

# Eoghan Halvey

4th year Bachelor of Arts

An Advocacy Officer who believes in a student-led approach to representation



Over my three years in MIC, I have been heavily involved in student representation, serving as a Class Representative and Union Council Chairperson. These experiences have given me a strong understanding of the issues students face and of the role MISU can play in supporting them. I am running for Advocacy Officer because I want to take that experience further and play a more direct role in helping students navigate and address those issues.

A big priority of mine would be making sure the student voice is always heard, but more importantly, that students have the appropriate channels for issues to be fed to the right committees and decision-makers. I hope that this would lead to hearing from student voices who may not have been involved with the Union before. I would also prioritise helping students with academic issues throughout the year. The cost of living crisis is a serious concern for many students, and I would love to gauge opinion on ways we can help students and continue to support campaigns such as the Student Assistance Fund and affordable food on campus. Parking has also been a concern for students in my 3 years involved in MISU and is an issue I would like to tackle.

The only way we can build relationships with students, surface priorities, support student-led campaigns, and ensure those who face barriers to participation are heard is by being proactive in reaching students from all walks of life in college. Participation should be accessible, providing different ways for students to contribute such as in person, online, anonymously or through the various representatives in the college. Commuter students often can't stay on campus after college for different events, so I would try to organise engagement opportunities through online methods and keep commuter students in mind when planning events, campaigns and activities.

My experience as a student representative has shown me the difference that effective advocacy can make. I want to bring that experience to the role of Part-Time Advocacy Officer and make sure students know who they can turn to, understand what options are available to them and, most importantly, know that their concerns will be followed up. I won't wait for students to come to me