



Congress 2019!! How are we all? So whats this document here then? Well, Its a snapshot of the plans that I have, if elected your next Vice President for the Southern Region. On the next few pages you'll find what I'm calling my "Core Four". These are the actions that I feel I am most able to deliver on next year, I'm very excited to meet and talk to you all, if you want to give me a buzz to ask some questions about my plans, or anything else, you'll find my contact details on the last page. Hope you all have a fabulous congress, speak early and speak often, but take breaks when you need to! Thats all for now, Jess x

## COMMUNICATION

Regular on campus visits

USI Local forums

Part time officer network development

Highlighting National Issues on campuses

Localised action insetad of City marches

## REGIONAL ACTION/ACTIVITY

Support for full time officers

# #1 JESS FOR SOUTH

Union Development

On Campus reps to assist sabbaticals with rolling out national campaigns on campus

## MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION

Students becoming more involved with USI on the ground

## USI REPS

Reaching out to FE Colleges

"How to set up a Students' Union" regional campaign

# Intro/Experience

Hi everyone! My name is Jessica Murphy, I am the current president of IT Tralee Students' Union, and I'm looking for the support of the South, to be the next USI VP for the Southern Region!

It feels incredibly surreal writing this, remembering the first time I ran for election to be the part time Communications and Publications Officer of ITTSU in 2014. Since then I have served as a class rep, done a term as the Vice President for Welfare and was then incredibly proud to be elected President. All are roles that I was very proud to fulfill and felt that I did so with passion and dedication, as well as a sheer grá for the movement and the students that I represent. Here are a few things that I've been a part of since I began my journey:

## Training & Achievements

- First Year Rep Radio Society
- Secretary Radio Society
- Secretary for the Board of Irish College Societies
- Nominated for National Society award
- Winner of SAAI award for Charity Champions (BangFM)
- 2x citations from ITT Socs Office
- Winner of 1st ITTSU Presidents award (2016)
- Students for Choice Taskforce
- TENI Trans Kerry Group Facilitator
- Welfare Crew
- Class Rep
- Communication & Publications Officer 2014/15
- VP Welfare 17/18
- Pink Training 14/15/17
- Adjudicator Training - BICS
- Class rep training 14/15/16
- Safe Talk
- Assist
- Mental Health First Aid
- RCC - Support for aftermath of rape/sexual assault
- Campaigned to Make Grá the Law
- Campaigned to Repeal the 8th
- Campaigned for the successful reopening of the Tralee Womens Resource Centre
- Campaigned with INMO

# CORE PLAN #1

## USI Ambassadors

Other national organizations that deal with students such as BICS, have got representatives on campus. These ambassadors aren't there to replace the work that the exec or the regional officers are doing, but to support and enhance that work. Now in my second term as a sabbatical officer I am well-aware of the restricted amount of time and limited resources we have to deal with various elements of engagement with USI. This often leads to our students not being aware of the work being done on their behalf at a National level. One of our key goals is to have students on the ground, engaging with movement. I believe with the introduction of this system, we'd be one step closer to achieving this.

# CORE PLAN #2

## Membership Expansion

Have you heard the number 374,000 before? I have, too many times. If you haven't, this is the current number of students represented by the Union of Students in Ireland. We say that Together we are Stronger, so let's get stronger! I think that there is a real opportunity for regional officers to engage with Further Education colleges. Those who aren't affiliated, most often don't even have a functioning Students' Union. If elected, I would complete a body of work which will help FE college students to set up and maintain an SU. By encouraging FE colleges to fund their unions, we can gradually and democratically add more bodies to our membership, strengthening our voice as the national representative.

(Andy hey, who doesn't want the South to be the biggest region?)

# CORE PLAN #3

## Regional Action/Activities

Point number 3 of my Core Four, is regional action/activities. If elected, I want to work with the officer board and the sabbaticals in my region, to bring back regional led demonstrations. My very first student led protest (in 2013!) was a regional protest called "Fight four Future". It was a stance against the government raising the Student Contribution charge. It was local, it was easily accessible, and it was absolutely electric. Localized actions CAN have an impact on a national level. We can lobby our TD's to support our regional issues. Aside from our actions, its also essential that we bring some of our activities to the region. When I was a part time officer, I didn't have the opportunity to attend part time officer training. As much as I enjoyed my year thoroughly, I felt as if I missed out on becoming part of a network. The role of a part time officer is incredibly unique and valuable to an SU. Many of us sabbatical officers, have not been students for at least a year if not longer. Part timer officers are our direct link with students. I want to ensure, that the part time officers in the southern region, are part of a network, that they feel supported, and properly trained, by ensuring that if they cannot attend a regional training, the training is brought directly to them.

# CORE PLAN #4

## Communication

Strong communication skills are one of the most important elements in any of the Officer Board roles. This is particularly relevant to the role of a regional officer. Communication is vital, not just between the regional officer and the sabbatical team, but also with the part time officers as well. I want to introduce monthly forums for officers and students to gauge opinions on USI's actions, to gather information to direct the national body and allow you, the students and officers to hold us accountable. We need more student-input driven actions and that's what I promise to do.

We have 4 colleges in the southern region that are about to undergo mergers. Communication between those unions is vital, and often difficult to achieve due to workload on all parties. I want to facilitate sessions with SU's who are due to merge, so we can discuss what they're finding difficult, and work towards both unions getting the best deal out of the process





Contact Details:  
jessforsouth@gmail.com  
0831156156