

Why run for sabbatical officer?

TB: Do you often think of ways in which UL could improve as an Academic Institute, as a Community and as a place to live? Do you feel you have the solutions to problems UL students have on a weekly basis? Can you bring more to the already excellent UL student experience, both academically and socially? Do you possess the skills of leadership, communication and collaboration that are required to effectively bring about these envisaged changes within a year of holding office?

If the answer is yes to any or all of these questions, you will make an excellent Student Representative.

What is a sabbatical officer?

TB: Somebody who takes a year out to do something. I think the title Student Representative is much more fitting if you want to get a sense of the role.

How many Sabbatical officers are there?

TB: 3. there used to be 5. It could be 5 again someday soon. Having more student representatives as part of the team is vital; I think this goes without saying in a Students' Union. The Union have recently showed that they're in a position to recruit more staff, definitely great to see that kind of financial security, but I feel student money would be more effective in achieving the goals of the Students' Union if spent on more student representatives.

What are SU Officers responsible for?

TB: The President is responsible for accurately representing the current views of UL students in various committees, forums and to the wider public. The President is also responsible for accurately representing the views and intentions of the University to the General student population.

You must think about how you can consult with the student body to attain their views in a time efficient manner. You must also think about the mediums you have at your disposal to communicate the intentions of the University to the Student Body.

In a nutshell: You're a middle man/woman.

Is it paid?

TB: Yes, not lavishly as some rumours go. You also don't get free accommodation on campus or free chicken rolls from Spar. The odd free pint from the Stables but only because they know you'll be back again in twenty minutes for more.

What is ULSU Student Executive?

TB: The Exec is a team of students that ride around in a sleigh holding the reigns of the three sabbatical horses. You've got your definition already so I said I would go with a metaphor 😊

What is ULSU Student Council?

TB: The think tank. Where ideas from highly engaged students are discussed and turned into reality. 200 letters, Library extension, say what now?

The council consists of students representing all faculties and departments. In the words of the great Mike Forde, "these students are the eyes and ears of the Union", they're basically spies.

Will I get any training?

TB: Lots of it, don't worry. Also the best training you could get in the whole world is the month of September. By the end of that month you will be a maestro in office.

What position should I run for?

TB: Read the job description for each, talk to each of the current sabbaticals and talk to Liz. If you still don't know which one is for you, none of them are for you.

Are there election rules?

TB: Yes, read them and brief your campaign team on them.

How much should I spend on an election campaign?

TB: €1,000,000.... Or whatever you can afford. Money will never beat imagination.

What is a manifesto?

TB: Another method of promoting yourself and your ideas.