

My name is John Boix, I am a first year Bachelor of Business Studies Student (I try to colour inside the lines, but it ain't always easy!), and I am running to be your next Student Council Chairperson.

I am the current Deputy Chair of the Student Council, which means I know what the role requires and I have successfully stepped into the Chair's seat already. I know the Constitution and Bye-Laws of ULSU like the back of my hand, so I will be well able to hit the ground running and start effectively chairing meetings and delivering for students from day one.

I am the Health and Safety Officer for Media Society, Treasurer for Politics Society, Deputy Treasurer for History Society, a Class Rep for the 1<sup>st</sup> Year BBS programme. I am from Dungarvan in Co. Waterford. I also think I need to stop doing side quests!

When I first came to UL, I expected to find an SU which would work for students, but that is not what I found. I want to fix that, because I think that UL Student Life is not working for Students and is broken. This does not mean I am doom-and-gloom but I do that where issues exist, they should be addressed.

But I want to be clear – I can only promise you things that are within the remit of my role, and I will not make promises outside of that remit as that would be unfair and misleading.

There are not enough events, not enough transparency, a Student Centre which went 81%, or 15.2 Million Euro over budget.

All is not lost, we can, and we must, work to make this Student's Union a better Union. I will, as Chair, actively work for this, and this will require a lot of work which I am happy to take on. The good news is that you, as Students only need to do one thing: **Vote #1 John Boix for Student Council Chair on 12 March.**

This year, there have been **no events in the courtyard** organised by UL Student Life, while UCC had Jedward. This is a Disgrace. UL Student Life's annual budget is in the region of 2 Million euro, and there is little to show for it.

- I will lobby, as a member of Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, for the creation of a **full time Events Officer** role in order to have better events.

Students deserve to know where their money is going, or rather, where it is *not* going. **Students deserve to know what is happening** within Council, and within the Union.

- I will ensure that all Agendas of SC meetings are uploaded prior to meetings, and that draft minutes are uploaded as soon as typed up. I will also provide **short, digestible reports of those meetings** to students, and, along with my point on student involvement below, I will ensure that students have the opportunity to get involved with the work of council and of their Union.
- I will increase transparency by ensuring Financial Statements are published, and Students can see where their money is going.

Advocating on behalf of students is one of main purposes of a Student's Union, and Students deserve to be advocated on behalf of effectively. **ULSL should be given the tools it needs to effectively lobby** on behalf of Students. One way of the best ways of doing this would be to join Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn, the national representative body for third-level students. This is basically a Students Union for Students Unions, which helps them to lobby for students better.

- As Chair of the Student Council, **I will ask Student Council to approve a Referendum for UL Student Life to join AMLÉ**, in order to give us the ability to effectively advocate for Students.

From my experience as a Class Rep, and from talking to other class reps, students and members of Council, I have come to realise that the tools given to Reps, whether they be for your Class, School/Department or Faculty are **simply not good enough** to allow them to do their jobs. We need to make sure that Reps can do their jobs.

As, Chair, part of my role is to **facilitate the work and development of Class Reps** and this is something I really look forward to doing, as this is an issue which is close to me.

- I will facilitate **better communication** between Class Reps and Students, as they currently have no official means of contacting the Students they represent.
- I will also ensure that Class reps are given the **ability to use class lists** to email students.
- I will **support members of the Student Council** to ensure they can effectively advocate for their constituencies at all levels, and in particular those with highly relevant constituencies, such as housing, commuter students, etc.

I am passionate about the development of the **Irish language**, and, as your next Chair, I will work with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge in order to ensure that the Irish language is given the place it deserves at Student Council.

- I will work with the to rename the title of Chair to **Cathaoirleach**, Deputy Chair to **Leas-Cathaoirleach**, to change the names of other elements to Irish, and to encourage members to speak and to deliver documents **as Gaeilge**.
- I will introduce an amendment to the Bye Laws to introduce an obligation for the Oifigeach na Gaeilge to speak Irish.

Our Students Union should **work for and with students**, which is why I want to bring students back at the core of what we do.

- I will encourage Students to attend Council meetings, and I will lobby for **more Student Forums** to be held to ensure that Student's voice is heard more effectively.

**This is why I am asking you to vote #1 John Boix**  
**for Student Council Chair on 12 March.**

Thank you for reading my Manifesto!

Issued by Ronan Meleady, Campaign Manager for John Boix