



Representation Team
Student Council
Correspondence
10.11.2023

From: TU Dublin SU President

Re: Accountability Updates

Dear Student Council,

At Student Council, on the 18th April 2023, the President was actioned with reviewing methods of improving accountability structures within the Elected Officership. This was welcomed by the Union Executive, and at Council, on the 26th October, a brief verbal update was provided. This correspondence includes the verbal updates provided, as well as additional recommendations/proposals, for final consideration of the Student Council.

Actions / Recommendations

1. The reporting structure within the Executive has been formalised i.e. several 'sub-committees' have been established (e.g. Academic Affairs, Events & Fundraising, etc) who provide a weekly 'memo' (including items for noting/discussion/approval) to the 'Executive' (Full-Time Officers) for review at a Weekly Executive Meeting.
2. The 'Weekly Executive Meeting' is clerked by a staff member from the Academic Affairs & Representation Team, who then publishes the minutes onto the website weekly. This ensures an accurate, unbiased and timely reflection of the meeting.
3. A 'Motion and Policy Tracker' has been developed and is circulated along with other Council documentation before each meeting; this tracker is also reviewed by the Executive following each Council, and prior to documentation circulation, to ensure it is up-to-date. This allows Councillors to more easily keep track of whether Officers are completing mandates, and if not, what barriers exist.
4. The Union, in order to receive feedback on all major campaigns, events, and activities, is looking to conduct regular surveys with our Councillors as a consistent 'focus group'. This feedback will be collated by a staff member and presented to Council, allowing Councillors to evaluate whether there are work areas for improvement, and ultimately, will close the feedback loop.
5. The Executive, in order to better communicate, will refrain from taking their report as read, and will instead always aim to discuss (succinctly) key updates as given in their Officer reports.
6. The President, in order to empower Councillors, will seek to amend Schedule F ('standing orders'), to make Officer Reports 'for approval' i.e. students must either approve or reject an Officer report). If the report is rejected on two occasions, then this will automatically trigger the impeachment process (i.e. release of a petition as per Article 17).

Summary

This brief review should hopefully satisfy the request for improved accountability within the Union Executive, and while it is not for 'approval', I would be happy to discuss these recommendations in further detail and have Council formally note their acceptance.

Best,

Brian Jordan

President of TU Dublin SU