



Manifesto



MAEVE FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND
ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

Experience

- -UCC Students' Union- Equality Officer 2018/19, Council Chair 2019, Welfare Crew, 2017/18, First Class Rep, BSc Government 2017/18
- -UCC Societies Executive, Development Officer 19/20, Trainings & Sustainability Officer 20/21
- -Committee Member UCC Green Campus, 20/21
- -Communications Officer, UCC Government & Politics Society 2020/21, Chairperson, UCC Government & Politics Society 2018/19
- -Covid Safety Support Coordinator (also known as the green vests in the library manager)know
- -Peer Support Leader 18/19
- -Vice Captain, UCC Rovers Club 2018
- -Irish Second-level Students' Union- Welfare Officer 2017/18, ISSU Honorary President 2018/19
- -Member, UCC Repeal the 8th Taskforce 2017/18
- -National Scout Representative 2017
- -PRO, Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg 2015-2017
- -Quercus Active Citizenship Scholar
- -DSS registered student
- -Young Voices Member, National Youth Council of Ireland 2015-Present
- -European Youth Conference Delegate to Ireland- Helsinki 2019, Bucharest 2018

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Maeve for Communications

*We can't call ourselves a union if we aren't united- the best way to keep together is to communicate clearly to all students.. The key to a strong SU is that all students feel we are **united!** Every student deserves to know what their union is up to and how we are supporting all of our students*

- Complete **rebrand of UCCSU**, I want to update and **modernise the logo** to represent our students and our college best.
- **Utilise** videos, infographics, and interactive Instagram stories as much as possible
- Work with UCC on more **joint campaigns** particularly on **student well-being** and **active consent**.
- Maintain the **UCC Connects** platform set up this year as well as keeping the twitch channel going
- Ensure more robust and **consistent communication** with student media on campus- Motley, the Express, UCC Insider, and UCC FM.
- Creating a **resources page on the UCCSU website**- how to deal with your landlord, how to deal with your housemates, a freshers cookbook
- Work with local media in Cork to get **more exposure** for the positive impact of students on cork city and county
- Creating a **strategic plan three-year plan** for improved communications with students
- Make more use of platforms like TikTok and discord to **communicate with students**. As well as bringing back the **SU radio show**.
- -Ensuring every SU document is **available** in Irish and in **accessible** formats.



Maeve for Transparency

Your capitation fees pay for your Student Union officers so I believe it's only *right* you always *know what we're up to*.

- Creation of an **electoral commission with students and staff** to ensure no bias in elections and for faster decision-making in relation to strikes similar to the system used in TCDSU.
- **Consistent updates on union activities** on social media so you know your officers are working hard for you!
- A **clear list** of what university boards and committees each officer sits on the UCCSU website.
- **All Officer reports on the UCCSU website** rather than just sent out to class reps in order to keep a **good record** of the year and for future executives
- Ensuring all **UCCSU executive minutes** are posted on the UCCSU website within a month of exec taking place so you know what your union are doing
- UCCSU yearly spending should be **available** and **accessible** to all students. *You have the right to know where your capitation fee is going*
- Ensuring all **SU policy books** and council mandates are **updated** and are accessible for all students to view.
- Ensuring an **accessibility audit of the campus**.



Maeve for Student Engagement

*Not every student has the time to get involved in student life. Whether you're someone who wants to get **more involved** or you just want more free condoms around campus. I want you to feel like **your union cares about you and your opinion**.*

- Offer '**reorientation**' for current first-years who don't know their way around campus and do not know their classmates
- Creating **focus groups/working groups** for certain campaigns- for commuters, renters, **satellite campuses**
- Working with the Ents officer to ensure when possible that **staple events like arts ball, RAG week, and a UCC festival can go ahead**. Events are the best way to directly engage with you.
- Improved **visibility of the SU online** and around campus through interactive Instagram stories and stalls on campus
- implementation of a **digital student card** as well as physical cards for easy access to libraries and student discounts
- Collaborating with different courses to create '**placement info packs**' and '**Erasmus advice pack**' for students so they know what services and supports they have access to while abroad.
- Provide online renewal for student leap cards and self-service set up top stations around the college.
- More **pop-up locations for sanitary products** and **condoms** for students to grab as not every student can make it to the SU offices.
- Helping mature students create a **mature student society** so they have a place to socialise since the loss of the mature student common room.
- Assist the international student society with the Societies President to **support incoming international students**.
- Work with the Postgrad officer to hear from PhDs postgrad taught and postgrad research students as the number of postgraduates students in UCC continues to grow.



Maeve for Community Engagement

Last year, I was lucky enough to *UCC Societies Exec's Development & Community Engagement Officer*. I learned so much about engaging with the community around UCC. I want to build better relations between students and local residents. Often the conversation around students is about *student issues* but not about *student achievements*. UCC Students generate an estimated €187.5 million for the local economy as well being avid volunteers through societies and clubs. So, what do I want to do?

- When Student Community Student (SCS) returns I wish to *expand* its size and ensure *better training for SCS staff*.
- *Work with local media* to increase dialogue between *students living around UCC and residents associations*. Too often it is the case that neighbours never speak to each other, and in order to improve relations, we must improve *cooperation*.
- Work with groups such as *Peer Support, SCS, clubs, and societies* to create a newsletter showcasing the good work of students.
- Create a *helpline for students facing difficulties with residents*. Numerous students every year face *harassment* from residents and feel they have nowhere to go and I want to change that.
- Work with residents to *lobby Cork City Council* to improve amenities around the college such as footpaths, more bins, and street lighting.
- *Work with MTU Cork SU* so that together we can fight for better transport services for commuters.



