

Hello my name is Ian Kelly and I'm running to be the first ever overall Vice President for Events and Engagement in TU Dublin.

One thing you should know about me is that I'm a Scorpio.

Ok, now that's out of the way, who am I?! My name is Ian Kelly, I'm originally from Finglas but now I live in Blanch. I graduated with a 1st Class Honours in Visual Communication which was based in the East Quad. Basically that means I'm a graphic designer with a background in all things visual.

At the 2022 graduate awards I was awarded best exhibition piece for the school of creative arts and also received a special award for studentship (my contribution to the improvement of student life and experience) which was kind of cool.

I also have extensive experience in the area of events planning and have organised hundreds of gigs and events all over the country and Europe in general. I have tour managed a number of bands while they toured all over the world, which basically means I have experience coordinating a large number of people in a high pressure environment.

I also consider myself to have a good handle on social media (hope you enjoyed my tik toks this year) and work within the Shamrock Rovers media team (Dublin is green and white)

Experience:

- Current VP for Events & Engagement on the City Campus
- Former Part-Time Officer for the Grangegorman Campus
- I was a member of the TU Dublin SU CLG Board for 2 year
- Former chair of the TU Dublin CLG Board of Directors
- Member of the TU Dublin CLG Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
- Current chair of the USI Events, Marketing and Campaigns Working Group
- Award Winning Graphic Designer

Manifesto Points:

- Build on the success of this year's Freshers Fest (Go bigger and better)
- More subsidised events for students! (Let's spend student money on students)
- Events, Events, Events!!! (Build on the night time experience across multiple venues with an added focus on

more evening common room events that tie in with clubs and societies)

- RAG Year not week! (15,000 raised so far this year, but I want to focus on fundraising from the start next year to double or triple that amount)
- International trips and challenges
- Free pool tables (Many other Universities offer free to play tables. Why are we any different)
- Updating of common room spaces (Lets be honest, they all need a revamp. New furniture, updated games consoles, basically investment in infrastructure)
- Free stuff! (We are all living with this cost of living crisis, and although I've had a lot of free stuff across all campuses this year. I want to double that at least)
- Continue to be a presence across all of our sites and push engagement
- Crews!! (Events crew, student media crew, welfare crew)
- Vending machines

Let's talk Events:

Looking back on the year that has past I realise that one year isn't a lot of time to get things done. That's one of the main reasons I'm rerunning. I have so much more that I want to achieved and have now built the platform and relationships within the University to make those things happen. I understand how the Union works and will have a head start in terms of planning for next year if re-elected.

What's gone well:

Freshers was such a massive success. We sold thousands of tickets for all of the night time events over the 3 weeks that it ran (yeah 3 weeks was mad) but crucially what I feel was my biggest success was that I brought some life back to all of our campuses. Over the 3 weeks we had 65 activities for students to attend. Was it mad? Absolutely. But can I build on it and make it even better? You best believe.

Obviously this year I was elected to represented the city campus. But I really strived to make sure our students in Tallaght and Blanchardstown had the same experience. Basically everything I booked in city campus I also booked in Tallaght and Blanch. If I had a petting farm in Grangegorman or Aungier St, I also booked it in Tallaght and Blanch. If you had a bouncy castle or free ice cream and candyfloss? Yep, that was me. So let's think about what I can get done when I actually represent those sites!!

We also introduced the first ever TU Dublin Christmas and it was bonkers! The highlight was walking into spoons near Aungier St and hundreds of our students were there having an unreal time. It's an even that I hope to build on and make a tradition for years to come!

I could go on for ages here with the likes of Halloweek and Rag but you get the picture. Things are going well but I can always build on it and do better.

What's still to be done.

A student bar. This is one I need to be realistic on. What can we really do?? I have been working away on this in the background and my main focus is to make sure that when the University begins construction on the student centre that it includes the required student union spaces, a bar and an event space. How can I achieve that? I am in the middle of ongoing research that I will be presenting to the university. Basically I've travelled to the likes of University of Galway, DCU, Trinity, Maynooth and UCD and spoke to students and union officers about the importance of having a social space and bar on campus to actually create a sense of community on their campuses.

But what can we do in the mean time?! I believe if we can get permission to run night time events on campus, that it may be possible to have temporary bars put in place, much like at a festival and I will be fighting for that and believe it's realistic and achievable!

What we can do more of:

Subsidised events!!!! I believe this should be at the core of the students' union. We need to be providing multiple cheap or free events! We need to be spending students' money directly on students. For example we did it a few times this year with our pizza a pint event. Students pay 10 euro and get a pizza and 2 pints! But we need to do a hell of a lot more of this. Especially in semester 2. Basically, I believe there needs to be complete reform in how the union spends its money.

Engagement:

I believe that we currently have the most engaged student population that we have had in TU Dublin in decades. The turnout for our referendum last November was by far the highest we have had in over 30 years and there is a few reasons for that.

A fun engaging orientation was a big factor in this. Over those few weeks we grew our Instagram following by over 5000. We then followed that up with a fun and engaging Freshers Fest. With 3 full weeks of events.

Basically what I'm saying with all this is that there is a solid base in place now and a lot to build on.

If you've made it to the end of this I can't thank you enough! I've really enjoyed this year and if you like what you've read please vote for me to be the first overall VP for Events and Engagement!

Thanks.

Instagram: [ian_kelly_creative](#)