

# VOTE **DARREN MALONE**

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE SOUTHERN REGION**



**CONGRESS 2019**



**Union of Students in Ireland**  
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

**USI VP FOR THE SOUTHERN REGION** **DARREN MALONE**

## HOW'S A GOING?

My name is Darren Malone and I am running to be the next Vice-President for the Southern Region for the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). I am the current Welfare Officer and Deputy President in Waterford IT Students' Union (WITSU) and I believe that my experience, dedication and my passion for the student movement makes me the right candidate for this Regional position.

## WHO'S THIS LAD?

I have been involved in the student movement for almost five years now since I was elected Class Rep back in 2014, a role I continued throughout my four year degree. This leadership position got me involved with the Students' Union at the time and from this, I immersed myself into anything SU related such as the Welfare and Ents Crews, focus groups and campaigns. These experiences ignited my interest in the movement and in turn led me to becoming a two-term part-time officer in WITSU from 2016-2018.

In my final year, I knew I had a lot more to give to the students of WIT and I decided to run for a Sabbatical position. In the most contested position of the SU elections last year, the students placed their trust in me one more time and I was deemed elected in the first count.

Five years later, I want to continue being part of a movement that strives to represent, engage and mobilise students all across the country.

This is the reason why I have put myself forward to run for the position of Vice President for the Southern Region for USI. Please take a read through my manifesto and see what I can achieve for you.

Le Meas,  
*Darren Malone*



## ***WHAT I WILL DO FOR YOU!***

The role of Vice President for the Southern Region is incredibly vast and covers various different aspects from engagement, SU support and guidance to communication, however I believe that this role has great potential to really make a positive influence in the movement by creating a space to allow students, officers and the wider community to work together as a collective to achieve tremendous results. Here are just some of my ideas on what I will do for you if elected:

### ***LOCALISED ACTIONS:***

When it comes to national campaigns and protests, a lot of students can be blocked from engaging with the event due to the expectation to travel to Dublin. As a national organisation we need to address this going forward and I want to focus more on localised actions.

- I want to facilitate each Member Organisation (MO) in engaging with the events on their own grounds through online solidarity posts as well as on campus protests.
- I want to build a local media database to engage and promote local actions on campuses.

### ***FUND THE FUTURE:***

I believe that as a movement, we have the capacity and the capability of making significant change in how our country funds higher education.

- I want to lobby TD's towards making Ireland a country that values third level education.
- I want to run awareness campaigns on campuses with Students' Unions on why the government should fund higher education for everyone.
- I will ensure that the South will be vocal and engaged on campuses, on social media and on the streets of Ireland for any upcoming actions.

### ***RAISE THE ROOF:***

Ireland is in the midst of a housing crisis whereby many students are being locked out of education.

- I want to be out on the ground mobilising students along with SU teams when national and local protests are called on this issue.
- I will work in partnership with the homelessness and housing coalition to amend the residential tenancy act so that students in purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) and Digs are protected in terms of their tenancy rights.
- Through working with local media I will encourage homeowners in your areas to rent out any spare rooms they have to students in need through the HomesForStudy campaign

## **ENGAGEMENT:**

USI visibility and presence is crucial to give students the opportunity to see exactly what their national representative body is doing for them. As a Regional Officer, I will bring a unique approach to the role and I can assure you that with any campus visit, energy and enthusiasm will be at the forefront of any work I undertake.

- All USI National Campaigns will be rolled out across all MO's to further enhance engagement with students.
- I would like to support MO's in reaching students on all of their campuses, including their satellite campuses, by coming up with fresh and exciting new ideas for campaigns and events that are inclusive and accessible to all.
- I would support MO's in evaluating their social media strategies to ensure that they are utilising their social media platforms to engage all students.
- I will assist Students' Unions with Class Rep recruitments.
- I endeavour to be present at all Class Rep Training events to educate Reps on who USI are, what we do and most importantly, what we can do for them and their classmates.
- I will be on the ground of all campuses in the region running Voter Registration Drives to ensure that all eligible students are registered to vote for any upcoming general elections or referendums.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

Communication is a two way process and I stand by the fact that the facilitation of knowledge and updates being shared between Officer Board, MO's and students should be paramount at all times.

