



Minutes: TUDSU Student Council Meeting

Date: 9th December 2020

Time: 6pm

Platform: Zoom

Present:

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| Graham Hayes | Chairperson |
| Rebecca Gorman | President |
| Luke Daly | BC Deputy President and Education Officer |
| Pádraic Keane | BC VP Welfare and Equality |
| Moya Browne | CC Deputy President |
| Hamza Jamaa | CC VP Education |
| Mark O'Donnell | CC VP Events |
| Fionn Collins | CC VP Welfare |
| Lee Bennett | TC Deputy President |
| Lesley Barrett | TC VP Welfare and Equality |
| Sean Farrelly | TC VP Education |
| Eoin Dowling | BC Clubs & Socs Officer |
| Ellen McLoughlin | BC Entertainment Officer |
| Aine Kane | TC Communications Officer |
| Sophie Doolan | TC Clubs Officer |
| Eoin Carey | TC Entertainments Officer |
| Dylan Quigley | TC Societies Officer |
| Brian Jordan | Grangegorman Central Quad College Officer |
| Dylan Yearsley | Grangegorman East Quad College Officer |
| Blathnaid Longmore | Bolton Street College Officer |
| Remi Daczkowski | Aungier Street/BIMM College Officer |

In Attendance:

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| Saoirse McLave | Clerk to the Council |
| Megan O'Neill | USI Dublin Regional Officer |

The President thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and following this the meeting formally began.

| Minutes | Action Item |
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| Minutes on the meeting held on November 12th 2020 were proposed by Eoin Geoghegan and seconded by Padraic Keane. | Noted |
| Matters Arising | Action Item |
| No matters arising | |
| Correspondence | Action Item |
| No correspondence | |
| Hustings | Action Item |
| <p><u>Deputy Chairperson of Student Council:</u> There was an explanation of the role played by the Deputy Chair of Student Council, followed by candidates speaking and answering questions.</p> <p>Following the election, a ballot was sent to students with the following results: Eoin Geoghegan has been elected as Deputy Chairperson of Student Council.</p> <p><u>Electoral Commission Student Members:</u> There was an explanation of the role played by the Electoral Commission within the wider election process, and what was expected of Student Members. This was followed by candidates speaking. There were no questions.</p> <p>Following the election, a ballot was sent to students with the following results: Eoin Geoghegan and Jamie O'Neill have been elected as Student Member of the Electoral Commission.</p> <p><u>TUDSU CLG Student Members:</u> here was an explanation of the role played by the TUDSU CLG company within the Students Union, and what was expected of Student Members. This was followed by the candidate speaking. There were no questions.</p> <p>Following the election, a ballot was sent to students with the following results: Jamie O'Neill has been elected as Student Member of TUDSU CLG.</p> | |

| Standing Items | Action Item |
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| <p><u>USI Update:</u></p> <p>Megan O'Neill, the Dublin Region Officer for USI gave an update accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p>Megan gave an update on the Teaching Hero Awards, in which you nominate a staff member you feel has gone above and beyond for their students. There was also an update on Destress for Success, being launched from next week, which highlights how to successfully study from home, etc. She also encouraged students to join the Student Advisory Panels for groups such as mature students, and those of an ethnic minority.</p> <p>Migrant Minds Matter update: The campaign was launched 23rd November, and Megan gave update on how to help, such as donating money or contacting your TDs</p> <p>IBSA Campaign: Their is a live petition; if you would like to additionally help, you can contact TDs, and call for legislation surrounding it.</p> <p>Education For All: You can help by contacting your TDs, and send in stories of your personal barriers to education in order to be included.</p> <p>Megan also gave dates for upcoming events and campaigns: the mature students conference, Empower, Women in Lead, Power of Disability-dates and info can be found on the USI website.</p> <p><u>Covid-19:</u></p> <p>TU Dublin has, through the HEA, has offered to help with rollout of vaccine although it is not clear what this will entail. Health centres are still open and available to students, and in the New Year, discussions on congregation areas will take place in order to help alleviate student isolation as a result of Covid-19.</p> <p><u>SU Funding Agreement:</u></p> <p>The disagreement over funding remains unsolved, and there are several barriers, but the Union is optimistic a resolution will be reached soon. RG identified the obstacles to overcome; she gave an example of how comparison to other unions by the college is an issue when we don't have the same commercial revenue streams as these unions. At the moment, the Union wishes to hold off on taking this externally. There were no questions.</p> <p><u>TU Dublin:</u></p> <p>Due to an onslaught of work, there has been no response to emails. However, coming into next semester, students have been granted places in organizational design project boards, which is hugely important for student representation. There were no questions.</p> | |

