

## **Gym Services in TU Dublin**

### **Gym Situation in Semester One 23/24**

With the opening of the new Sports Building in Tallaght campus, there are now gym facilities on three major TU Dublin sites (Blanchardstown, Grangegorman, Tallaght).

Prior to the building opening, the University (specifically Head of Sports) met with the Students' Union (specifically President) to agree on a 'university-wide' membership process. The agreement (confirmed via writing) specified that all students, on all campuses, would have access to 'free gym hours', each day (Monday-Friday) during non-peak times.

Since then, there were reports that the 'free gym slots' were restricted only to Monday and Thursday; this was confirmed across all three sites in November. Also, a fee was introduced to use the sports halls in the Blanchardstown and Tallaght campuses.

### **Work Done by the Union in Semester Two 23/24**

Recent meetings with the Head of Sports were very positive, and they have since committed to meeting our requests (i.e. free gym slots daily, Monday-Friday). However, it is important for the Union to have a permanent stance and to consistently maintain these services, due to the dynamic nature of TU Dublin since its inception.

### **Current Stance of the Union**

Students are already suffering from the cost-of-living crisis in several ways. This includes the rising price of canteen food across all sites, the ongoing cost of supplemental exams, the potential increases in Postgraduate fees, the current lack of commitment by TU Dublin to increase PhD stipends, and unpaid placements.

The lack of free access to gym facilities only serves to worsen the student experience further and lessen overall student satisfaction with TU Dublin, which according to respondents in ISSE 2022, was 10% worse compared to traditional Universities.

The Campus Vice Presidents, with oversight by the President, must therefore:

- 1) Continuously lobby the University for 'free gym hours' on each weekday (Monday-Friday) on any given campus with gym facilities.
- 2) Continuously lobby the University to remove the fee required for students to use the sports hall in Blanchardstown and Tallaght campus.

The Campus Vice Presidents must also present updates to Student Council whenever gym hours are reduced/rescinded by the University, as well as a clear action plan on how they intend to revert such decisions.

**Proposed by:** Sheran Bahadir, Tallaght Campus Vice President

**Seconded by:** Jeremy Lawler, Blanchardstown Campus Vice President