



JOHN FORTUNE
FOR
VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE
SOUTHERN REGION

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Introduction

Hi! My name is John Fortune. I am a 22 year old from Wexford. I am running to be your next Vice President for the Southern Region in USI.

Throughout my time in the Student Movement so far, I have held many roles. I am currently in my second term as WIT Students' Union President. I was Education Officer in the Academic Year 18/19.

Before that as a student, I was the Business Convenor, a Class Rep, QQI Quality Assurance Reviewer, Society Committee Member and a Pink Training Delegate Leader.

I have been involved in the Student Movement long enough to see a number of VP's for the South, each bringing something new to the role. If elected, I promise to put my own stamp on the role and represent the South to the best of my ability.

I am running for VP for the Southern Region to unite the South. I want to bridge the gap between students and USI. I promise to support and engage SU Officers and use my experience to give them tips and tricks to ensure they get the most for themselves and their students out of their term!

Have a read through my manifesto and email me any questions/thoughts/concerns :)

My Journey



Experience

- **Class Representative for a group of 60 students (2016-2018)**
- **Business Convenor (2017-2018)**
- **WITSU Repeal Task Force Co-Lead (2018)**
- **Entertainments Officer Candidate (2017)**
- **QQI Quality Assurance Reviewer (2017-2018)**
- **Education Officer (2018-2019)**
- **Two term President (2019-2021)**
- **ASIST, SafeTALK, First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Domestic Violence, Violent Behaviour and Substance Abuse trained**
- **4 years of Pink Training, two of which being Support Officer.**
- **Member of all Committees in WIT from all aspects of College**
- **Attended 3 national protests, Accommodation, Publicly Funded Education, Access to Education**
- **Led multiple local protests, Fund the Future, Save Our Services, Student Nurses etc.**

Achievements

- **Registered the highest amount of WIT students to vote**
- **Introduced a fourth Sabbatical Officer for Events and Engagement**
- **Introduced Satellite Campus Part Time Officers to increase engagement**
- **Successfully lobbied for representation on TU steering Group**
- **Implemented the first WITSU bilingual Constitution**
- **Secured a Medical Centre for campus following three years without one**
- **Highest Casework stats ever in WITSU as VP**
- **Many awards; Garda Youth, Medium SU Team etc**
- **Interviewed by multiple local and national News Outlets in relation to the digitilisation of Third level education**
- **Secured 22K for an Asylum Seeker/Direct Provision Student Hardship Fund.**

Plans for the South

Support

Engagement

Training

Blended Learning

Merging SU's

Representation/Lobbying

Fun!

Support Troops

Students

I plan to support students by holding drop in sessions with their SU and USI Regional Officer. At these students can raise any issue they would like me to work on as the VP This will hopefully open up USI to students and encourage them to get involved!

Sabbatical Officers

Being a fulltime officer is difficult. I plan to have check in calls with these officers scheduled throughout the year. I bring three years of experience with me and will focus on burnout! It is important as a Regional to build relationships and I hope to establish relationships through check ins.

Part-time Officers (PTO)

As a PTO, it is easy to give your all to the role and forget that you have your college life to balance. It is time for PTO's to use USI for support. I will ensure PTO's feel comfortable coming to me and know I am there for them as much as I am for students and sabbatical officers.



Engagement

Sabbatical Officers

To increase Sabbatical engagement, I will meet with each sabbatical team to see what works best for them.

Each team should be engaged individually at least bi-weekly. I will work with the teams to set this line of engagement up.



Students

Engagement is a key area of the Regional VP's roles. To engage students more in USI, I would try work with SU's to get USI content out more. That includes making myself more available to students.

PTO's

PTO's may feel a little disconnected from USI. A key part of this is the engagement and communication with PTO's. After PTO Training, there are little chances to engage with other PTO's. I plan to have check-ins with PTO's and invite them to South WG to improve this.

Training



Students

I would like to work to move trainings to a more blended mode, to support students engaging in them. One key training is elections training, and ensuring students feel confident enough to run for roles in both USI and their own SU.

PTO's

PTO Training worked well online this year, however there is always room for improvement. I would like to continue this training and add a follow up for individual SU's to adapt to their needs.

Sabbatical Officers

There are many trainings that are beneficial to sabbatical officers. I would like to use my contacts with trainers to deliver as many trainings to Sabbatical Officers as possible. I would focus on accessibility to trainings so as many can attend as possible.

Blended Learning

Students

Blended Learning is something on the horizon and being faced currently by students. We need to ensure that things such as devices, Wi-Fi, study space are not affecting access to Education. I will work with SU Officers to raise this where possible.

PTO's

Blended Learning means that many PTO's may not meet students in their remit. I will work with these officers to figure out how to best engage their students. There are many ways to engage in a blended atmosphere and I will help as much as I can!



