



MINUTES

TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting

Date: 26th October 2023

Time: 6pm

Location: Grangegorman, East Quad, Room EQ-002

Present:

Chairperson (Acting)	Jamie O'Neill
President	Brian Jordan
Vice President - Comms & Media, Deputy President	Louise Kavanagh
Vice President – Welfare & Equality	Nekesa Khisa Nancy
Vice President – Academic Affairs	Shauna O'Toole
Blanchardstown Campus Vice President	Jeremy Lawler
City Campus Vice President	Peter McCann
Tallaght Campus Vice President	Sheran Bahadir
International Student Officer	Marco Nocerino
Ethnic Diversity Officer	John Benedict Divinagracia
Mature Student Officer	Roberto Leahy
Gaeilge Officer	Eadaoin O Snodaigh
LGBTQ+ Rights Officer	Samantha Corcoran
Disabilities Officer	Ciara McKenna

In Attendance:

Clerk to the Council	Liam Cosgrove
Minute Taker	Trish Cullen
Union of Student in Ireland (USI)	Nathan Murphy
General Manager	Mary Scally
Services & Events Executive	John Alinas



- Welcome, Quorum and Adoption of Agenda – Jamie introduced themselves and welcomed the councillors to the meeting, councillors voted for Jamie to chair the meeting. They asked if there were any members of the press present, there were none.
- Adoption of Standing Orders

1. Matters arising	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability Update – The President gave an update since the last student council in April; weekly exec minutes are now put up online and a slight change to officer reports is under discussion. 	
2. Correspondence	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Deputy President of TU Dublin SU – Brian Jordan wrote to student council to inform them of the assignment of the position of Deputy President. The role of the Deputy president is to act in the best interests of the Union, on behalf of the President, should they be incapable of carrying out their duties for any number of reasons. He assigned Louise Kavanagh, Vice President for Communications & Media as Deputy President of the TU Students Union for the academic year 23/24. • Correspondence from Richard Hammond SC (Solicitor / Legal Advice) – this was sought for changes made to the constitution, this is in relation to the two motions to come up under ‘Motions and Policies’. • Letter of Resignation – LGBTQ+ officer resigned effective 27th of October. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
3. Elections	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair announced that nominations are opening for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Electoral Commission members (4 Seats) The Chair explained the position to the counsellors present. Any student can go for this position. II. Student members of TU Dublin SU CLG (5 Seats) This is a good insight into the official way how things are done in the union. There is only 1 meeting per year. III. Deputy Chair of Student Council (1 Position) If the chair cannot make meeting, the deputy chair will chair this meeting. Application forms will be emailed to counsellors 	<p>Councillors encouraged to run for the open positions.</p>



<p>tomorrow, these positions are open to all student councillors.</p> <p>IV. Sustainability Officer (1 Position)</p> <p>V. LGBTQ+ Rights Officer (1 Position)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are encouraged to go for these positions. Nomination forms are published on TU Dublin SU website and hustings take place in the next Student council meeting. Students for these positions are elected by Student Council 	<p>Voting taking place online</p>
<p>4. Motions and Policies</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement Officer (Amended) – This motion is coming back to be voted on since we have gotten legal advice on this. This motion was put in last April, we had to get legal advice – Lousie, Brian said why they are for this motion. – This is a Part time officer Role – Majority of student councillors in favour of this motion, Motion Passed Paying PTOs (Amended) – The President proposed a 9d, as this cannot be passed just yet, it will be ready for the next Student Council meeting. – The 9d passed and the item has moved to the next council. Exam Results – Motion – Marco proposed this motion for international students, if exam results are not issued on time, international students can find themselves in the country illegally, getting results as early as possible is important to international Students. – 9C Samantha Corcoran not against the first-time part of this, she feels the part time officer should not be mandated in this. Majority for 9C, 9C has carried. Laura Kidd Mc Entee - Speaker for motion, due to having dealt with a student who was very stressed because they could not renew their visa due to exam results coming out late. Nekesa – Speaker for the motion – Said how international students cannot get pps number, Nekasa has been speaking with the international office, Nekesa feels that issues should go through the international office before student Services. 9C – Proposal to add in the welfare officer. To include Part time office to this mandate To remove last line. Vote on the motion to pass as amended. PHD Stipend Policy – This policy came from a PHD student, 9C – Dominique city campus – wants to add additional officers to help PG Officer, International Officer, Placement Officer. Shauna spoke against this 9C. Motion passed unamended. 	<p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>9C has carried.</p> <p>9C has carried.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>9C Fell.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israeli-Palestinian ‘Conflict’- Brian proposed motion - Israeli-Palestinian ‘Conflict’ Policy unanimously passed by TU Dublin Students’ Union Student Council. <p>The Israeli-Palestinian ‘Conflict’ policy acknowledges the horrific humanitarian crisis and profound suffering of Palestinian people because of the ‘ongoing occupation’ of Palestine, as well as the increasing number of ‘alleged’ war crimes committed by the Israeli army’s government.</p> <p>The policy commits the Students’ Union to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people, who believe that what has unfolded over the past few weeks amounts to ‘attempts at genocide and ethnic cleansing’. The Students’ Union acknowledged that individual Israeli citizens do not necessarily support the actions, policies, or goals of their government, however, the action sanctioned by the Israeli Government needs to be condemned.</p> <p>Points of clarification no. 7 are there any plans in place – Not until motion is passed.</p> <p>Motion was sent around for feedback, societies were happy to endorse this, got plenty of feedback.</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>5. Standing Items</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USI Update (VP Dublin) Nathan Murphy, USI Dublin Regional Officer gave an introduction to Union of Students in Ireland (USI) which is the national representative body for most undergraduate and postgraduate students in Ireland. He explained the role and encouraged all students to engage with USI. He encouraged students to reach out to USI Officers, attend events and trainings (e.g., Pink Training, which takes place 19th November in Galway. He told Councillors’ what they are working on the moment. <p>Dominique asked if pink training is open to all students, Brian answered this telling Dominique that yes, it is open to all students. Ciara Disability officer asked about green paper released by government, Ciaran advised to email James who is VP equality and citizenship officer.</p> <p>Looking for student to join national campaigns, e.g., of campaigns, last years walk out campaign.</p> <p>Marco Tallaght is it voluntary or paid position, answer voluntary.</p> <p>Meetings for USI take place every 2 weeks and most meetings are online.</p> <p>TU Dublin Update – TU Dublin deficit of 10 million, they are not bankrupt. We are in a better position; our funding is secure.</p>	