- I pledge to be present at all Class Rep Councils in the region, where possible, to provide updates on what both I as a Regional Officer and USI as a national representation body are doing for students.
- I want to work with MO's to investigate the feasibility of getting access to an all student email address in line with GDPR regulations.
- I want to keep Sabbatical Officers up to date with the work that Officer Board are currently doing through weekly check ins which will take place in both formal and informal settings.
- A USI Southern Regional Facebook Group will be created to give Officers the space to discuss both local and national issues with other MO's in the region as a means of support and engagement.
- The USI South Twitter account will be updated regularly with current information of where I am and what I am working on to ensure transparency.

## **SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE:**

I will endeavour to support all Officers throughout the year with any work they undertake. Students' Union Officers both full and part time need to be supported, represented and respected and I believe that I have the skill set to work alongside many different personalities and develop strong relationships.

- At the beginning of the year, I plan on sitting down with all Sabbatical Officers and Part Time Officers (PTOs) as a team and also individually to plan out goals for the year ahead, address any concerns and map out how we will work together on projects and campaigns.
- Through my involvement with the student movement I have seen both very good and very bad practices and I want to share my knowledge and experiences with teams.

## **TRAINING FOR OFFICERS:**

Continuing your personal and professional development throughout your term of officership is essential to ensure that we are giving the best and appropriate advice and help to any student we meet throughout the year.

- I want to work alongside teams to develop an understanding of trainings they require for their specific roles.
- I will provide opportunities for all Officers and Society members to be trained in SafeTALK and ASIST.
- I believe that media and PR training is essential for Officers so I will ensure that it is incorporated into USI trainings throughout the year.
- For any upcoming trainings in your locality, I will reach out to Officers to let them know the details if it is relevant and beneficial to their role.

## **PART-TIME OFFICERS:**

Part-Time Officers (PTO) play a crucial part in their Students' Union successes. As a two term PTO, I have experienced how it feels to be somewhat lost, unsupported and the day to day struggle of balancing a SU/college life. I believe that the current PTO training model is very outdated and needs to be redeveloped.

- I will deliver an invaluable and productive PTO training on all MO campuses which will consist of MO specific content to ensure that PTOs reap the benefit of this training.
- I want to develop online modules for PTOs so that they can continue their professional development throughout the course of SU term.
- I will also look into the possibility of holding a second PTO training after Christmas.
- I will create a PTO group on Facebook to encourage networking and to give PTOs the space to share ideas with other PTOs.

## **NON-AFFILIATED USI MEMBERS:**

I firmly believe that there is strength in numbers and I want to work on increasing the number of USI affiliates and expand our relationships. There is a lot of work to be done, however I will commit to liaising with UL Student Life and Mary I SU along with Further Education (FE) Colleges Student Councils in the region to increase USI membership

- I want to promote the work that USI does, the benefit of being an MO and engage in discussions with non-affiliated members to listen to their concerns of membership.
- Following on from discussions, I will work towards leading successful affiliation campaigns on their campuses.

## **FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES:**

We need to be conscious of the fact that many FE Colleges do not have the appropriate structures or supports in place to allow them to successfully engage with USI.

- I want to implement the Further Education and Training Strategy 2018-2021 and engage with FE Student Councils to develop a best practice system.
- I will map out where each FE College is in the region and engage with students in these colleges to discuss what they would like from USI and to see how we can work together.

## UNION DEVELOPMENT:

Every year brings with it new challenges and opportunities and as a Regional Officer, I will work with SU teams on the area of Union Development.