Sabbatical Officers

Blended Learning poses many obstacles for sabbaticals, but also many opportunities. If elected I will be able to help officers tie together policies, guidelines and ways to engage online. We have had time to learn from our initial shock of online learning and I can help new officers adapt.

Representation/Lobbying

Sabbatical Officers

Sabbatical Officers need more focus on lobbying training. Lobbying training needs to be revamped to work for new officers. I will work with the VP Equality & Citizenship and VP Campaigns to help sabbaticals upskill in lobbying. We should have officers who are comfortable to submit Parliamentary Questions.

Students

Students need to feel empowered to lobby for things they believe in. If elected, I will work with the other regionals to develop a lobbying training for students. This should be flexible so that all students can access it. As a Union, we need all of our members to feel empowered!



PTO's

An issue that PTO's face is a lack of training on how to fairly represent and fulfill their role. As a former PTO, I know how demotivating this can be. I will work with PTO's to help lobby and represent their cohorts. Lobbying is a part of every SU role, so the training delivered to PTO's must be adequate!

Merging SU's

Students

There remains to be a lot of unanswered questions in relation to merging Institutes. If elected, I would love to work with the three merging SU's to help pull together a guide for Students in relation to merging SU's and Institutes. This will hopefully help clear up any questions from students. I would also work with other Officers across the country to get a good sense.

SU Execs

Mergers can cause tension amongst SU Executives. This is nearly always caused by both SU's trying to do what is best for their students. I have been involved in a Merger for the guts of nearly 4 years. I have attended many meetings and have witnessed many arguments and agreements. I believe I will be able to support execs in doing what is best for all students.



Sabbaticals

We have three Mergers happening/in place in the Southern Region. Each has individual needs/priorities and structures. I want to work with them to increase communication between all three Mergers and allow a space for them to communicate with each other. There is so much to learn across the Southern region and we should help each other!

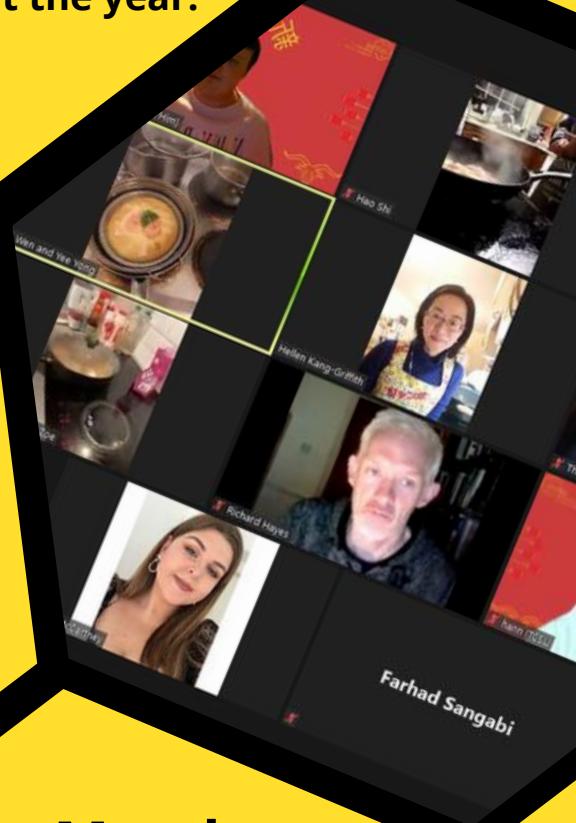


Ents Officers

In a number of MO's, the officer with responsibility for entertainment is part time. I know how hard this role is to fulfill part time, so I will support these officers and bring my knowledge to the table to help them. I also plan to implement PTO Bonding events throughout the year.

Students

I have worked on many events throughout my time in WIT. I have a vast knowledge of organising the right events to relax. I would love to bring an event to the Southern Region. I would hope to get all SU's in the South onboard for a Zoom Speed Friending for the Students in the Southern Region.



Exec Members

You need to relax as an Exec member. With that in mind. I would like to organise regular events for SU Exec Officers to switch off. I will use as many accessible, free methods as possible. Not only will this help relax, but it will bring the Southern Region together!

FUN



Background

What is USI?

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) is the national representative body for 375,000 students across the Island of Ireland. USI is a member based organisation. If you are a member, your SU pays €5 for each Full-time student and €2.50 for each Part-time student to be a member.

What is the VP for the Southern Region?

The VP for the Southern Region is the main liaison and representative for Member Organisations across the South. The VP is tasked with engagement, communication, union development, campaigns, regional bonding, part-time officer training, regional working group and general support





Vote John Fortune for South!

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Thank you for
 Reading!