**Minutes:** TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting 2

**Date: 16 November 2023**

**Time:** 6pm

**Location**: Tallaght Campus

**Present:**

Chairperson Graham Hayes

President Brian Jordan

Peter McCann

Ian Kelly

Sheran Bahadir

Jeremy Lawler

**Apologies:**

Louise Kavanagh

**In Attendance:**

Clerk to the Council **Caoimhín Kelly**

The Chair welcomed everyone to Student Council. The agenda was accepted by the Council.

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| 1. **Minutes** | **Action item** |
| * Minutes from the last meeting were approved with VP Welfare & Equality approving minutes, VP City seconding. | Noted. |
| 1. **Matters arising** | **Action item** |
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| 1. **Correspondence** | **Action item** |
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| 1. **Hustings** | **Action item** |
| * Hustings took place for 2 Student Members of TU Dublin SU CLG. The following candidates gave their hustings:   **Electoral Commission Members (2 Candidates)**  Dominique Baldwin of Eastquad, Grangegorman outlined her candidature as a member that would hold people responsible and would ensure people’s experience in university is all that they want it to be and follows on to say she is very passionate about this commitment.  Samantha conveyed her previous experience as an asset to her candidature. It was stated that she enjoys working behind the scenes whilst ensuring everything is done accordingly to what has been previously promised.  **Student Members of TUD SU CLG (5 Candidates)**  Amber Thomas of Bolton Street conveyed her membership of the TUDSU CLG from the 2022/2023 academic year, and due to this she understands how the CLG works and with more experience as a student member, she believes she will be able to give more impact to the CLG. Urging the Councillor’s vote, Amber mentioned her experience on the Student Council and the comprehension she has procured from this experience.  Aoife outlined her interest in the Students’ Union and how it works, whilst being a member of the Student Council for the past 2 years. Aoife wants to gain knowledge in the CLG’s front of house system and how it works.  Dominique of Eastquad expresses her 2-year experience on the Student Council and mentioned the feedback she receives from other students can be an indicator to ensure all students are heard.  Oisin: N/A, no longer being considered due to absence of correspondence.  Candidates received the Questions as follows:  **1.** How much do you like meetings?  **2.** What assurance can the candidates give that impartiality will be respected?  **3.** How would you manage and handle this Council, if they had to step in?  Candidates answered questions.  **Sustainability PT Officer**  Amber Thomas of Bolton Street wants a career in the field, and expressed how much she cares about the position. If elected, she wishes to achieve as much as possible and focus on areas like Waste Management System and supporting sustainable transport i.e security for bikes and scooters.  Tom Spillane of Bolton Street outlined he is currently conducting his degree in environmental management and outlined his involvement in protests and other activism. Pointed out energy waste issues particularly in Bolton Street with heating waste.  Candidates received the Questions as follows:  **Q:** How would the prospective officer Balance school with being a Part Time Officer?  **Q:** Does either candidate have any practical experiences / projects in sustainability?  **Q:** Follow up query on their commitments to cycling schemes?  **Q:** What does sustainability mean to you expanding on earlier statements?  **Q:** Were you unaware Uni has already gotten rid of compostable cups?  Questions were answered.  **LGBTQ+ (1 Candidate)**  Jamie Murphy of Tallaght Campus outlined his areas of interest as a LGBTQ+ Officer includes pro-nouns and identity.  **Q:** What type of events would you like to organize?  **Q:** What steps in the area does he want to see changed in the future?  **Q:** How familiar is he with current TUD trans policy?  **Q:** What interests would he have in LGBTQ+ activism?  **Q:** Does he have plans for working with already established societies in TUD City and Tallaght Campuses and would he be willing to work with students in Blanchardstown setting up a LGBTQ+ Society there?  Questions were answered.  **Placement Part Time Officer (3 Candidates)**  Dominique Baldwin of Eastquad outlined her frontline experience in hearing and engaging with those who have been in unpaid and paid placements since starting University. She mentioned she would work with the USI in combatting unpaid placement policies and will work to stop placement providers turning students into unpaid staff.  Nesta: No Correspondence and no longer being considered for role.  **Q:** What help would they provide with CV / Cover letter prep?  Questions were answered. |  |
