expand on the current 'Know Your Rights' campaigns to include a section on how to enforce your rights, this campaign will be run both in August and May to ensure students have the correct information when they are entering and leaving a tenancy.

I will also work alongside USI in creating legislation around digs as there is little to no framework there at present. I will lobby the construction of the apartment blocks that are to be developed to ensure that rent prices are kept reasonable. If this is unsuccessful I will propose rental strikes to force the developers to lower the price to a reasonable rate.

## LGBT\*

If elected I will continue to represent the LGBT\* community and work towards a more inclusive university. I will place more emphasis on Trans and Non-Binary awareness week and I will create a stronger link with the equality officer and the LGBT\* society to develop stronger and more collaborative events for the year.

I will ensure that the gender expression policy is implemented in its full authority and is correctly and efficiently followed by the university so every single student in UCC knows they are accepted for who they are. I will also campaign against the discriminatory year-long ban on men who have sex with men giving blood.

## Green Campus

An extremely important role of the Deputy President and Campaigns Officer is chairing the Green Campus committee. If elected there are a number of areas that I would like to work on to continue to make UCC environmentally friendly. I will fight for more recycling bins on campus, particularly in the library. I will look at alternative ways to reduce the amount of paper waste and disposable cups that are used by both staff and students of UCC. I will also propose that large groups of students pick up litter after big events, particularly during Freshers and Raise and Give. I will also look into the issue around single use plastics and how we can reduce these in UCC.



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## Other Campaign Ideas

The headings above are merely an outline of the main issues faced by students, but it does not stop there, and neither will my campaigns.

I will fight for adequate lighting on campus and greater accessibility as the current situation in UCC is not acceptable. I will hold Body Positivity Week on a much larger scale. I will hold an SU Food Drive before Christmas, so left over food can be donated to homeless shelters instead of letting it go to waste. I will continue to work with our local residents and our community to ensure that we all live in harmony together. I will strategically look at how the campaign for unity in Ireland can be most effective.

Based on the result of the referendum on the 8th amendment I will continue to fight to ensure the student voice is heard on the issue of repeal as it is and always will be a student issue.

I will work with USI and every other university in Ireland to ensure that a 3rd level education remains easy to access and I will fully support the campaign for publicly funded education.



I will run a year long campaign involving workshops to both encourage and equip students with the means of running for election, be it for a society, SU or USI position.

Deanfaidh mé mo dhicheall níos mó gaeilge a úsaid lena bhfeachtas ar fad. I will do my best to include Irish in all of our campaigns.

## Student Community Support

The SCS team is a vital part of student life in ensuring that all students stay safe during both Freshers Week and Raise and Give. With the rising drug problem in Cork I will ensure that all members of the SCS team receive adequate training to be able to respond to these issues as they arise while they are working. I will also provide a brief mental health training so the SCS team are equipped with the skills to handle a scenario where a student is in distress or at risk.



"a two-fold campaigns crew which would include a team of on the ground activists and a group of strategic planners and lobbyists"

## General Ideas

Finally, I would like to speak about some of my general ideas for the year if elected; Firstly, I would establish a two-fold campaigns crew which would include a team of on the ground activists and a group of strategic planners and lobbyists; this would ensure that all of our campaigns would surpass the general information campaign and move towards a more effective system where change can be implemented. This would be particularly helpful for campaigns such as unity so we can research what needs to be done and then act on that information.

Secondly, I will increase engagement between students and the union by directly involving students in what we campaign on. To do this, I will establish an online polling system where students can directly interact with me to discuss the most pressing issues.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto and don't forget to give me your vote for Deputy President and Campaigns Officer on March 6th and 7th.

A campaign poster with a blue background. In the top right corner, there is a white ballot box icon with the word 'VOTE' inside, and below it, the text 'March 6th & 7th'. On the left side, the logo 'KELLY FOR DEPUTY & CAMPAIGNS' is displayed. In the center, the text 'Vote COYLE' is written in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, the slogan 'For Continuity, Dedication & Experience' is written in a smaller, black font. At the bottom left, there are icons for Snapchat, Instagram, and Twitter, followed by the text 'Kel4Deputy'.