Dominique asked if the government reduction in student contribution affects the unions funding. Answer to this is no because the government covers this.

Alex from BST, asked where students can access financial reports, answer is to keep an eye on the HEA website.

Dominique GG – Asked about funding received for Erasmus students.

- **Campus Development Update (Campus Vice Presidents)**

Tallaght – Sports centre is now open. Canteen is now serving vegan food, as well as lactose intolerance food. And celiac friendly food
Marco asked about canteen free vouchers, the SU are waiting to get all campuses on board before they advertise this.

Alex asked, if these are available in all campuses and could it be addressed more for 1st years during orientations next year.

- **Blanch** – New Furniture has arrived in Blanch and a study Hub, as well as 2 new microwaves. Also met with canteens, about issues in canteen but this is outlined in officer report. John asked about the wheelchair accessibility development, they are looking to make wheelchair lifts to become open access rather than lifts.

- **City Campus** – AST has received new Study Pods; Seating has been moved downstairs. Multi Faith room has been repaired. A new Coffee Machine to go into BST common room, this will be located beside the vending machine. Water fountains have finally been fixed. All couches have been recovered and made fire safe. GG new seating has been put in, this however is inadequate and there are not enough. In EQ, sitting was removed and put back again. BST Bike Storage and Lockers to be replaced and put on a new floor. In BST the pool tables have been repaired and updated. A lot of changes to happen in BST. Peter met with Sodexo who are going to provide vouchers for students in need of food. The microwave in Bradogue is missing a socket. Linen Hall a lot of work to be done there. Lift in BST to be retired, there are 2 other lifts in the building, this was only a goods lift.

Alex BST – Asked about the Elevator, is this the elevator beside the canteen, will anything happen to the stairway when removed. Alex also pointed out that the Paint is already chipping on wall that was painted 2 weeks ago. Peter to discuss issues with building manager. There is a sign on the new pods saying not in use at the moment, this is because they are adding power so these should be open soon
Corwyn - BST – Asked about getting a sensory room. Also asked if a BST student can use GG or any other campus sensory rooms. Yes, students can use sensory rooms in other campuses.

Ciara, the pods in GG are disgusting they need to be cleaned and the screen in one of them is shattered.



<p>Canteen 40c charge for lunch box container. Roberto BST, the comprehensive list that has been done for BST this now complete or do we need to add to it. Peter said LH list needs to be more comprehensive. Asked about motions regarding Aramark that have fallen. Currently we are working with Aramark to look after students, they are giving vouchers etc, it is different on every campus. Tender is not for another 3 years; we are taking a stance against the college rather than the catering companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Rep Recruitment (VP AA) Shauna O’Toole, Advised Student Councillors on Class Rep number. And said how we are currently in phase 2 of electing class reps. Dominique: seems to be confusion with students, who are saying they have not gotten emails or have not heard about the position. Marco: Q - a lot of times when they went to elected class reps the class rep was already elected. Will there be more organisation going forward? When PTO were helping electing Class Reps, they were given classes but not the names of class reps who were nominated. Dominique: Q - BIMM and Linen Hall, where are these? they are part of AST and BST. John Blanchardstown: Q - would there be a way to get information on class reps automated or online? answer, no, because we do not have a data sharing agreement with the University yet. 	
6. Discussion items	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Work Plan – The Chair explained what the workplan is and this would have been shared with student council. Marco – Culture week has been assigned to welfare officer, PTO doing the work, PTO to added to the workplan, can ask if this can be adjusted? Dominique – some of the dates are dd/mm others are mm/dd, they are very mix matched. There is no mention of events in EQ – Note clerical stuff to be cleared up. And locations not to be specified, Brian to investigate this. • Postgraduation By-Election – We are having by elections in November PG Elections, we have 2 candidates running, it is a one-day election on the 8th of Nov, count to take place 9th Nov count. Dominique said PG coming into TUDSU+ who claim they have not heard about the elections. James (EQ) noted that he felt it was very well advertised. 	Noted
7. Questions for Part-Time Officers	
	Action item