| 1. **Motions and Policies** | **Action item** |
| * - Schedule Amendment: Paying PTOs (Amended)   **Question on terminology:** “stipend may be offered...” terminology Question – is this amendment the best way it can be worded?  **A:** The President outlines thatLegal advice advised for this terminology.  **Motion couldn’t be passed due to insufficient amount of Councillors present.**   * - Annual Workplan 2023-24   The President gave clarifications on Annual Workplan.  **Comment:** Dominique of Eastquad mentions how there are, in some instances, no conclusions on the workplan.  President clarifies and answers.  **Motion: Passed Unanimously**   * - Motion: Group Insurance Scheme   The International Student Officer presented the above.  Officer outlined the necessity of having Group Insurance Cover for International Students due to TUD’s Policy as to being a privately insured entity. This means, all students are responsible for their own insurance, and this can be problematic for International Students.  Change in terminology: appealing v. repealing.  The VP for Welfare complimented the International Student Officer’s concerns and outlined adopting this Group Scheme will ensure less concerns for incoming international students in the future. They followed on with saying that it is self-defeating for the University not to have group Insurance for International Students.  **Motion: Passed unanimously**   * - Motion: Pronoun Use in Email Signatures   **Speaker for Motion 1:** Whilst the Speaker agrees with the motion in its overall aims, they outline that the measure isnot radical enough. The speaker, whilst they will still vote in favour of this motion, they believe the mandate given to the Executive is stronger than what they’re utilizing it for. Speaker used an example such as providing pronoun training for TUD lecturers.  **Speaker for Motion 2:** Speaker 2 outlined how some lecturers frustratingly misuse pronouns, and in turn are not treating some students the way they should be treated.  **Speaker for Motion 3, Brian Jordan, SU President:** The President agreed more can be done and an amendment is possible if that is what the Council decides to do.  **Motion: Passed unanimously**   * - Motion: Period Poverty   Amendment (**9c ??)** by International Student Officer: Officer wants to change terminology from bathrooms instead to student advice rooms and common rooms etc.  President outlined how such products are already in these areas.  VP for Welfare outlined bathroom is the chosen phrase due to the comfortability and privacy the bathroom provides for women.  There was an amendment proposed to add Student Advisors Offices, Common Areas, and student services offices’.  One speaker for amendment.  One speaker against amendment.  The amendment failed.  **Q:** Will the period products be sustainable?  Answer – the President noted that they can ask the staff to ensure they are.  **Speaker for Motion 1:** Wishes to bring to the attention of the Executive considerations re the taxation of period products.  **Motion: Passed**     * - Policy: Black History Month   Motion was brought back as a policy due to the nature of the 3-year life of the policy.  **Amendment 1** (**9c)** suggested: include February as well as October.  President response: policy suggests “entire year”, but 2-month of constant campaigns / events is intense and difficult.  Amendment: Passed  **Amendment 2:** Amendment to include “and/or” as it will mandate durability of Black History Month  Amendment: Passed  **Point of Information:** After discussion re hosting BHM in February and October, VP for Events outlines only US and Canada celebrate BHM in February.  **Amendment 3:** Replace February with October  One speaker for amendment.  **President Comment**: The President ensured Council BHM will always be celebrated with the support of the VP for Welfare.  **Policy: Passed**   * - Policy: Boycott Divestments Sanctions   Inclusive, non-violent SU-ran campaign.  **Policy: Passed** | Motion Stalled  Motion Passed    Motion Passed  Motion Passed  Amendment Falls  Motion Passed  Amendment Passed  Amendment Passed  Amendment Passed.  Policy Passed |
| 1. **Discussion Items** | **Action item** |
| * Elections |  |
