

# **The Conway Manifesto**

## **Make the Craic in UL affordable again**

### **Who am I**

My name is Oisín Conway and I'm a first year Science Education student here in UL from the west of County Clare.

I'd like to think I'm a sound lad; I always do my best to give someone a helping hand whenever they may need it. I like to make sure that when I'm out with friends that everyone is comfortable and has a good time and most importantly that everyone stays safe. I'm known to be a very honest person I say things as how I see them.

The reason why I'm putting myself forward for Student Life President is because I feel I have a lot to offer the students of UL. Since I'm a first year student I have three more years in this University and I feel that it's better to make an impact early on in my time here rather than when I'm on my way out the door in fourth year. If I was to get elected and after my term finished I'd still be a student here, so me doing a good job not only would benefit me as a student but would benefit the entire student body as a whole. In my time here in UL I have met a lot of people from every background and each and every one has a different experience in UL, some good and some bad. I want to help make UL an amazing experience for everyone, as amazing as it been for me.

### **Bring back affordable craic**

As many of you may know drinking and nightlife is a very big portion of the life of a university student, especially in a place like Limerick City. As we are all aware, the government recently brought in minimum alcohol pricing and other global issues leading to an increase in prices for pints nationwide. Because of this, I am making a promise to try and introduce Happy Hour to a pub in and around Limerick. This would entail the price of the majority of pints being a maximum of €4 for the hour one day in the week. I feel as if this would help students who are under a lot of stress due to money issues because of the sky high prices of rent, and fuel, most students are working both part and full time jobs to cover the cost of all of it and they are not getting substantial pay raises to cover the inflation of products and services. I can also relate to this as like many students here, I am working part time to struggle paying for rent as well as fuel

for my car. So the idea of a happy hour will allow us to go out with our friends kick back and relax clear the mind of the stress of the world enjoy a nice cold delicious pint (or two) without having to worry about the cost of it.

## **Safety**

In order to have any craic whatsoever everyone involved needs to be safe throughout the night. In recent years cases of spiking drinks and other forms of drugging leading to sexual assaults, rapes and murders has been on the rise dramatically. This form of violence is predominantly against women and I'm sure most of you may know someone who has been spiked and drugged which may have caused them harm. This violence shouldn't be happening and no woman should feel unsafe at any time. This is why if I am elected I will be giving out free drink covers and testing kits. The drink covers will be a cloth like substance that has a hole for a straw and can be used to cover your drink and which will stop someone from slipping something into your drink. For far too long people have been living in fear of going out and finding themselves drugged and violated and it's about time we put a stop to it.

## **Car parking**

For those of you who drive you know the pain of trying to get parking spot on UL campus. The free parking car park is nearly always full and anytime you pull in you'll notice plenty of cars driving around the car park like fish in a lake in an attempt to find a parking spot. Eventually you will have to give up as you are probably late for a lecture or Lab and head across the road to the paid parking where if you plan on staying longer than an hour and a half it starts to get costly and you will have to consider getting a mortgage in order to pay for the parking. My solution to this issue is for UL not only to create more parking spaces around campus but to also lower and if possible remove parking fees altogether. I recently learned to my surprise that some student accommodation on campus doesn't even have a car park and students as well as paying thousands of euros each year for accommodation get sucker punched with the information that they have to park far away from accommodation or in some cases even pay for it. No student who pays thousands of euros for accommodation should have to pay for parking if their UL accommodation doesn't supply it.

## **Laundry**

Another complaint I've heard from many students is the price in the laundry in laundromats in on-campus accommodation. On average its €6 to wash and dry clothes and many students have to wash clothes more than once a week so the numbers start to pile up and once again it gets costly. For a finish some of us will have to out to the bank of the Shannon, throw our clothes in and beat them with a rock. Students aren't able to afford this madness. I plan to suggest lowering the laundry to €4 to wash and dry to make it more affordable to students.

### **Ethernet**

This problem mostly associates with off-campus accommodation. In many off-campus accommodations there is no Ethernet connection and instead the internet connection is very slow and very poor. Since I live in Groody I know all about the internet being fairly bad, it lags, it cuts out more times than I have had hot dinners, for a lot of students being online for a number of their modules it's hard to attend lectures and do work when the internet is just plain brutal. It's also especially bad for the gamers who need internet to play online. I myself do enjoy a bit of GTA 5 online every now and again which we all know has a long loading time and if I am buffering in a lobby due to the shoddy internet I will be waiting so long to play a game that when I finally do get on I'll probably have to go and collect my pension due to the time elapsed. My plan is to get Ethernet installed in all off-campus accommodations or at the very least quality high speed internet

### **Period products**

This particular problem I shouldn't even have to discuss because it should already be happening. Half the population are women and under no circumstances should they have to pay for pads or tampons but they are still getting charged and UL charge for these sanitary products in women's bathrooms and not exactly cheap either. We don't pay to use toilet paper in public bathrooms so pads and tampons shouldn't be any different. Period products aren't a luxury but a necessity. Many female friends of mine have been looking for this to happen and I feel that as I may possible be the next Student Life President, it will be my obligation to provide necessities to my fellow students regardless of their gender identity.

### **Conclusion**

After reading my manifesto, I hope you can see that my goals are student based in order to provide a better stay for all students no matter their gender identity, creed or nationality. I aim to make student life in the University of Limerick more enjoyable to all who decide to come to UL to further their academic career.

Thank you to all who read my manifesto, and I hope the points I have brought forward may encourage you to give me the opportunity to become the next Student Life President.

*Issued by Mark Hastings, Campaign Manager for Oisín Conway.*