

## **Candidate Statement – Nat Horan**

Hi everyone! My name is Nat Horan and I want to be your next MISU President.

My experience within the college over the past year has allowed me to get great insight into the issues that most affect students here at MIC, and also how to go about solving them. It is incredibly important to me that the student voice is at the forefront when decisions are being made by the college. I have fought for that this year, and I promise to do that again!

MISU will look a lot different moving into next year, and with that I think consistency and transparency is incredibly important. I promise to make sure that the focus remains on how MISU can best represent all of you, and that this new representation system works with you, in order to be able to work for you.

Here are some of the things I want to work on during my time in office:

### **Parking**

Parking is the most clear and consistent issue for students on both MIC campuses. There is a severe lack of space to accommodate the rise in commuter students. Limerick's current solution to this is the Park and Ride, but with how little students are actually availing of it, work clearly needs to be done. This is especially needed in the lead up to the construction of the new library building and how that may affect available space on campus. An alternative also needs to be put in place for Thurles, which has less space than Limerick already. I promise to raise every concern and work with the college to come to a solution that works the best for students.

### **Food Options**

If parking is the most prevalent issue, food options are most definitely a close second. With the current catering contract being as rigid as it is, major change is needed to make options actually suitable for students. From talking to students, affordability, variety, and accessibility is what you need. With MISU already collecting feedback and recommendations in regards to catering at the moment, I promise to ensure that this feedback is raised in every possible forum and truly taken into consideration for the future.

## **Welfare Supports**

Taking care of yourself is difficult when you have the struggles of college life to worry about. This could mean financial issues, physical & mental health issues, having to commute, and many more. I want to continue to be someone students can come to with these issues. I have been able to help a lot of students this past year, and being able to keep doing so would mean so much to me. This would include ensuring the continuation of all current supports, such as the Student Welfare Fund, Food Pantry & Food Parcel service, Grab & Go Breakfast packs, pregnancy tests, and hygiene kits, as well as working with students to see what new supports may be needed.

## **Limerick and Thurles**

Throughout the past year, one thing has been abundantly clear to me. The two campuses could not be more different. The needs of students in Limerick and Thurles are so distinct, and I think going into this role with that at the front of my mind is what gives me an edge for this position. Making sure that all students have access to all supports and information is extremely important, but it is not a one size fits all. It is about meeting students on each campus where they are at, and working with them in a way that suits them specifically. I promise to keep equal space for Limerick and Thurles in my role as President if I am elected.

Ultimately, I want to be your MISU President because I want to help you. I want to advocate for you in every way that I possibly can. If this past year has taught me anything, its that everyone needs someone to fight in their corner with them. Someone to support them, even if they are capable all by themselves. Let me continue to be that for you by voting me as your next MISU President. Thank you so much for reading and for your consideration.