



**Name: TU Dublin SU Executive meeting**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Time: 3.30 p.m.**

**Via: Teams**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Mark O'Donnell</b>	<b>President, Chair</b>
	<b>Pádraic Keane</b>	<b>Deputy President BC</b>
	<b>Hamza Jamaa</b>	<b>VP Education CC</b>
	<b>Adam Clarke</b>	<b>VP Events CC</b>
	<b>Aoife Meagher</b>	<b>VP Welfare CC</b>
	<b>Séan Farrelly</b>	<b>VP Education TC</b>
	<b>Sean Delappe</b>	<b>VP Welfare &amp; Equality TC</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<b>Sinéad Lane</b>	<b>VP Welfare BC</b>
	<b>Lesley Barrett</b>	<b>Deputy President TC</b>
	<b>Fionn Collins</b>	<b>Deputy President CC</b>
<b>In attendance:</b>	<b>Lucy Malone</b>	<b>Student Advisor, Clerk</b>

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Minutes from the last meeting (29<sup>th</sup> November 2021) were approved.</li></ul>	Noted.
<b>2. Matters Arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A reminder to Officers from the President to be vigilant on campus ensuring mask wearing and health</li></ul>	Officers to keep an eye on mask-wearing.

	<p>guidelines are being adhered to. Officers were urged to go to their local common room at least once a day to monitor whether students are complying with the guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy President for Blanchardstown confirmed that the Blanchardstown Students' Union office door has been fixed.</li> <li>• Officers encouraged to send suggestions for SHAG Week to VP for Welfare in City Campus.</li> <li>• The Discord and WhatsApp proposal has been submitted Council. The decision was made that a broadcast list would not work. Before being added, members of the WhatsApp group would need to be made aware that it is an open list in which phone numbers, profile pictures and bios can be seen by all members. The Student Council Discord would be a private locked channel on the TUD SU Discord.</li> <li>• A reminder to Officers to put any annual leave or time off on their calendar. The President will be working on a new system for managing time in lieu.</li> </ul>	<p>Officers can suggest events for Shag Week.</p> <p>Officers put any leave/time off on their calendars.</p>
<p><b>3. Correspondence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No correspondence.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Student Recruitment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Rep recruitment: 50%- low. Officers asked to link in with their Part-time Officers to devise a plan to boost Class Rep recruitment.</li> <li>• School Rep recruitment: 40%- low</li> <li>• Student Council Recruitment: 64%- okay. However, Student Council meetings have been struggling to meet quorum.</li> <li>• Sabbaticals need to work on engagement with students and encourage them to get involved with the Students' Union. The referendum needs 3,000 student votes, the SU need to start developing relationships with students now to ensure we get enough votes.</li> <li>• Going into the next semester each member of the team must dedicate at least an hour a week to engaging with</li> </ul>	<p>Full-time Officers discuss recruitment with Part-time Officers.</p> <p>Officers dedicate one hour a week to</p>

	<p>students e.g., eating lunch in the canteen, class addresses, SU stands handing out condoms, pens, lollipops etc.</p>	<p>student engagement.</p>
<p><b>5. COVID-19</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of cases across TUD campuses are decreasing. Last week there were approximately 43 cases, this week they were down to 17.</li> <li>• Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science have allocated a €9 million fund for antigen tests for students (not staff). They are still in the process of figuring out the best way of distributing the fund. The antigen tests will not be available before Christmas, and it is currently unknown when they will be available in the second semester.</li> <li>• There are booster vaccines available to students going into clinical placements.</li> <li>• In person exams are going ahead. However, provisions are being made for online exams as a precaution for any last-minute changes to Government guideline. There is an issue in the recruitment of invigilators as many are retirees and in the over 60s vulnerable category.</li> <li>• Student's suggestions for challenging online exams were discussed as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Statement: The SU is limited in what they can achieve and an unsuccessful lobby may weaken our credibility. The university will simply say they are following guidelines and there is nothing from the CMO, NPHET or the Minister for Further and Higher Education to support our argument.</li> <li>2. Boycott: TUD SU will never jeopardize student's education.</li> <li>3. Protest: Gathering in-person to protest the danger of in-person exams does not make any sense.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• The Minister for Further and Higher Education has raised that students are falsely reporting the mismanagement of in-person examination centres. When inspected they were confirmed to be following guidelines.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The President advised that Officers direct any messages or emails regarding exams directly to senior members of the university including Mary Meaney, Ken Carrol, Jennifer Farrell, and Brian Bowe. Advise students to explain their personal worries or concerns. The more students that get involved and voice their concerns to the senior decision makers, the more weight added to the argument and likelihood that it will be acknowledged quicker.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6. Referendum</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The date of the referendum is set for the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2022.</li> <li>Voting will be online. Depending on public health restrictions there may be polling booths and canvassing on campus.</li> <li>Discussion regarding what incentives for voting could we provide to cater to online votes. Difficulties surrounding sending tea/coffee vouchers via email. Raffle last year voters weren't automatically entered into the raffle and officers agreed there was a lack of excitement surrounding the raffle. Officers were asked to send in ideas for incentives to the President. The President will work with Engagement Exec to strategize a plan for incentives.</li> <li>VP for Education in City Campus raised that students found last year's online election difficult to navigate and in turn gave up attempting to vote. The President assured that the referendum will be a yes or no option. Any concerns regarding the online voting system please email the President for discussion with Eve.</li> <li>President updated that focus groups due to be held from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2021. There will be a raffle for a €30 voucher as an incentive for participants in each focus group. The aim is to get feedback on the changes to officer structures.</li> <li>The Constitutional Working Group suggested that the overall positions in the proposed officer structure rotate through all three campuses during year</li> </ul>	<p>Officers send ideas for incentives to the President.</p> <p>Officers to email the President with any concerns about the online election.</p>

