



Mark Finn - Secretary

Candidate for election for the 333rd Session

Pro-Secretary 332nd Session

Hi there! My name's Mark and I'm delighted to announce I'm running to be your Secretary. Debating is something I absolutely love which is why I'm running to provide a range of interesting, divisive, entertaining and informative debates for 333.



Debates

At the age of 12 I started debating and I've never looked back. Debating is my passion, it's something I absolutely love. I have tremendously enjoyed seeing the Chamber full week in, week out and wish to continue that as Secretary.

I want to provide a range of motions. Some people never engage with the Phil except when one debate catches their attention. Providing a diverse term card means we can reach out to more people and ensure discussions that begin in the Chamber can echo throughout college.

What I'll do

- Provide good, balanced and interesting motions leading to strong debates on a diverse range of topics
- A mix of new, original motions, topical debates and classic debates
- I will engage with feedback from Phil Members, Council Members and Extraordinaries from this session to see what can be done to improve things next year
- Have floor speeches if, on the night, the audience appears eager (this would not necessarily happen every week)
- I would be willing to change debates around to ensure, if a topical issue comes up, it can be discussed

My Experience

- I have been **debating for nearly 9 years**, and have judged and spoken at different competitions across Europe. I have seen good and bad debates giving me **unparalleled experience** to know what makes for a Good Debate.
- As Pro-Secretary I always pushed for balanced and respectfully divisive debates
- I consistently worked hard, ensuring ORs were done on time, guestbook and guest attendance and consent to be recorded was done

For example:

- **I came up with the motion for Freshers Week which had the highest attendance all year and was described by a former President as 'best comedy debate they'd heard in years'**
- **I finalised the wording for the US Election Debate which was the Phil's Submission for Best Collaborative Event at CSC Awards**
- **I came up with the motion for the Pro-Sec Debate which has the highest sign-up number all year by a long-shot**

Student Speakers

The Chamber is an incredible platform for students and one I want to try and extend to as many students as possible. This year I consistently encouraged people to sign up, messaging people who I thought would like to - this is something I'll continue

What I'll do

- Ensure that there's a balance of speakers throughout the term
- Post the names of speakers on the Facebook page in advance to build momentum
- Provide training, workshops and support for speakers to make the Chamber more inclusive
- Promote sign-up so that more people can be reached out to

Women in the Chamber

Typically there is a lack of female sign-ups and lower average speaks given to female speakers. While this is part of systemic problem, I would enact certain policies as Secretary to mitigate this

1. Collaborating with Team DC and the VP to run **Women in Debating** events throughout the year
2. Ensuring balanced panels each week
3. Encouraging people, on an ongoing basis, to sign up and keeping an eye on people who may be interested
4. Making people aware of the observed biases
5. Running Feminist motions where it would be inappropriate to have men speaking



Phresher Involvement

This year I consistently pushed to have phreshers who signed up speak in the Chamber. I want break down the idea that the Chamber is

an intimidating place. My plans to do this are as follows

1. This year I wrote a debating guide which would be published by Freshers week (in collaboration with Team DC)
2. Running Public Speaking Events for people to learn and practice (this is something I did this year)
3. Encouraging people to sign up and ensuring Council do the same
4. Increased publicising of the debate sign-up sheets (departmental emails, post in multiple Facebook groups, society collaborations and so on)

Guests

Guests can truly add a unique perspective to a debate that would not come from student speakers. Furthermore they can build momentum prior to the debate. Although guests should be invited not for the sake of having a guest but because they will genuinely add to the debate in an incredible way.

What I'll do

-Continue to invite guests, always trying to find the best possible and most interesting one
-Working with Team Pres to see if any Hon Pats would or could speak in the Chamber

- **Never** think that a guest is too big to try inviting
- Trinity is something that appeals to guests (as seen by the Book of Kells attraction to Hon. Pats). I would work with the accommodation office and catering dept. to offer Rubrics and Commons to guests, if they were interested
- I would look into finding a deal with Dublin Taxi Companies for guests

My Experience

- Being on Team Sec means I that from last June to now for all of the debates I have spent time **finding guests, tracking down emails, calling agents, doing hotel collections** and **entertaining the guests** when at the Phil.

-My job with the Alumni Office literally involves selling Trinity. This is something that has translated into attracting guests

-I have worked with the the Trinity Economic Forum to invite guest to speak

-When I was 15 I secured politicians and High Court judges to attend the final of a competition I ran - I've had experience from a young age.

Collabs & Sponsorship

To make the Phil more accessible, collaborating with small societies allows us to reach out more. I will continue the work I did this year to collaborate with more societies, departments and to seek sponsorship for individual debates (so long as it doesn't take from the debate). This could be both financial and through gifts (e.g. the condoms at Freshers week).

I have connections with **TCDSU Welfare, SOFIA, Theo, TAF, Musical Theatre, TES, DUBES, Cancer Soc, TES, Food and Drink, French Soc, Meditation, Politics Soc** and **TEF** who are just some of the societies we can reach out to for collabs. I also have connections with **TN** and **UT** meaning we can get good coverage of the debates. Demonstrated by me supplying over half the CSC Ball tickets

SER

Being an Economic Student and being published in the SER this year puts me in a good position to continue the relationship the Phil has cultivated, ensuring the SER continues to be the success it currently is.

Stationary

I pledge to keep the stationary shelf well stocked so there's always pens for Hon. Pats, blue-tack for posters and so on.

Charity

The Phil is one of the most well funded societies on campus; we can afford to give back. I would like to introduce charity collections after some debates where appropriate (e.g. collections for Amnesty following the terrorism debate).

Schools

I would like to work with the Schools Convenor to bring back the winner of Phil Speaks getting to speak at a Chamber Debate. This was done a few years ago and could be such an incredible experience for the student.

Why Me

- 1) **I have the experience:** From debating, from guest invites I know what is needed to be a great Sec and have demonstrated this, this year.
- 2) **I will work hard:** I have always gone above and beyond the call of duty for the Phil, helping people with duties and subbing in at the last minute on multiple occasions. Furthermore this December I represented the Phil at Worlds whilst also studying for Schols demonstrating that I can work exceptionally hard.
- 3) **Thinking Big:** I have always thought of new ideas for the Phil to develop and will take that passion and creativity with me as Secretary. For example, I suggested the idea of the **Election Lock-In** at a meeting over the summer which was one of the Phil's most successful events this year
- 4) **Dealing with Pressure:** This year I often had to sort last minute speakers (and subbed in myself) when we had dropouts. At all times I was **always rational** and **constantly kept my cool in high pressure situations**
- 5) **Debating Experience:** Due to my debating experience I will be able to set good motions, ensure they are balanced and that they lead to the outstanding debates the Phil deserves
- 6) **Here for summer:** I plan to spend most of the summer in Dublin meaning I can dedicate lots of time to guest invites
- 7) **Good Relationships with guests:** From entertaining Hon. Pats, to talking to Hon. Mems and engaging with guest speakers, I have shown my ability to develop a good rapport with guests making their time at the Phil more enjoyable.
- 8) **Passion:** Most importantly, this is my passion. Debating is something I love and I have given so much of my time to. As this is something I love it is something I will work hard at.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read my Manifesto! I really hope you can vote for me on election day so that I can provide you with excellent Chamber debates week in, week out.

So long, for now.

Mark XO



