

## Abolishment of Repeat Fees

### **Student Council Notes**

TU Dublin students currently must pay a set fee of €100 to sit supplemental examinations, commonly referred to as 'repeat exams'.

### **Student Council further Notes**

During an ongoing Cost-of-Living Crisis, coupled with the increasing unaffordability of third-level education, students are already met with countless financial barriers. These include the cost of rent, transport, groceries, medical costs, and college fees, to name just a few. These barriers disproportionately affect less affluent students.

### **Student Council Notes with Concern**

Socioeconomically disadvantaged students are more likely to be working part-time jobs, working longer hours within these jobs, commuting longer distances, not have access to rented accommodation, and have less access to additional supports (such as private tutoring), in comparison to their wealthier classmates. These same students are therefore at a disadvantage when it comes to attending lectures, completing assignments, and preparing for examinations. Lower attendance and decreased time spent preparing for examinations are, unsurprisingly, correlated with higher failure rates.

### **Student Council therefore Believes**

Supplemental fees disproportionately affect students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, and only serve to exacerbate existing inequalities amongst students in TU Dublin.

### **Student Council Applauds**

Other major Dublin Universities do not currently charge repeat fees. This year, UCD joined TCD in abolishing its repeat fees entirely. Considering TU Dublin wishes to increase its student numbers and 'widen participation' in third level education, the removal of repeat fees would be a welcome step towards achieving these goals. Furthermore, TU Dublin previously waived its repeat fees during the Covid Pandemic, indicating its potential to do so.

### **Student Council Mandates**

The Vice President for Academic Affairs, with support from the President, to lobby for the abolishment of Repeat Fees, by the end of the Academic Year 2023/2024, and failing this, 2024/2025.

### **Student Council further Mandates**

The Vice President of Academic Affairs to ensure the University completes a 'feasibility study' (to establish the costs associated with such an action), to bring a proposal to the Student Experience Committee requesting the abolishment, and to then provide an update to Student Council.

Failing this initial route, the VP for Academic Affairs is mandated to prepare an action plan for escalating this issue within the University over 6 months (encompassing all relevant committees, media, and other actions), for discussion and approval at the next Student Council.

**Student Council further Mandates**

The VP for Academic Affairs to utilize the 'higher costs' associated with abolishing fees in TU Dublin (compared to UCD) as a mechanism to illustrate the level of overassessment in TU Dublin.

**Proposed by:** Dara Meenan

**Seconded by:** Brian Jordan