

## **Access Student Awareness Campaign**

**Student Council Notes:** Many Students and Staff do not know what an Access Student is or how to appropriately engage with them. An Access Student is a Student that has come into university by HEAR, DARE, and TU Dublin's Access Foundation Programme among other programs. Access Students often feel disjointed by an already elitist nature perpetrated by many third-level institutes.

**Student Council further Notes:** That despite many Access voices coming into the mainstream and the Minister for Further Education making attempts to close the divide access students often still feel stigmatised and othered. This feeling of being othered, shamed and stigma could be the turning point for some students dropping out in the earliest part of their college experience due to not feeling included in university life. Many Access Students will never engage with the Access Service and will often hide that they are Access Students due to the stigma. Many Access Students that are open about it are often met with negative, uninformed comments and this can be debilitating to their mental wellbeing.

**Student Council further Notes:** Although much work is being done locally in Tu Dublin by the TU Dublin Access Service this needs to be something the TU Dublin community come together on. Much like what we do with other marginalised groups.

**Student Council Mandates:** That an awareness campaign be ran about Access Students dispel myths about access students and to help them feel seen and represented by their union and the TU Dublin community. This is to be done as a collaboration between the VP for Academic Affairs and the VP for Welfare and Equality. This motion will take effect in semester 2 of this academic year and remain in place in til the end of 24/25 academic year.

Proposed by : Shauna O' Toole

Seconded by: Brian Jordan