- I will work alongside MO's to evaluate their current practices in terms of generating income for their Students' Union.
- I will support MO's in evaluating their current structures, policies, practices, plans and campaigns to create a space that will allow room for improvement if needs be.
- I want to support SU teams with the development of five year target plans that will guide further teams in working towards set targets and will encourage teams to strive towards successful end results.

## TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY:

I have been involved in the early stages of the TU process between Institute of Technology Carlow (ITC) and Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT). I was a key contributor to the Students' Union section of the TU application and I have worked alongside ITCSU to develop a sustainable, suitable and an autonomous structure of a Technological University SU.

- I believe that clarity, transparency and representation should be at the forefront of all MO work in regards to the TU process and I will use my knowledge and experience in the area to support merging Unions in the region as this process continues for them.
- I will also work in partnership with MO's and external facilitators who will facilitate meetings with merging SU's to avoid any potential conflicts.
- I will support MO's in their lobbying efforts to ensure that there is sufficient funding in place that will provide the means for a new TUSU to reach its potential.

## MY WELFARE CAMPAIGNS:



## TRAINING COMPLETED:

- Smart Consent.
- Rape Crisis Training.
- Understanding Self Harm.
- Mental Health First Aid.
- Unconscious Bias Training.
- Emotional Intelligence and Resilience Training.
- USI Student Union Training + (SUT+).
- USI Student Union Training (SUT).
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).
- SafeTALK.
- USI Part Time Officer Training.

## MY EXPERIENCES:

- Class Representative for B.A (Hons) in Social Care Practice 2014 – 2018.
- WITSU Welfare Crew Member 2015 – 2018.
- WITSU Ents Crew Member 2015 – 2018.
- WIT Student Ambassador 2015/2016.
- WIT Students' Union Communication Officer 2016/2017.
- U.S.I National Congress Delegate 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- Pink Training Support Officer 2016 and 2018.
- WIT Students' Union School of Humanities Convenor 2017/2018.
- Student Trainer for the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) 2017/18.
- WITSU Repeal Task Force 2018.
- WIT Students' Union Deputy President and Welfare Officer 2018/19.
- USI Campaigns Sub-Committee 2018/19.
- WITSU End Direct Provision Task Force 2019.

## WHY VOTE FOR ME?

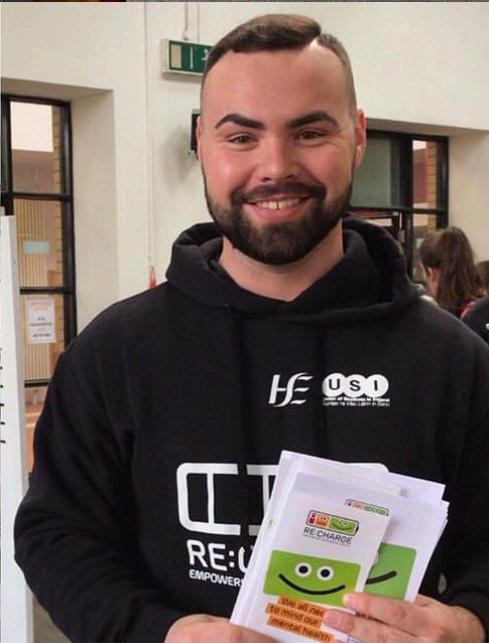
I am asking you to place your trust in me and give me the opportunity to represent and work for you as the next Vice President for the Southern Region. If elected to this position, I will be there to represent those who have been left behind and speak up for those who have been left unheard.

I am motivated, dedicated, optimistic and I can work extremely well both on my own and as a team and these skills will be crucial in order to support SU teams across the South next year. I believe that I can inspire confidence in others to be the best Officers that they can be and I promise that I will do my utmost best to support Officers and students across the region if elected to this position.

# DON'T BE IN DOUBT, VOTE DARREN FOR SOUTH.



## LOOKING FORWARD TO REPRESENTING YOU!



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