

DAVID GILES

FOR

College of Business and Law Representative



ABOUT ME

My name is David Giles. I am a first-year Law and Business student and I am running to be the College Representative for the School of Business and Law during the upcoming UCC Student Union elections. As the School of Business and Law Representative I would be the link between the elected class reps and the Students Union executive. I am applying for this position as I know I can represent the voices of the diverse student body in our school to bring about real change and ensure that our concerns are brought to the table.

I have been a voice for others on many occasions. I have spoken at conferences on community engagement in the Aviva Stadium. I have advocated for climate justice and cultural preservation in the European Parliament. Most recently, I was named the All Ireland Youth Volunteer of the Year, receiving an award in Washington D.C. My extensive experience in the political sphere has given me the means to advocate for change on behalf of others.

I have been heavily involved in the FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centre) society since coming to UCC. Engaging with both undergraduates and postgraduates has given me an understanding of the issues of the student body at every level.

As a Business and Law student, my degree affords me the unique opportunity to share modules with Commerce, BIS, Law and Food Marketing and Entrepreneurship students, which enables me to experience first-hand the life of students studying both business and law-based degrees.

WHAT I HOPE TO ACHIEVE

PRACTICAL PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

As Business and Law Representative I would work towards integrating more practical course material, applicable to professional development, and aid students in the seamless transition from university to the workplace. As it stands, the current modules do not fully prepare students for the reality of what is expected of them going forward in their careers. With the inclusion of more project and presentation-based assessment across all years, students could learn transferrable skills that go beyond a theory-based education. Students should not be thrown in the deep end with modules such as Capstone and Moot taking place in their penultimate and final year but rather be given the chance to gradually develop these skills from the outset. All skills-based modules across the school urgently need to be assessed and re-evaluated in order to make them more industry focused.

PANOPTO ACCESS

If elected I aspire to ensure that all lectures would be recorded and uploaded to Panopto in order to support the vast body of students in the College of Business and Law in their various extracurricular activities. It is important to give students the opportunity to reflect and revisit some of the more complex aspects of the course material. Furthermore, considering the many commitments that students have, Panopto recordings would greatly reduce the mounting pressure which regularly affects students.

FUNDING FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I endeavour to foster the growth and support the development of the students in the College of Business and Law. If I were to be elected, I would prioritise increasing student engagement and faculty support for existing programs such as case study competitions, entrepreneurship contests and debating. I would also be open to engaging with any students who have innovative ideas for new academic extra-curricular activities for the school. I hope to support the student body through increased funding and greater publicity for existing opportunities, which will empower the students to avail of those invaluable experiences.

STUDENT CONSULTATION

As your most direct link to the Students Union executive committee, I will work for greater engagement with the class reps from all degree programmes to ensure that your issues are voiced at the highest level. I will push for more consistent and detailed feedback from faculty on the coursework submitted as well as the student body on lecture quality and content. The current framework provides very little feedback to students on their work and their results. End of year module assessment sheets are not conducive to providing ongoing feedback to lecturers on both the positive and negative aspects of the course. As your representative, I will strive to overhaul the current system so that more substantive feedback is provided, aiding long-term student development.

IN SUMMARY

To conclude, I hope I have shown you that I am the most suitable candidate to be your College of Business and Law Representative for the coming year. I am truly passionate about the points that I have outlined in this manifesto. Of course, this is a non-exhaustive list of what I hope to achieve if I am to be elected as your Representative. However, with the experience I have gained so far, I believe I have the skills to tackle any issues that students in the College of Business and Law might face.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto and I wish the very best of luck to my fellow candidates in the upcoming election.

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David