| 1. **Discussion items**   **Motion Policy Tracker**  Dominque from Eastquad mentioned the Tracker was lacking in content in some areas and asked if the tracker will be updated to represent all policies and motions for this year?  The President responded in asking Dominique to clarify what was missing.  Dominique suggested some policies from the previous administration have not been carried on into this one.  The President provided clarity and expressed this was an administrative issue that will be updated.  **The Colour of the Graduation Robes**  The President outlined that the SU received a response on their query re the change of the colour of TUD’s Graduation Robes and read it aloud. TUD’s Administration suggested teal was a colour agreed on by the previous DIT administration of that time at the then-SU. The response also incurs that teal is a symbol of TUD’s unique identity.  **Q:** Dominique asked: whether there is a way to finance the SU more in order to subsidize for the 60 euro for two hours fee for the robes?  A: The President responds and suggests it may be difficult to cut this cost as it more than likely the University have a regular tender they provide the business to. |  |
| * USI Update:   USI’s Dublin Region Officer outlined ongoing and completed campaigns conducted like the Pink Campaign, promoting Registering to Vote, the Fada Campaign that safeguards the ‘fada’ in public bodies, the Gaeilge24 initiative from November 14th and the successful Oireachtas na Samhna.  **Question:** Is there any development on updating the USI website?  **A:** The USI has flagged this issue and are working on rectifying it.  **Question: From the SU President:** Is there a plan to hold an affiliation campaign with UCD?  **A:** Officer notes that there will be a referendum in Semester 2   * TU Dublin Update   **Blanchardstown**:  VP for Blanchardstown noted the SU’s commitment to improving public transport in the Blanchardstown wider area and the University’s campus. The VP expressed the SU’s lobby commitments to more bus routes in the Campus area, alongside tightening security measures in the SU’s common rooms.  **Q: Re: New Chairs in Blanchardstown:** Did each new chair cost 1,000 euro?  **A:** Unconfirmed. However, the purchase of the single pods were the most expensive items bought by the University with grants. It was noted these purchases were made without the consultation of the SU.  **City:**  **Aungier:** VP noted to the Council that the new seating Pods are ready for us. VP announced the commencement of the Food Voucher Initiative for students who are struggling financially.  **Bolton:** VP expressed the necessity of a Structural assessment for Linenhall, taking note of considerations of heating and insulation issues.  **Grangegorman**: The VP communicated the ongoing Seating issues in Grangegorman, with the University migrating seating to and from certainbuildings, noting the lack of communication from the University with this arrangement**.** VP announced the completion of more wall sockets inserted in canteens.  **Q:** Can there be more activities included i.e more pool tables in Lower House?  **A, by VP for Events and Engagement:** There are more facilities being purchased from the Events Budget.  **Q: Re: Heat / Brightness circa Common Room seating area.** Can shades / blinds be inserted in the Lower House ling corridor area?  **A:** Noted issue. Will be taking issue forward with Facilities.  **Q:** Will there be a measure taken forward with the heating issues top floor of Bolton St: developments?  **A:** VP insisted that he has spoken to Bronagh and noted that a referral to the Dean may be taken.  **Tallaght:**  VP for Tallaght Campus announced the introduction to more security measures in the Students’ Union common rooms in combat to recent Anti-social behaviour. VP expressed the plans to meet with Campus Planning on engaging more with the University on how to make the SU building look more inviting for Students. On the note of the PDP building, it has been instructed that labs will be moved.  **Q:** Is the new building that is being built in Tallaght the new PDP building?  **A:** Yes.   * **Campus Development** * Class Rep Recruitment:   Aungier Street: 97%  (last meeting 61%)  Blanchardstown: 94% (last meeting 93%)  Bolton Street: 94%  (last meeting 94%)  Central Quad: 84% (last meeting 54%)  East Quad: 61% (last meeting 53%)  Tallaght: 64% (last meeting 56%)  **Q:** Could it be the case that some class rep positions haven’t been validated yet?  **A:** There is possibly a discrepancy issue. | . |
