**USI Affiliation Referendum**

**Student Council Notes:**

USI (Union of Students in Ireland) is the national representative body for approximately 374,000 students in higher education on the Island of Ireland; TU Dublin SU is currently a member organisation within USI, alongside the majority of other HEI’s.

**Student Council further Notes:**

The majority of other MO’s (member organisations) within USI hold standard ‘Affiliation Referenda’ every three academic years; this is to ensure USI continues to represent the needs of local students within these MO’s effectively, given the significant amount paid by each MO annually (e.g. TU Dublin SU pays approximately 120,000 euro per year).

**Student Council believes That:**

Holding referenda on topical areas such as USI will cultivate widespread interest amongst students, and serve as an excellent exposure exercise for both TU Dublin SU, as well as USI.

**Student Council further believes That:**

Holding an Affiliation Referendum on USI (i.e. a referendum on whether to remain in USI or leave) will allow the general student population to feel more directly involved in the actions of the Union, and give them a greater desire to engage (or disengage) from future USI actions (i.e. increase the currently low turnout at USI protests).

**Student Council therefore Mandates:**

TU Dublin Students’ Union to trigger a referendum on its membership status within USI (i.e. students will vote to ‘remain’ in USI or ‘leave’).

**Student Council further Mandates:**

The following areas of the Constitution will (if a majority of students vote to ‘leave’ USI) be removed in their entirety (i.e. the removal of USI from all Articles & Schedules):

*Article 7.1.4. The President shall be the principal delegate and spokesperson to the National Council and Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland.*

*Article 7.2.4. The Full-Time Officers shall be delegates to the Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland.*

*Article 12.3. The Union shall be a member organisation of the Union of Students in Ireland. The President shall report to the Student Council and the Executive on the interaction between the Union of Students in Ireland and the Union, on a regular basis as agreed by the Executive.*

*Article 12.4. All persons seeking support for election to Full-Time offices with the Union of Students in Ireland may address a meeting of the Student Council who shall, following a secret ballot, bind and mandate the Union’s delegation to the Annual Congress or other electing convention to vote for candidates only of the Council’s choosing.*

*Article 12.5.* *All Union delegates to the Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland shall be selected to attend by the Executive, and noted by the Council, save where otherwise prescribed by this Constitution. The Executive shall regulate the terms and conditions pertaining to all Union delegates attending.*

*Schedule E, 1.5. The President shall be the principal delegate and spokesperson to the National Council and Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland.*

*Schedule E, 2.4.* *Vice Presidents shall be delegates to the Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland.*

*Schedule E, 3.5. The Postgraduate Officer shall have first refusal to attend the Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland.*

*Schedule F, Appendix One, 8. USI*

**Proposed by:** TU Dublin SU Executive