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| <p><u>Campus Development:</u></p> <p>Moya Browne gave a Grangeorman update; so far all is going going well. KST is expected to be moved out by March 21st, with some classes relocating to AST. Lower House looks well. There were some questions on the relocation of CBST.</p> | |
| <p>Motions and Policies</p> | <p>Action Item</p> |
| <p><u>Lecture Recording During Pandemic</u></p> <p><u>Student Council Notes:</u></p> <p>That lecturers are not required to record any of their lectures.</p> <p><u>Student Council Further Notes:</u></p> <p>That many students face significant difficulties associated with virtual learning this year due to lecturers refusing to record sessions; students such as those that are hard of hearing, that are working significant hours, that have poor internet connections.</p> <p><u>Student Council Regrets:</u></p> <p>That refusing to record lectures is therefore disadvantaging students that are already disadvantaged in other ways; students with disabilities and students from low income areas.</p> <p><u>Student Council Also Regrets:</u></p> <p>That students are already facing immense difficulties this year during a pandemic, without lecturers making access to education even more challenging.</p> <p><u>Student Council therefore Mandates:</u></p> <p>That the VP for education lobbies academic council to make lecturers away of the benefits of recording lectures, the injustice of not recording lectures, and support policies that encourage lecturers to comply with these requests during the ongoing pandemic. Updates should be given by the second council of the second semester this year.</p> <p>Brian Jordan spoke, Aoife Meagher seconded, Remi Daczkowski spoke in favour, formal summation.</p> <p><u>Comprehensive Student Council Handbook</u></p> <p><u>Student Council Notes:</u></p> <p>That the current student council handbook available online is outdated and lacking in certain relevant points of information.</p> <p><u>Student Council Further Notes:</u></p> <p>That the current student handbook available on the TUDSU website has many issues, including but not limited to: 1) Having 'DIT' written everywhere 2) Having presumably unused topics such as 'college fora' present 3) Having outdated information regarding motion writing 4) Lacking information/clear instructions regarding how to carry out council actions such as discussing motions that were</p> | |

never completed, removing motions from the motions manual and altering motions that have already been passed.

Student Council Acknowledges:

That the workings of student council can be difficult to understand, even for experienced councillors.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That the Deputy Presidents (or relevant officers) from each campus create an updated version of the student council handbook, rectifying all of the issues mentioned above where possible.

Student Council Further Mandates:

That the updated student council handbook replaces the previous version online, be circulated to all elected members of council, and that all sabbaticals be knowledgeable of its contents. This should be completed by the first council of the second semester.

Brian Jordan spoke, no other speakers, formal summation.

Student Isolation during Covid-19 Pandemic

Student Council Notes:

That a large volume of students in first year are reporting difficulty getting to know other students in their course due to the challenges of online learning this year.

Student Council Further Notes:

That feelings of isolation and loneliness can contribute to poor mental health and contribute to student drop-out rates in university.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That the VP's for Education and Deputy President and Education Officer in each campus lobby academic council regarding the possibility of lecturer/tutor-organised ice-breaker sessions for first year students this year. These brief-sessions could be integrated into lecturing hours (e.g. immediately after finishing a lecture) and lecturers/tutors could encourage students to exchange social media information, set up group-chats, as well as join student union and society pages.

Student Council further Mandates:

That the VP's for education in each campus work with College Officers and school reps to conduct a survey(s) regarding these issues in order to 1) get feedback on what first years would like and 2) to gauge success of these measures. These sessions and survey(s) should be distributed at class rep meetings where relevant and completed by the second student council of the second semester.

Brian Jordan presented the motion. Aoife Meagher spoke in favour, Rebecca Gorman requested a minor wording amendment which was granted. Summation

Passed

Passed

+The abolishment of discriminatory blood donation deferral period

Council notes:

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) needs 3,000 donations a week to supply 71 hospitals nationwide. Regular blood donations by a sufficient number of healthy people are needed to ensure that a supply of blood will be available whenever and wherever it is needed.