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality - absent • ACCESS - absent • Ethnic Diversity - The officer gave an extensive update on their work and the President thanked them for their hard work and for attending a recent HEA Event. • Mature Student – Main issue we have at the moment is identifying mature students and so this is the focus for the first semester. • International Student – Marco very happy with all the events that took place. International student fees, question asked if the reduction to fees announced in the budget applies to international students, this depends on where the student is from, if they are EU they can apply for SUSI. For international students scholarships are available. Brian thanks Marco for his outstanding work done so far. • Gaelic – Le comhoibriú idir Aontas na Mac Léinn agus an Ollscoil, is féidir le mic léinn anois ar fud na hOllscoile an síneadh fada a fháil ar a gcuid cártaí mac léinn. Más mian leat rochtain a fháil ar an tseribhís seo tabhair cuairt ar Mhol na Mac Léinn OT Baile Átha Cliath ar do champas. Students across the University can now get the síneadh fada (accent) on their student card following on from collaboration between the Students Union and the University. If you wish to avail of this service, please visit the TU Dublin Student Hub on your campus. The President thanked her for her hard work. • Disabilities – Ciara hasn't a report in, she hasn't had much free time because she is in 4th year, she is currently working on a report with the government, if you are on the lower tier of disability payment you are expected to work. There are 3 tiers, if you know of any students who are on disability allowance can you please put them in touch with Ciara. 	
<p>8. Questions for Full-Time Officers</p>	<p>Action item</p>



- **Brian Jordan – President** - Brian thanked staff and all elected officers, took report as read and asked for any questions.
- **Louise Kavanagh – Vice President for Communications & Media, Deputy President** – James GG is the chair of the only political society, and asked if you are you allowed to share events because they are a political society. This changes every year; the union is not political, but we will have this conversation. Louise - Thanked Brian for everything he has done up to date, he has gone over and beyond in his role.
- **Nekesa Khisa Nancy – Vice President for Welfare & Equality** – Marco asked why no events was there ran in Tallaght for Black History Month, there was one held in the library. Nekesa said that the African society in Tallaght never got back to her to arrange anything for Tallaght. Next Semester there will be more events for Tallaght and Blanch, Brian apologies on behalf of the union. Prayer rooms, what is happening here, what is the update with prayer rooms, AST done, GG ongoing, Tallaght Sheran has been doing a great job with chaplaincy to get bigger room and Jeremy also for Blanch both Blanch and Tallaght have small rooms.
- **Shauna O’Toole – Vice President for Academic Affairs** – questions raised regarding engineering students about CAs and exams at 40%, Shauna to investigate.
- **Ian Kelly – Vice President for Events and Engagement** – Brian took the opportunity to give a big thanks to Ian for all the work completed during the past few months.
- **Jeremy Lawler – Blanchardstown Campus Vice President** - Officer Report not submitted on time due to illness. Jeremy spoke about transport issues in Blanch she has contacted the ITA, meet with Jack chamber to talk about ongoing issues with transport. They are looking to do serious action to improve the transport in around the Blanchardstown campus.
Jeremy attended Erasmus and Mature student breakfasts both were lovely, they did Erasmus, access, and apprentices’ orientations.
No Questions asked.
- **Peter McCann – City Campus Vice President** – Peter took his report as read. No questions for Peter



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheran Bahadir – Tallaght Campus Vice President - Marco asked about Tallaght Campus Freshers week, Marco noted that he was not mentioned for helping running any events. Pool event was mentioned as happened, but did not happen, the event was cancelled as there was no key for pool tables. A lot of events in Tallaght did not happen because students did not know about them due to the of lack of communication. Posters were not put up or communicated to students. Sheran said how Ian asked her to help in GG with Taylor Swift event this is why she was not available on campus. Marco also noted that the Candy floss and popcorn was a disaster, this should have started in the morning and not when students arrived for the event because it took so long to make the popcorn and Candyfloss. 	
<p>9. Reports from any other bodies</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aide Memoires – Board of TU Dublin US CLG – these have been circulated, the chair urged councillors to read. • Aide Memoires and Election documents – Electoral Commission • List of falling motions and policies – Dominique has asked to bring back 2 policies. It was noted the Exec would be working on bringing these back. • National Council Report (Deputy President) USI did not submit reports on time. • Louise noted that the SU are holding USI accountable for not giving them enough time to organise campaigns, Workplans have not been submitted on time. • National council happening in Grangegorman on the 2nd and 3rd of November 2023. All PTO's and Councillors welcome to attend if available. 	<p>Noted</p>
<p>10. Any other business</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other business 	
<p>11. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Action item</p>



- Thursday 16th November 2023 – Tallaght Campus 6pm

Clerk to send invite.