

Kye Earle - Manifesto for Faculties Officer Election AY25/26

Who Am I?

My name is Kye Earle, and I am a first year student in Journalism and Digital Media with Politics. While this is my first year in this specific course, this is my third year here in University of Limerick, as I previously started in Computer Science in 2022, but opted to switch to Journalism.

In my three years here so far, I have seen what the university and Student Life have to offer, and I have enjoyed being a part of it all since I entered the university. I have held several positions in my years here, such as:

- Public Relations Officer for Games Society (2022/2023)
- President of Games Society (2023/2024)
- C&S Budget Appeals Committee (2023/2024)
- LGBTQ+ Representative (2023/2024)
- Welfare Team (2023/2024)
- Faculties Officer (2024/2025)
- Board of Directors (2024/2025)

Since I have returned to university on this new course, I have wanted to get back into student government, as I love helping people, representing people who may struggle to be represented, and improving the university that I hold dear to my heart.

For these reasons, I would like to nominate myself to continue the work I have been doing as Faculties Officer. I want to continue the work I have done, such as working with the Academic Officer on getting Class Rep emails available on Brightspace (which is currently in the works), and representing the student body in Faculty Board Meetings and in the Board of Directors. As someone who has experienced several faculties in this university, it can be hard to find support and know where or who to turn to when things start to go wrong. That is why I would like to run again for this position, to help students feel represented and empowered.

What Are My Aims?

- **Increased Class Representative Visibility:** From talking to undergraduate students, very few students know who their class representative is, and fewer know how to contact their class rep. Therefore, I would like to continue to work with lecturers, class reps, and the Academic Officer to have the class rep's email available on the module overview on Brightspace, to make it easier for students to communicate with their representative.
- **Increase Support Visibility:** We are lucky in UL to have so many wonderful academic supports. From the Writing Centre, the Learning Centres, and Academic Advisors, we're spoiled for choice. However, it can be hard to know where to look for supports, or to know which supports will be right for you. That's why I would like to use social media and other channels to highlight the incredible assistance of this university.
- **Clear Support Structure Information:** What's the difference between a class rep and a department rep? What about a faculty rep? How high does this structure go? Who are these people? For many students, the answer to these questions are "I don't know". My goal is to have this information clearly available to students. That way, students know who is representing them, and who they can turn to with any concerns they have.

- **Improve Facilities For Neurodiverse Students:** University is hard. When you are neurodivergent, it can be even harder. As someone who had ADHD and ASD, I know first hand the struggles that come with neurodiversity and higher education. I would like to work with the Equality and Diversity Chairperson, the Diversity and Inclusion Officer (formerly Communities Officer), and the rest of the union on improving facilities for neurodiverse students; such as quiet rooms, increased 'Zen Zone' hours, a permanent sensory space, and potential outreach with the university's disability services.
- **Regular Student Feedback:** Students have plenty of opinions on how they want their academic experience to improve. As a result, I would like to have a permanent anonymous feedback form available to all students, which can be reviewed to establish what struggles students are facing, and what changes they would like to be made.

In Conclusion

If I could describe my campaign in three words, they would be "Representation and Transparency". University is where change is made. Yes, we learn our course material, but we also learn about ourselves. Increased access to support will allow students to grow as both academics and people. The leaders of tomorrow are in this university right now, potentially reading this very manifesto. In the words of Patrick Pearse "Education should foster" and "Education should inspire". If my ideas can foster and inspire at least one person, then it will all be worth it.

You are the change. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Faigheann cos ar siúl rud nach bhfaigheann cos ina cónaí.

A walking foot comes upon something that a resting foot wouldn't.