Council acknowledges:

The testing conducted on blood donations is an RNA test with a window of 10 days, in contrast to antigen tests which would be longer. This, combined with individualised risk assessment, ensures the safety of all donations for recipients.

Council further notes:

The lifetime ban on gay men donating blood to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) was lifted in January 2017 and replaced with a 12 month abstinence deferral period which means that Gay and Bisexual Men and other Men who have had sex with Men within the preceding 12 months are still prevented from donating blood even if they meet all other blood donor selection criteria.

Council believes:

Eligibility decided on sexual orientation is extremely discriminatory and no one should be prevented from donating blood based on their sexuality. Testing of donations and individualised risk assessment, well established as sufficient to ensure safety from heterosexual donors, should be applied across the board.

Council therefore mandates:

The VP's for Welfare and Equality to also run an information campaign around the ban. Also the VPs for Welfare to campaign with USI for the abolishment of this deferral period to ensure that everyone who meets best practise eligibility criteria will be eligible to donate blood in Ireland.

Fionn Collins presented the motion. Jamie O Neill spoke for, question from Remi Daczowski, Robert Brennan Bell spoke for, Luke Daly spoke for, question from Eoin Carey asked, Mark O'Donnell spoke in favour, summation.

Motion: De-platforming & Rejecting Fascism

Student Council Notes:

Passed

Fascism is a form of far-right authoritarian ultranationalism characterised by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition, and strong regimentation of society and of the economy.

Student Council Believes:

That no student or citizen should live in fear and that freedom of expression is a core fundamental right of all citizens, does not morally permit somebody to actively oppress another.

Student Council Believes:

That TU Dublin Students' Union must fight for freedom for all students, meaning de-platforming harmful, oppressive, forceful, and/or violent acts that may hurt, intimidate, or actively oppress students. Affording racists and fascists a platform helps them in their search for credibility to promote their message of hate, which in turn can lead to violence against those that they target.

Student Council Therefore Mandates:

That TU Dublin Students' Union Executive actively de-platforms and challenges the rise of fascism and to engage in the rejection of this, whilst acknowledging differences on the political spectrum through supporting USI's Le Chéile campaign and other methods.

Student Council Further Mandates:

That TU Dublin Students' Union to reject any forms of fascism and counter-protest in a situation where fascism in any form arrives at any campus of TU Dublin through peaceful means, where it is safe, as directed by the executive and/or council's direction.

Luke Daly proposed, no speaker for or against, formal summation.

Policy: Supporting Students in Sex Work

Sex Work refers to but is not limited to; escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcamming, adult modeling, phone sex, and selling sex. Austerity and services and support cuts have led to an increased risk level with

Passed

engaging in this work and that online platforms such as OnlyFans have led to an increase in accessibility to sex work, but without correct supports. This can lead to instances of abuse.

Current legislation in Ireland has increased the risks of engaging in sex work, with Gardaí targeting sex workers and criminalising them. Sex Work is not a “bad” thing to engage with and that anyone who chooses to engage in Sex Work should be supported, with particular care to marginalised / minority communities that trend higher in sex work. Sex work is work and should be treated as such.

To support students who are sex workers, this policy’s intent is to achieve that by:

the Students’ Union supports and campaigns for the full decriminalization of sex work and to support sex worker-led organizations such as the Sex Workers Alliance of Ireland.

That the Students’ Union campaign against any attempted regression of rights for those who engage in sex work and to support and signpost effectively and meaningfully any student sex workers that may be outed, targeted, faced with prejudice, harassment, or discrimination as a result of their status as sex workers.

That the Students’ Union lobby for a framework that is designed to allow anyone engaging in sex work engage in the industry safely, without fear of persecution, blackmail, or coercion.

Luke Daly proposed, no speaker for or against, formal summation.

Passed

Policy: Stand Against Image-Based Sexual Abuse & Revenge Porn

CW: Image-Based Sexual Abuse, Rape, Coercion, Abuse

Student Council Notes:

Image-Based Sexual Abuse is the non-consensual sharing of private or personal images that may be of a sexual nature. Revenge Porn is the sharing of media online used to coerce, abuse, or intimidate somebody, often done anonymously.

