

# *Manifesto*

Ved Mathur

*Candidate for Convenor — School of Business, Public Policy and Law  
University of Galway*

**You can find my account on Instagram: @futuremade\_voteved**

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The School of Business, Public Policy and Law is home to a diverse and ambitious community of students across programmes in Galway and Shannon. As Convenor, my goal is simple: to ensure students are heard, supported, and connected throughout their academic experience.

My priorities focus on improving the academic environment, strengthening communication, and building a more connected School community.

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## **My Priorities**

### **1. Reading Week**

We all need a break in the middle of term — a chance to breathe, reset, and properly catch up on work. That’s why I will push to bring back Reading Week, typically around Week 7 or 8, so students can have a well-deserved pause before the final stretch of the semester.

#### **Actions:**

- Work closely with the Students’ Union President and Education Officer to raise the proposal at a School and University level.
  - Gather feedback from students in the School of Business, Public Policy and Law to demonstrate the academic and wellbeing benefits of a mid-term break.
  - Engage with School leadership to explore how a Reading Week could realistically fit within the academic calendar.
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### **2. Accessible Online Resources**

No one enjoys leaving a warm, comfortable bed on a freezing winter morning — especially after a night full of craic. While in-person learning remains important, students should also have access to flexible and supportive online resources.

#### **Actions:**

- Work with the Students’ Union Education and Student Support teams to identify key digital resource gaps affecting students in the school.
  - Collaborate with the University Library to highlight demand for additional digital texts where possible.
  - Promote awareness of existing academic and online learning resources available to students.
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### **3. Student-Centred Scheduling**

Long gaps, timetable clashes, and transport pressures can make student life more difficult than it needs to be. Better communication between students and the School can help address these issues.

#### **Actions:**

- Establish a clear feedback channel where students can raise timetable concerns through class representatives.
  - Work with programme coordinators to highlight recurring scheduling issues affecting students.
  - Advocate for scheduling decisions that consider commuting patterns and common student commitments where possible.
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### **4. Clearer Communication**

The University already provides a wide range of support — but students don't always know what's available or how to access it. The issue is often not a lack of support, but a lack of clarity.

#### **Actions:**

- Develop a simple semester guide for students in the School of Business, Public Policy and Law outlining key academic, wellbeing, and career resources.
  - Work with class representatives to distribute important information in a clear and consistent way.
  - Advocate for short start-of-semester briefings highlighting essential supports and services.
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## **5. A Stronger School Community**

Student life is vibrant — but within the School of Business, Public Policy and Law, students don't always feel connected across year groups and programmes. A stronger sense of community benefits both academic and social experience.

### **Actions:**

- Support cross-cohort networking opportunities in partnership with student societies.
  - Encourage informal networking events where students can connect with peers from other programmes.
  - Work with the School to explore opportunities for alumni engagement and guest speakers.
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## **6. Representation for Shannon Students**

Students from the Shannon College of Hotel Management bring a unique perspective to the School through their strong focus on hospitality and industry placements. Their experiences and concerns deserve consistent representation.

### **Actions:**

- Work closely with Shannon class representatives to ensure student feedback is regularly brought to School discussions.
  - Maintain clear communication channels between Shannon students and the wider School representation structure.
  - Ensure the perspectives of Shannon students are considered in student initiatives and consultations.
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## **7. Connecting Shannon and Galway**

The School of Business, Public Policy and Law spans both Galway and Shannon, but students do not always have opportunities to interact across campuses. Strengthening these connections can benefit the entire School community.

### **Actions:**

- Encourage collaborative opportunities between Shannon and Galway students through School-supported initiatives and society partnerships.
  - Support cross-campus networking and industry discussions where possible.
  - Promote greater visibility of achievements and initiatives from students across both campuses.
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## **Closing Statement**

The School of Business, Public Policy and Law is built on the strength of its students. As Convenor, my goal is to ensure that every student — whether in Galway or Shannon — feels represented, supported, and connected to their school community.

By improving communication, advocating for students' academic needs, and strengthening our shared community, we can continue building a college experience that works for everyone.

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