

# VOTE PHILIP DESMOND #1

## FOR USI VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE SOUTHERN REGION

Hello mo Chairde, my name is Philip (Phil) Desmond. I am currently the President of Limerick Institute of Technology Students' Union (LITSU), previously the LITSU President for Limerick School of Art & Design and now a proud candidate for USI Vice President for the Southern Region 2017-2018. With passion and determination it would be my honour to represent Students and MO's of the Southern Region. USI and the Southern Regional Officer need to be continuing to increase visibility, communication, engagement and the relationships within MO's and most importantly the with the Students of every campus.

### ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

#### - Students' Union Officers

Communication and engagement from the Southern Regional Officer with SU Officers (full-time and part-time) from each MO is extremely important to ensure we have strong relationships. MO's need to feel supported, represented and respected. Communication is key across all levels of the work USI and MO's carry out together and clear and precise information must be available. If elected to the role of VP for the Southern Region I would ensure that communication methods between each individual MO are suitable for Officers and that all relevant information is available in good time.

#### - Students

With visits to MO's the VP for the Southern Region needs to be actively engaging with Students on the ground, promoting the work of their own Students' Union at a local and national level as well as the work of USI. Students need to see activity from USI on campus as well as online, on the radio, in the paper, etc.

Students are the most important stakeholder in the Irish Education System and they need to know and understand how important they are and how much of an influence they can be. Every student has a voice and every student needs to be heard.

I believe I can help increase and improve Student Engagement with each MO in the Southern Region in a fun, caring and professional manner.

#### - News and Highlights

It is vital that all MO's and USI's work and achievements are recognised and made visible across the entire student body, across the entire Educational System, and on a wider scale with the public. With time pressures and constraints it can be difficult to highlight all your own achievements. If elected as VP for the Southern Region, I would wish to give additional supports to Publicity and Media Communications for all MO's in the South that feel this would be of benefit to their Union and their Students. Representation can be improved and I believe increased visibility is extremely important, Students and Unions need to be heard and seen.

## UNION DEVELOPMENT

- Officers and Unions

Sabbatical terms are a continuous learning experience for everyone and very often Officers and Unions are faced with new and difficult challenges. I believe that I have knowledge and experience that could help Officers and Unions with developing new structures, plans, campaigns, planning for important meetings, savings and new methods of generating external income as well as much more. Training is extremely important and often training sessions are difficult to attend due to travel and costs we need to examine all possibilities of how we can improve training opportunities at a local level for all our MO's.

- Unity is Strength

While much work has been done in recent times to increase Membership, USI needs to increase, improve and expand our relationships with all other Unions in the South and assist the development of new Unions. There is strength in numbers and I believe that USI should represent all Students at the Third Level in Ireland.

## NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

- Publicly Funded Education

From the moment the Cassell's Report was launched in 2016 it was clear that now was real opportunity to ensure our Government commits to providing Publicly Funded Higher Level Education in Ireland. We have much more work to do to ensure access for all. Throughout my two sabbatical terms I have been very vocal and engaged with this campaign locally and nationally and I am currently a member of the USI Campaigns Sub-Committee 2017-2018. Together we can make Publicly Funded Education a reality.

- Repeal the 8th

We should see a Referendum on the Eight Amendment before the new USI Officer Board begin their term and I do personally believe the Eight should and will be removed from the Irish Constitution.

After the referendum there will be still a great deal of work no matter the outcome. If the Eight is repealed, we still need to ensure that a pregnant person who wishes should have FREE and SAFE access to an abortion as well as the appropriate after care for both Physical and Mental Health. During both my sabbatical terms I have been elected to the USI Repeal Taskforce and I know I have the understanding to continue campaigning for the rights and autonomy of women and pregnant people in Ireland.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto and I would happily answer any questions you may have and I hope we can discuss your ideas as well. My email is [philipdesmond.art@gmail.com](mailto:philipdesmond.art@gmail.com) and my mobile is 085 143 4644

With pride,

Philip Desmond

\*This is a currently working manifesto. There will be further updates.