Student Council Notes with Concern:

Image-Based Sexual Abuse (often shortened to IBSA) is not just a hot-topic issue. This is an issue that has consistently shown gaps in legislation, which allows perpetrators to emerge scot-free. Women are primarily affected by this, and the lack of any routes to support and justice for them contributes to misogyny, rape culture, and victim-blaming in Irish society.

Student Council Believes:

That IBSA and Revenge Porn is unacceptable and feeds into a larger conversation around bodily autonomy, respect for privacy, how we treat women (or anyone affected by this) in society and gender-based violence.

Student Council Recognizes and Applauds:

Activists and Organizations such as Linda Hayden (Victim's Alliance), Dublin Rape Crisis Center, TENI, Women's Aid, Men's Aid, EndIBSAIreland, and endless more for their endless work to support those affected by IBSA and Revenge Porn.

Therefore Student Council Mandates:

TU Dublin Students' Union Executive to lobby for real, meaningful, and working legislative change to be enacted to make IBSA and Revenge Porn a criminal offense but to also lobby for supports for students affected by perpetrators.

Student Council Further Mandates:

To run an information campaign for staff and students to inform around issues such as gender-based violence, desensitisation, IBSA, de-platforming, and more.

Luke Daly proposal, Shauna O'Toole spoke for, Aine Kane spoke for, summation by Luke.

Trans Health Care

Student Council Condemns:

The current prolonged waiting lists that trans* people face in accessing the National Gender Service for a first referral; recent figures indicate that waiting time is now 3 years+.

Medically transitioning is a large portion of a transition for some trans* and nonbinary people. Many of those trans* people seeking alternative ways of finding treatment abroad privately or illegally, leaving them in debt for medical bills on top of their current expenses as students. Many of these trans* students facing stigma, discrimination and isolation during their life on top of the stress of college and day to day life as a student.

Student council further notes:

The rise in discussion recently around trans* rights and healthcare within the media and the neglect of trans* students access to healthcare in Ireland.

Passed

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| <p><u>Student Council commends:</u> The work of the 'This Is Me Campaign', a grassroots campaign demanding adequate, safe and best practice access to quality healthcare for all transgender and non binary people in Ireland.</p> <p><u>Student Council mandates:</u> The VPs for Welfare & Equality to conduct an information campaign to raise awareness of trans* healthcare issues and work in conjunction with the Union of Student's Ireland (USI) to improve the access and quality of healthcare access for young trans* people in Ireland.</p> <p>Fionn Collins spoke, Robert Brennan Bell spoke, formal summation.</p> | Passed |
| Discussion Items | Action Item |
| None submitted. | |
| Questions for Part-Time Officers | Action Item |
| <p>None submitted. No reports requested from City Campus College Officers due to short time and workload reduced due to lack of access to campus. No objections to this from council.</p> <p>Aine Kane highlighted RAG within her report.</p> | |
| Sabbatical Officer Reports | Action Item |
| <p>TC Vice President for Welfare and Equality: Report taken as read. Highlighted the interculturalism group they attended. No questions.</p> <p>TC Vice President for Education: Report Taken as read. Highlighted Academic Council Working Group. Question on use of social media to contact officers.</p> <p>TC Deputy President: Report taken as read. Highlighted NStEP training and the Class Rep Facebook page. No questions</p> <p>BC Vice President for Welfare and Equality: Report taken as read. Highlighted developments in Blanchardstown.</p> <p>BC Deputy President and Education Officer: Report taken as read. Highlighted Pink Training.</p> <p>CC Vice President Events&Engagement: Report taken as read. Highlighted RAG. Questions re. How to take part.</p> <p>CC Vice President Welfare&Equality: Report taken as read. Highlighted pink training.</p> <p>CC Vice President Education: Report taken as read. Highlighted Class Rep survey and engagement.</p> <p>CC Deputy President: Report taken as read. Highlighted Class Rep recruitment and welcomed the new College Officers, as well as mentioning RAG. No questions.</p> | |

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| President: Report taken as read. Highlights working groups and thanks those who submitted motions. No questions. | |
| Any Other Business | Action Item |
| <p>Luke Daly wished to thank the President on all their work this year.</p> <p>Lesley spoke on IBSA, and a photo was taken of Student Council Members in support of the campaign.</p> <p>The Chair requested that a feedback form be sent to councillors.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> <p>Form to be circulated with minutes.</p> |
| Time Meeting Concluded: 8.30pm | |
| Date of next meeting: | |