Satellite Campuses

*Being a satellite campus can feel isolating. As UCC plans to expand to Model Farm Road and into the city's south side we need to **prepare for not simply existing on the main campus.***

- Better presence on satellite campuses, for example by holding campus clinics at least once a month
- Work with clubs and societies to ensure they also have easy access to advertise and use facilities on satellite campuses
- Bringing back staple events like Brookfest
- Holding consultations for students on campus such as CCAE, North Mall, the music building, WGB, and Brookfield to hear directly what their issues are.
- Ensure non-academic relaxation spaces are allocated on all satellite campuses so students have somewhere to relax during exam season
- Updates on work for SU common rooms in each campus. In 2019, we passed a referendum to fund these satellite common rooms, students deserve more updates on its progress.



Sustainability

UCC is one of the **most sustainable colleges in the world**. This year, I sat on the Green Campus Committee which opened my eyes to how we can be even more eco-friendly.

- More **bikes sheds** on campus as well as more frequent visits from the **Bike Doctor**
- **Lobby** Bus Eireann and Irish Rail with CITSU for **better services** for student commuters
- Encourage more students to **engage with Green Campus** and hold more themed events and workshops.
- **Ensure** all landlords and student accommodations provide general **waste bins, food waste bins, and recycling bins**.
- Creating a **Depop market** for students to sell, swap, and donate clothes
- Create a **Facebook group** for students to sell and swap their college books
- Encourage all departments to **move away from hard copies of assignments**
- Putting recycling and waste bins around campus



Creating Opportunities

I want the SU to give you *skills* and *opportunities* outside of your degree to make your life easier.

- Bringing the [Gaisce program](#) to UCC to support students getting the President's Award I'd like to say this will be done in time but I know that's not gonna happen
- [Offering](#) mental health first aid training, activism training, and giving [new life to the UCCSU Student Activists Group](#).
- Bringing in [online cooking classes](#) to assist students with nutrition
- Return of [barista training](#) etc for those going on the J1 or looking for summer work
- [Bringing back mystudentjob.ucc.ie](#) for students to find casual and part-time work as well as internship opportunities

Campaigns

Although the role is no longer called 'deputy and campaigns' I am still committed to working with fellow exec officers to create [impactful campaigns](#) to bring awareness about [important issues to the college](#).

- Creating a [Campaigns Crew](#) similar to the ents and welfare crews we've seen before, to give student activists more [opportunities](#) to take part in the union and feed their campaign ideas into the union.
- [Active consent](#) campaign and saying no to sexual assault on campuses campaign
- Run a '[Know Your Union](#)' campaign so you know your SU executive (especially your part-time officers) and what they do!

Campaigns (continued)

- Creating the biggest SHAG week UCC has ever seen to promote sexual health, education, and positivity.
- Drug and Alcohol harm reduction campaigns
- Putting the crisis text line number on the back of student cards as well as the number for UCC Niteline
- Rebooting the 'Ask for Angela' campaign working with businesses in the city to bring this back to life.
- Working with the welfare officer and president to continue lobbying to better treatment of student renters.
- Working with the Welfare Officer to create a year-round men's health awareness plan, with an annual campaign to highlight men's experience with mental health, including those that are still stigmatised.
- Collaborating with Men's Shed Ireland and UCC Community Gardens to develop a space for men to discuss mental health and wellbeing,
- Lobbying for sanitary products to be more freely available from the university.
- Work with the education officer to continue campaigns such as 'Beat the Repeats' 'Beat the Study Blues' and 'how exams work'
- Student worker's rights campaigns working with the ONE Cork campaign and student groups.
- Better wages and contracts for students working on campus
- Work with USI to continue to lobby for the reduction and/or abolishment of student fees.



Commitment to Improved Campus Life

*UCC, thanks to the **hard work** of so many people such as the SU and the Covid Safety Support team have kept UCC Campus libraries and study spaces **open**. I commit to ensuring we keep things this way.*

- Keeping the **spaces open** during the summer especially for Ph.D., postgraduate, and repeat students.
- Committed to keeping **common and catering areas open** so students always have **access** to hot water, vending machines, and somewhere to sit all year round.
- Bringing back **graduation balls/nights** when possible for graduates who missed out on having a proper celebration



Keeping things Online

*We need to be **prepared** for the possibility of being online for another while or having a blended approach.*

- Demanding that **all lectures be recorded and live-streamed** for ease of students and for accessibility
- Lobby the college to **update AV systems** in all lecture rooms for better **quality** recording.
- Commitment to continued **live streaming of all events** and to keep hosting online events.
- If physical freshers packs cannot be given out, I commit to working with the commercial and fundraising officer to **create digital freshers packs** with vouchers and such.
- Maintaining **online voting** for all Student Union elections in the future, in order to maintain this level of **accessibility**.





THANK YOU

FOR READING MY MANIFESTO. I WANTED TO CREATE AN ACHIEVABLE AND REALISTIC MANIFESTO THAT WILL DELIVER FOR THE STUDENTS OF UCC. EVERY STUDENT SHOULD FEEL HEARD IN OUR UNION. THIS MANIFESTO IS A GUIDELINE FOR THINGS I WISH TO PURSUE, BUT, I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT YOU THINK!

CONTACT ME ON

[@MAEVE4COMMS](#)

AND REMEMBER TO VOTE #1 FOR MAEVE AS YOUR NEXT COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER ON UCCSU 21/22!

