

Oisín Ganley's Manifesto for Convenor of the Colleges of Science and Engineering

Hello to all reading this! These are the key points I'll be focussing on as the Convenor of Science and Engineering, but please remember that I'm always open to suggestion! I feel incredibly strongly about each of these points and have either felt the impact of these flaws personally or have heard stories of the consequences. I will be running over each of the points and why I feel so strongly about them throughout the week. Remember while you read, #GanleysGotIt!

1. Reduction in Cost

Students are required to pay for lab manuals, kits, and for mandatory textbooks at the beginning of each college year or semester. I will lobby to reduce this cost, as we already pay enough in fees just to attend college. I will push for lab manuals to be published on Blackboard so students may access them digitally or print them of their own will, reducing the cost each semester, I will also advocate for the use of the Open Textbook Library to provide students with affordable resources and reading.

2. Transparency in Fees

As it stands, required payments are often announced with short notice, such as lab manuals the week they are required or trips only a few weeks in advance. One of my key points will be to have all additional costs incurred as part of a module be announced in the first lecture, but also published on Blackboard in advance to allow students time to plan around these expenses.

3. Reducing Waste on Campus

Currently, there is a great deal of unnecessary waste on campus. An Bialann uses metal and compostable cutlery, but SULT and Smokies Café have yet to take this up fully. I will push for this to be followed through completely. Furthermore, I will address the negative impact of the Science Department in this regard, and advocate for the reduction of use of plastic and single-use items in favour of washable, reusable glass alternatives.

4. Addressing Lab Issues

Continuing from the previous point, I see many problems with student lab work at present. The practical component of any module should be worth 40% minimum to reflect the importance of understanding theory taught in lectures and the ability to use skills in a practical way. Labs are also greatly underfunded and therefore underequipped. This leads to some labs operating in a cycle in which you could do final-week lecture material in your first lab, which is of no use to a student. An understanding of lecture theory is necessary to gain the full benefit from a lab and to obtain the report grade truly deserved. On top of this, comprehensive feedback on lab reports is pivotal to the continued learning of students. To deal with many of these issues, I will lobby and fight for more funding for labs, so that they may obtain more

equipment. Labs are the most important part of a science student's studies, so focussing on making them the best they can be is crucial.

5. MCQs, Homework and Tutorials

Students should not be forced to complete assignments with short deadlines. It is not realistic to expect a student to produce several assignments of high quality on the same day in a short time frame. Students should be allotted a minimum of five days to complete assignments, especially if they are given on a weekly basis, to allow for the fact that they may receive an influx of assignments in one day with the same due dates. On top of that, any mandatory tutorial or MCQ session taking place in the evening should be repeatable multiple times in a week. It is unfair to have a student come in for one lecture at 09:00, then wait until 18:00 because of a tutorial they can't miss, especially if that student commutes. All such mandatory sessions should be repeated at least twice a week to allow for students in such cases or with timetable conflicts.

6. Upgrading Computers

A common complaint is in regard to the PC suites on campus. The applications on each Computer are inconsistent; requiring students to search for a computer with what they need. Every computer should have every application installed; The University already has the licenses. Additionally, a large amount of the PCs are slow and outdated. Any student requiring the use of a computer with a particular programme, but no personal computer of their own is likely to be unable to do what they had intended to do. I will push for all applications to be on all PCs, as well as beginning to update and replace the most out of date PCs.

7. Students' Union and the Students

Many students don't know where the Student Union is based or even who their class representatives are. This limits the student's ability to express discontent with their course or to suggest changes. If they don't know who to talk to their voice will not be heard. I will push to ensure more students are heard and represented, by encouraging class reps to engage with their respective classes, be it through social media and sharing, or through shout-outs before some lectures with updates on the work of the Students' Union. Students' voices matter more than anything, and I want them to be heard.

8. Your Thoughts!

As I said before, the voices of the student body matter more than anything. When you are unhappy, you should be heard, and the University should be held accountable and responsible for its issues and attitude towards students. If there is anything else you believe to be important or that you feel strongly about, talk to me! Approach me in person, or for now, message me [here](#) on my facebook campaign page to have your every issue addressed! I look forward to hearing from you!