

# UCC Students' Union President

Full-Time Position

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## Being Part of UCC Students' Union

UCC Students' Union is run by an executive, which reports to Student Council. This March, 5 full-time officers and 7 part-time officers will be elected to the Students' Union Executive.

The full-time officers will take a year out of their studies, or will work for a year if they're in final year. Part-time officers will carry out their positions while completing their studies.

All officers work for the benefit of all UCC students through their positions. They sit on committees in the University, organise events & campaigns and work on various projects.

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## Core Responsibilities

### **Strategy and Direction**

The President is the individual in the team who is responsible for the overall strategy and direction of the Students' Union. The President, in consultation with the other officers, should set priorities that the Students' Union should be working towards, and ensure these are being advanced. An important aspect of this is delegating work to other team members, taking into account their own skill set and workload, and following up on this as appropriate.

The strategy and direction should be set at the start of the year, and should include things like Freshers Week, RAG week, elections, exams, any Ents event being arranged etc. Major projects like the Hub must be advanced, and student ownership of the project not lost.

### **Finance**

As President, you are the Chief Financial Officer for the Union. It is your job to ensure that SU funds are spent appropriately, and that the books balance at the end of the year. Expenditure needs to be justified, and income (and new sources of it) sought and identified.

### **Team Leader**

You are at the head of a team of 9 employees - 6 sabbatical officers and 3 SU admin staff. It is your responsibility to ensure this team works effectively. This can vary from scheduling and conducting regular team meetings, to keeping a keen eye out for your team's welfare. You must also ensure all the team are pulling their weight - that everyone shows up to work on time, that officers request holiday time, etc. You must be the driver, the motivator of the team, and must encourage and foster the entire team.

### **Public Representation and Media**

You will be the face and voice of the Students' Union in public. This will vary from media appearances, to interviews, to attending funerals. If an issue arises involving UCC students, or sometimes just students in general, you can reasonably expect a phone call from 96fm or RedFm. It is therefore important you are comfortable speaking in public, and especially that you can sufficiently prepare and brief yourself before such appearances, as often the preparation window is very limited. It is very important to note that your comments will be interpreted as being representative of the student body - so make sure you're not just peddling your own crazy ideas.



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## **Delegation and education**

As President, you will be asked to do everything, which you won't be able to do. You must therefore be confident at delegating tasks to suitably qualified officers in the team. You must also need to know what's going on with every officer, and with everything the SU is doing, without allowing yourself bogged down in the minutiae - because you've delegated that to someone. Finding the right balance of your involvement with certain projects is critical to effective time management for yourself.

## **Managing and Enhancing Reputation**

The reputation of the Students' Union within the University, and outside, is critical to actually getting anything done - and students want to see a Students' Union that gets stuff done. No one wants to do business with a few crazies more interested in roaring and shouting and releasing statements and criticisms, than actually discussing and negotiating in a constructive manner. If you want to get anything done - it's much easier to have the University onside, therefore you must protect the reputation of the Students' Union as a group that UCC can cooperate with.

As President, you set this standard from the top. You sit on more committees, with more senior decision-makers than anyone else - it's therefore critical that in every meeting (and there a lot of those) you maintain a reasoned and informed approach, and maintain a positive impression of the SU.

## **Committees**

As President, there a lot of committees. You are a Director on 3 Company Boards - this brings legal responsibilities in addition to your representative duties. Each committee is a pull on your time - not just in attending the meetings, but in preparing and consulting adequately. Depending on the week, committee meetings could take up to 50% of your calendar. Your challenge is to sufficiently prepare and contribute at these meetings, while still get on with your usual work outside of this.

## **Student Engagement - Referenda, Student Council and Executive**

As President, you are the chairperson of the Executive, which is all the sabbatical officers, the part time officers and Clubs and Societies reps. You must ensure that anything the SU does, has sufficient backing of Exec, and also of Council. You have a responsibility to actively include Council and Exec as much as is reasonably possible, and to promote and encourage representation and involvement in Students' Union at all levels.

It's also important that you ensure the SU continues to be representative of what students actually want - canvassing of these views can include formal methods like referenda, Student Council or Exec, or informal like surveys, polls etc.



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## National Engagement

You are the voting delegate at USI National Council, and sit on Presidents' Working Group, with all the other Presidents of Irish 3rd level institution Students' Unions. You must determine and balance the time demands between national work and local issues.

## Other Responsibilities

How long is a piece of string? Pretty much anything the SU does, you need to know about it.

Anything can come through the door, and disrupt your best laid plans from the day - a distressing welfare case that requires urgent action, a tragic death of a student, a student about to be kicked out of college, furious residents shouting down the phone at you - a list of everything could fill a book, but you need to be prepared to drop everything and respond immediately, whether it's 10am on a Tuesday morning or 5pm Christmas Eve.

## Major Committees

- Governing Body
- Governing Body Committee on Strategy and Innovation
- Governing Body Finance Committee
- Governign Body Committee for Students
- University Management Team - Strategy
- Space Sub committee
- Mardyke LTD Board of Directors
- Campus Accommodation UCC Ltd Board of Directors
- SFS Ltd Board of Directors
- Student Centre Management Board
- Student Facilities Services (SFS) Ltd Board of Directors
- SFS Board of Management
- Academic Board
- Academic Council
- Academic Council - Student Experience Committee
- Academic Council - Research and Innovation Committee
- Student Fees and Charges Forum
- UCC Alumni Board
- SU Executive
- Student Hub - Student Life Zone

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### **Questions?**

If you've any questions we'd love to help you out. You can contact the current President on [president@uccsu.ie](mailto:president@uccsu.ie).

If you don't want to contact that person, or just have a general question about working with the Students' Union, you can email [info@uccsu.ie](mailto:info@uccsu.ie)

