

My manifesto for Student's Union President 2016

–Issued by Cónán McGonigle for Sarah Dunphy

My name is Sarah Dunphy and I want to become the University of Limerick Student's Union President for 2016/2017.

I am a fourth year student of Physical Education and Irish and I am 22 years old. I love sport and Irish Dancing, having a laugh socialising with friends, travel and food!

I have been involved in the G.A.A Club in first and second year, winning an Ashbourne medal, and I have dabbled in Trampolining! I hosted the President's Volunteer Awards in October 2014.

I have had a tremendous four years in University of Limerick. I have developed enormously as a whole person- socially, emotionally, physically and psychologically; not to mention academically! I want to give back to the community that is the University of Limerick and not only help it to maintain its excellence but propel it on to further success.

My top 4 aims include:

1. Creating a University of Limerick App.
2. Creating an opportunity for students to travel on An International Tour for a weekend.
3. Introduce a 'Walk and Talk with the President'
4. Lobby against students fees

Creating a University of Limerick Application

I believe this would be a huge asset to students. The app could be accessed using your student number and would contain your timetable. It would include something similar to a 'Google Map' of the campus and each building so that when you are lost enroute to labs, tutorials and lectures, this will guide you. This app would be developed to include upcoming events that interest you by each student filling out a personality survey. This way all your other emails can be accessed through your email account, but the most applicable to your course and personality would be present in your app.

Creating an opportunity for students to travel on An International Tour

The majority of students love to travel so why not take a cultural international or European breakaway with your friends from college? Flights or transport and accommodation would be student friendly priced and the aim would be to experience and new culture and explore. With so many destinations available and festivals, events and activities, this would be a fantastic opportunity for students of all ages to broaden their horizons.

Introduce a 'Walk and Talk with the SU President'

Well being is important in the lives of students. Not only physical well being but social and psychological wellbeing too. My aim is to introduce a 1-5km walk on campus every week, once a week, which would allow national and international students to get to know the grounds better as well as socialising and exercising. Talking is so important and what better way than in a relaxed and supportive environment?

Lobby against students fees

Fees and expenses are at extortionate levels. Fees do not include living expenses or accommodation cost and something needs to change. Up until this year, fees have increased by €250 every year since 2013. This increase cannot continue.

University of Limerick have plans to expand the current UL arena and build a new student centre and a levy would be introduced to fund this expansion. I see many benefits to this upgrade, I also understand that many students have financial struggles in college. I will work to ensure supports are developed and in place for those students struggling with these expenses.

I will diligently and consistently work to ensure that student's needs are the central focus of these developments if the referendum is passed.

Other aims:

- Mending of the 'Kemmy Gap' to include lighting and a proper path
- Freeze gym fees or work to reduce it
- Water sources in all the buildings

I am dedicated. I am focused. I am hard working and I am fun. If I am elected as SU president I will work on behalf of the students and proudly represent them.