

A chairde,

My name is Laura, and I'm a final year English and Film Studies student from Claremorris, Co. Mayo. When I came to college, I had to deal with a lot of internalised judgement and fear not being from what I perceived as the 'typical Trinity background' alongside a lot of problematic preconceived ideas. The SU was not the single factor which helped me work through these things, but it certainly helped. Many people who have helped me become who I am were introduced to me through the SU and I only wish to be able to get the chance to give back to the college and students that helped me so much.

As Officer for Students with Disabilities I have learned a lot about how to engage and connect a community of students while also being an effective leader, which I believe would serve me well as president. On top of that, having worked with the Disability and Counselling Services, alongside my experience on the modular billing committee and involvement in the Take Back Trinity protests, I have developed a strong understanding of college policy and structures.

I know that I have the experience and ideas to be an SU President that leaves a positive, long-lasting impact on the SU, the students and the college itself. I believe that my range of experiences — from being an activist to a welfare team member in halls to 8x8 Festival coordinator — has made me aware of the intersections of college life and how much more has to be done to represent the student body we have here in Trinity accurately.

As President, I want to combine these different areas to create a positive SU. An SU which proactively tackles the issues facing our students day in day out, be it homelessness or fees. I will advocate and protest to the best of my ability to ensure that equality exists for all our students.

Laura



Voting Times

ARTS BLOCK

Tuesday 10am–5pm

Wednesday 10am–5pm

Thursday 10am–4pm

HAMILTON

Tuesday 10am–5pm

Wednesday 10am–5pm

Thursday 10am–4pm

D'OLIER STREET

Wednesday 12pm–2pm

TALLAGHT

Tuesday 12pm–2pm

TBSI

Wednesday 12pm–2pm

ST. JAMES'

Tuesday 12pm–2pm

& after Hall's Hustings



INCLUSION

EMPOWERMENT

ACTIVISM

L A U R A for
PRESIDENT

VOTE for
CHANGE

IMMEDIATE

EMPOWERMENT

With Union engagement at a low, I offer a solution through practical actions that would ease the burden that college has become for our students. **From providing services where our students can expand their skills and knowledge, to increasing our outreach to off campus and the wider Dublin community, I hope that students can truly feel as though the SU is there for them.**

- create an online complaints system alongside the Communications Officer and an accompanying graphic to streamline complaints
- expand the freshers week stand to include off campus locations for students who start earlier, committing to be off campus on the Thursday of each campaign week as well as dedicating an office hours for each sabbat to be off campus
- expand the types of upskilling workshops on offer
- rebrand community outreach to incorporate SU committees such as Ents and Welfare, assigning an officer from committees to work with community reps to organise a variety of meetups

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is something that the SU needs to support and prioritise immediately. If the future of the planet is at risk then it's certainly in the interest of the SU to assist students in making sustainable decisions.

- reinstate scheme for donating unwanted belongings at the end of term and hold an open giveaway for students who need new bits at the start of the year
- run an educational campaign, through posters and various social media, so that students understand the lifecycle of products and the impact they have
- gauge student opinion and stock sustainable products in the SU shop where possible
- encouraging all places where coffee is sold on campus to remove the extra cost of using alternative milks

ETHNIC MINORITIES

With increasing racism in the current political climate, ethnic minorities have been subjected to frequent incidents on racism with little done to challenge such acts. **I hope to bring about a more inclusive SU for students through a dedication to providing platforms for minorities and campaigning for equity across the board.**

- run a campaign based on student experiences of discrimination focusing on students from ethnic minorities, including people of colour, travelers, etc. educating students about the impact of their words
- train students and staff to become facilitators of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) workshops, and push for their implementation on campus.

MEDIUM TERM

HOUSING

It's almost impossible for students to go through college unscathed by the accommodation crisis in one way or another. I want to commit the SU to student-centred solutions as well as lobbying the government to offer more affordable and accessible options for students.

- restructure the options for students who need emergency accommodation by creating a system with local hostels and storage units so students can find appropriate and affordable accommodation
- educated students mean that less issues arise over contracts and leases, to assist this I intend to set up workshops ran with the RTB and Threshold at the start of each term so that students know how to negotiate the Dublin market and can stand their ground when needed
- lobby for an increase in publicly funded, purpose built student accommodation and more secure tenancy rights alongside the various organisations already active

CAMPAIGN SUPPORT NETWORK

Students who are the most passionate about various issues or areas of college life often become involved in campaigns or groups but sometimes find bringing about change difficult. By facilitating a group and space where students can come together to freely exchange ideas and support each other in bringing about change on campus, we can run inclusive and effective campaigns that reflect what students want.

- Facebook group where any student interested in bringing about change or helping others can ask questions, learn about and promote events etc.
- see this grow into a group where students support one another and offer events through the SU to teach these people how to actively engage in self care
- use this network to market upskilling and provide students who are volunteering their time with the SU the opportunity to gain skills from that experience
- serve as an effective tool to mobilise students when important marches come up eg. education, housing

STUDENT SPACES

Although much work has been undertaken to convert spaces on campus a lot more is to be done until student space is no longer an issue. The wait for the student center will be a long one but more must be done to support students affected by this issue, particularly those in the Hamilton.

- change the nap room from its current state, due to its inefficiency and improper use of space, to a common room where students can heat up meals and have a chat
- improve the standard maintained in the Hamilton Student Space while campaigning for more modular uses of free space

LONG-TERM

ACCESSIBILITY

Over my time as Officer for Students with Disabilities the inaccessibility and lack of accessible culture here in Trinity has not only impeded many of the students I represent, but also my friends. I want to commit to a long term strategy that ensures that at a set point in the future Trinity will be a completely accessible campus.

- work with college and the Disability Service to establish this long term plan regarding college wide accessibility which future SU presidents will be held accountable to
- restructure the Diversity in Leadership Programme with the assistance of the Equality Part Time Officers and other student representatives as a mentor programme

LOBBYING AND LEGISLATION

My own involvement in the SU stems from my activist roots and that is something I wish to continue to work on if elected. Whilst some problems can be dealt with at a college level there are several that need to be addressed at a national level and our SU should represent us accordingly.

- initiate a year long postcard campaign to the Minister for Health regarding Trans Healthcare
- commit to holding the government accountable for the insane lack of public funding allocated for third level education in recent years
- address the worrying trend in the cutting of the SUSI grant, as this is a necessary step for so many of our students in coming to Trinity
- support the Criminal Law (Hate Crime) Bill as there is currently none in place in Ireland
- assist Aramark Off Our Campus in their efforts to have an ethical food vendor in Westland Eats as well as supporting

If you have any questions about my policies, or want to ask me about my stance on something not mentioned here, come up to me or one of my campaign team during elections and have a chat!