

Manifesto

# Meadhbh Kehoe

For the College of Business and Law Representative

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## *A Bit About Me*

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My name is Meadhbh Kehoe and I am running for the position of Representative of the College of Business and Law in this year's student elections. I am currently studying Finance here in UCC. Since arriving in UCC in September – all be it virtually – I have received an interesting and varying experience of life under the College of Business and Law. I believe that I can bring about real change by listening to and representing our diverse student body here in the College of Business and Law.

I have represented and worked with others on many occasions. Throughout my secondary school experience, I have been a part of the student's union there. Although a fraction of the size of UCC's student population, I represented students voices and concerns to the school's management. We brought around change in healthy eating, mental health supports and green initiatives throughout my five years on the student union. I have never had an issue with challenging the status quo and my leadership skills were recognised by the school when they awarded me with the "Salesian Student Leadership Award" in 2020.

Likewise, I have represented student voices across Europe. I have taken part in the European Youth Parliament from 2016 to 2019. I have travelled across Europe and Ireland working with individuals of many backgrounds to voice the young people of Europe's opinion on concepts from security and defence to culture and language. This experience in particular had given me both the confidence and the means to support the student voice within the College of Business and Law.

Since coming to UCC I have emersed myself in student life. I have joined various societies including being a committee member of UCC Choral. I am the entertainments representative for my class. A position which I feel in today's world with an increased feeling of loneliness and isolation has never been so important for students, especially first years who many have yet to meet each other. I am a support for the students in my class and I wish to extend this support to the entirety of the college.

## What I Hope to Achieve

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### *Support*

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After a year like no other and with the possibility of online teaching for at least the first semester next academic year, student life has been tough on everyone. As Business and Law Representative I would ensure that the proper supports are in place for the students of Business and Law. I would provide Class Reps with specific training on all the supports available to students. So, if a student needs help it will be communicated clearly and by someone they know and trust. Of course, I will be there to support the Class Reps themselves and to resolve any of their issues.

In addition to a stronger network of support, the continuation of CUBS Week would be a main priority of mine in regards to student support. With the ground work laid by the previous College Rep, this would give me the opportunity to make it a bigger and hopefully in-person event. I aim to include all the relevant faculty, clubs, societies and insights into various areas of industry. This will show the students of CUBS how warm, welcoming, helpful and supportive the school is along with getting students engaged with each other outside of the classroom.

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### *Clear Communication*

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If elected, I would endeavour for clearer communication throughout the College of Business and Law. With the high likely-hood of another online/blended semester in the beginning of next year, I want the college to set out a clear guide on how they will be holding classes in advance of the academic year. This year many students were told way too late that all their lectures/tutorials etc. were to be online. Students then became bound to leases for accommodation that they never even stayed in. This could have been prevented if the college told students that they were going to be 100% online earlier.

In addition to that chain of communication, I wish to strengthen the communication levels between faculty and the College Representative by holding monthly meetings with the deans of both business and law. With a stronger connection comes stronger co-operation which will help address concerns from students due to a stronger student-faculty relationship via the College Representative.

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## *Lecture Recordings*

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As Business and Law Representative I would lobby for the recording of in person lectures upon their return. Although a normal occurrence with online lectures, I hope to continue this practice when transitioning to in person lectures via the same software Panopto. This would greatly aid the student body with their various extracurricular activities as well as allowing students to revisit more complex areas of the course work. Furthermore, considering how busy students will be when life goes back to normal, recorded lectures will reduce the pressure that students regularly face.

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## *Quality Education with Transferable Workplace Skills*

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To ensure quality education is a pillar stone of my manifesto. Students have worked hard to get to UCC so a high standard of education is a top priority. The issue of feedback is a continuous one. I will endeavour that timely feedback is given to students from lecturers on assignments. Likewise, feedback from students on modules is crucial to the continuation of quality education and I will attempt to make module feedback more inclusive. In addition to working with faculty to ensure that the level of education is at its best I would work towards including more transferable workplace skills. A common complaint among many students is that university does not fully prepare them for life in the working world. Across all courses I would ensure that some level of transferable workplace skills is being provided to students.

## *In Summary*

In conclusion, although not an exhaustive list I am passionate about what I wish to achieve as the Representative for the College of Business and Law. I hope that I have shown you that I am the most suitable candidate for the position. With my experience and skillset, I believe that I have what it takes to be an excellent College Representative and to support the students of the College of Business and Law.

Thank you for taking the time to read my manifesto and the best of luck to all the other running candidates in this year's student elections.

Yours faithfully,

Meadhbh Kehoe