| 1. **Questions for Part-Time Officers**   **Ethnic Diversity Officer:** The Officer attended USI empowering training where he met with the 1st TUD SU President. The Officer also attended a USI council meeting and further proposed a Diwali Event to the Events and Engagement VP.  **Gender equality Officer:** Outlined that they will be attending training on 17/11/2023 with counterparts across other University SUs.  **Int. Student Officer**: Attended a culture week society meeting where 20 societies attended. Outlined that 17/11/2023 is International Student Day. The Officer organized a flash card initiative in 65 languages for greeting International Students.  Questions for International Student Officer:  **Q: W**hat event are you looking forward to the most in culture week?  **Q:** Will there be discounts to the Foods Events for those in Societies?  **Q:** When will Culture Week Happen? **A:** The Week after January Exams.  **Q:** What campus? **A:** Every Campus.  **Oifigeach na Gaeilge**: Attended a successful with Cumman na Gaeilge in UCD. They hosted a table quiz with 50 people and raised 100 euro for IPSC, a Palestinian Solidarity Campaign.  **Q:** Was Oireachtas na Samhna sponsored / promoted by SU?  **A:** Irish Officer reached out to SU and Conradh na Gaeilge and the latter gave funding.  **Other:** Councillors raised issues about officers who don’t engage with the process. The Chair suggests Council should be holding these people accountable and outlined example processes in order to do so.  **Q to Chair:** Can you outline the impeachment process?  **A:** This is outlined in Article 17 of the TUDSU Constitution. | **Action item** |
| * **Postgraduate Officer etc** * No questions were asked from Part-Time Officers. | Taken as read. |
| 1. **Questions for Full-Time Officers** | **Action item** |
| **Sheran, VP for Tallaght**: The Canteen in Tallaght’s opening hours have changed to 12-2.30 (extended 30 mins) to facilitate more time to get lunch for Students.  It was noted by the Tallaght VP that the cellular service in the sports science building service is not good, and this could be detrimental in the case of an emergency. It was expressed that this issue will be reported to the relevant authorities. The VP attended working groups, student council training and class rep training.  **Q:** What is the development with the ‘Cash-Cow’?  **A:** The ‘students are not cash cows’ campaign was submitted today (16th November).  **Peter, VP for City Campuses:** The elevator maintenance Company the University currently uses, is being changed. VP is focusing on increasing furniture on City Campuses, maintenance on Bolton Street and facility upgrades campaigns especially for Linen Hall. VP noted his commitment to more Vending Machines in the Campuses.  **Q:** Who paid for hosting the USI Event?  **A: (by President**) No SU monies were used.  **Q:** How do students access food vouchers?  **A:** This can be flagged at student centre. Chaplaincy in Tallaght is point of referral.  **Jeremy, VP for Blanchardstown:** A new bus shelter has been arranged for Blanch SC, which will aid Blanchardstown students. VP has been attending transportation focus groups with USI and where they discussed tranport campaigns with counter-parts.  **Ian, VP for Events and Engagement:** Officer is currently working on Culture Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge.  **Q:** Who will be elected as Student Ambassadors?  **A:** This is a role set up and administered by TUD, not the jurisdiction of the SU.  **Q:** Is there any update on hiring crews for different events?  **A:** The Executive hire a lot of event management students to participate in the organisation of some events.  **Q:** How does the Events Officer feel Halloweek went?  **A:** It went well, all events were sold out.  **Q:** What are the Plans for Christmas Day?  **A:** The SU is running a full suite for Xmas Day, where it has budgeted 5k but using 9k due to other profits. There are a wide range of events planned.  **Nekesa, VP for Welfare and Equality:** There have been a lot of events planned and delivered.  **Q:** What would you rate the success Mental health week, noted some posters weren’t up?  **A: (by VP for Events and Engagement):** There was a mix up with distribution. |  |
| 1. **Reports from any other bodies** | **Action item** |
| * The following documents were circulated for Student Council:– Electoral Commission, | Taken as read. |
| 1. **Any other business**   **Accountability Letter:** Council votes and reaffirms SU to follow recommendations.  **President’s visit to Cyprus:** Describes visit and conference, whereby the Consortium that runs TU Dublin could potentially be involved in a pan-continental TU University, where TU Dublin students can attend other participating TUs across Europe. The President noted a report of events will follow.  President gives thanks to Ian re picking up Presidental responsibilities in his absence.  **Q:** Student participation in Societies: is there ongoing initiatives for students to get involved in societies?  **A**: The president outlined that there are issues with mass democratic participation.  Observations were made re The Society’s Office lack of responsiveness and are often out of office.  **Executive notes this concern.** | **Action item** |
| * No other business |  |
| 1. **Date of next meeting** | **Action item** |
| 12th December 2023 – Bolton Street | Clerk to send invite. |