	<p>i.e., 1/3 of year in Tallaght, 1/3 of year in Blanchardstown and 1/3 of year in City. This suggestion will be posed to the focus groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Constitutional Working Group has proposed reducing the maximum period of term to two years total in any combination of sabbatical posts. Three years out from the college system and experience may cause a disconnect. Student Union are meant to be a students' perspective. TUD SU is an outlier with the three-year maximum term. The President requested that the Officers have a think about it over the Christmas and another discussion will be held in January. The Constitutional Working Group will process the feedback from officers and the focus group in the second semester before bringing it to the Student Council.</li> <li>• The President proposed a new process of managing quorum. An old method used by DIT SU was quorum was only checked if a member of council requested it be checked. If not checked, quorum would be assumed. There were mixed opinions on the proposal and the President confirmed he would seek further details and discuss further at a later date.</li> <li>• The Constitutional Working Group has proposed reducing Student Council meetings from seven to six. There is currently a struggle to get enough meetings into a semester and then complications when referendums must be voted for within one month from the decision of the Council. Additionally, the Constitutional Working Group are proposing to change this period to two months for flexibility.</li> <li>• The President is in the process of rearranging the Constitution document and tracking changes, so it is easier to see what is being proposed to be changed. Legal and HR advice is requiring for writing the impeachment process. Once the document is complete, it must be revised by the</li> </ul>	<p>Propose to the focus groups.</p> <p>Officers to think over Christmas break and discuss further in semester two.</p>
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	Chairperson for Student Council and a solicitor. Once revised, Officers will be asked to read the document and familiarize themselves with any changes.	
<b>7. Semester Two Campaigns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHAG week is planned on Valentine's Day week including a Shag Ball, a Drag Race and a quiz in Woolshed. Suggestions workshops and events are welcomed.</li> <li>• The President voiced his concern in relation to the chaos of semester two campaigns. He has urged Officers to get planning their campaigns early and be ready to go in January. A large portion of January will be taken up with forward planning for the referendum and elections. Communications will be very busy so get any requests in early.</li> <li>• The President is due to have a meeting with the Welfare and Equality Officers in regards to semester two campaigns on Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.</li> </ul>	<p>Officers send suggestions for Shag Week.</p> <p>Officers start planning semester two campaigns.</p>
<b>8. Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Discord and WhatsApp proposal has been submitted Council. The Deputy President's for City and Blanchardstown campuses are responsible for the organising of the Discord. There will be a TUD SU Discord with a private locked channel for Student Council.</li> <li>• WhatsApp groups were discussed from a GDPR perspective. Before being added, members of the WhatsApp group would need to be made aware that it is an open list in which phone numbers, profile pictures and bios can be seen by all members. Additional research on liability in the case of a WhatsApp GDPR breach must be conducted. The President will contact the CEO for further advice.</li> <li>• The proposal for a separate events and promotions Instagram account was discussed. There were contrasting opinions in relation to the proposal. The proposal will be discussed further at future date.</li> </ul>	<p>DP for City and Blanchardstown start working on official TUD SU Discord.</p> <p>President to discuss WhatsApp GDPR with CEO.</p>
<b>9. A.O.B.</b>	No other business.	

<b>10. Date of next meeting</b>	TBC	Clerk