



**Minutes:** TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting 3

**Date:** 12 December 2023

**Time:** 6pm

**Location:** Bolton Street

**Present:**

Chairperson

Graham Hayes

President

Brian Jordan

Peter McCann

Sheran Bahadir

Jeremy Lawler

Louise Kavanagh

**Apologies:**

Ian Kelly

**In Attendance:**

Caoimhín Kelly, Clerk to the Council

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

<b>1. Minutes</b>	<b>Action item</b>
Minutes from the last meeting were approved.  Approved by President, seconded by Peter McCann.	Noted.
<b>2. Approval Items</b>  <b><u>Motion: Anti-Racism Sensitization</u></b> This Motion received a 9(d) referral back to the Proposing VP under the basis that whilst the Executive support the Motion fundamentally, the way in which it is proposed in its writing is constitutionally unviable.	<b>Action item</b>  <b>Referred Motion back to VP for Welfare and Equality.</b>



**Motion: ACCESS**

The VP for Academic Affairs proposed and presented this motion, underlying the importance of recognising the minority of students who are Students in TUD through the access scheme. This Motion aims to repeal the VP's initial motion and insisted that tolerance should move away from ignorance and instead be inclusive.

The VP for Comms and Media spoke in favour of this Motion and spoke of her personal experience in dealing with access students in Blanch. There, there is no access officer, and the service is remotely redundant. It was noted the importance of having advocacy for access students and representing all those across the University.

**Motion: Accountability Enhancement**

This new Schedule Amendment will enhance the accountability mechanisms for all elected Officers in line with endorsing the credibility of the Constitution. The exercise of this Amendment will work in a way that upon the rejection of two Officer Reports by the Council, this will trigger the impeachment process.

**Motion: Aramark**

James Reneghan proposed and presented this motion to suspend relations with Aramark when the current tender contracts runs out. Aramark are a for-profit company who gain profits from US prisons, and Ireland's Direct Provision Centres.

The Executive accepted James's Motion but voted alongside the rest of Council to refer the Motion back to the remit of the President to evolve a wider-policy with the inclusion of James's motion.

**Motion: Decolonizing Curriculum**

The PTO for Ethnic Diversity has presented this Motion. The PTO stated that it is necessary to look at the academic Curriculum outside of the West-outlook. To further this point, the PTO used an example of who the West determine as the "founder of Calculus" versus the objective, factual view.

The VP for Academic Affairs asked whether the stated Keele University model is the best one going forward? The PTO answered that there could be better models besides the Keele one.

**Motion Passed.**

**Motion Passed. 53 Votes.**

**Motion has been referred to the President unanimously.**

**Motion Passed.**



**Motion: East Quad Gates**

Annabell from East Quad presented this Motion. The basis of the motion stems from various safety concerns surrounding recent events on Campus and in the wider Dublin Region.

This Motion is looking to get the assurance that the gates in East Quad are 1) locked and 2) crewed.

Point of Clarity by PTOED asked how does this Motion effect Blanch and Tallaght students?

Annabel responds that some people in the public domain use the building for music lessons etc. and it is useful to have them open however a balance must be struck on their operation.

A Point of Information came from a Councillor that the Porters informed them that once an individual is 'recognised' they're allowed to enter the premises.

**Motion Passed.**

**Motion: Facilitating Gym Attendance to Muslim Women**

The PTO for Ethnic Diversity presented this motion. They added that it is difficult for Muslim women to attend gyms: it's important taking care of health and taking care of themselves. Another difficulty with their attendance to the gym is due to the fact they wear loose garments.

A point of information occurred by the VP for Tallaght noted that many Sports Brands make Muslim-women friendly garments.

Point of Information: VP for Tallaght: many sporting brands do make Muslim-women friendly garments.

The proposer proceeds in saying Muslim women aren't accommodated for on Campus as it is. They insist on the Welfare and Equality Officer to talk to facilities to accommodate for the separated rooms.

Speakers Against: The VP for City – agrees with the motion but notes there is a 'feasibility issue'. The VP states that it will be difficult to get the gyms to comply and cannot ensure that these gyms can be feasible for the two hours they want. However, the VP thinks Council should consider the concept of Motion and develop it in a new format.

Another Speaker Against the motion noted that this Motion, as it is currently written, may incur gender policing: raising questions such as "who is male, who is female etc". In order for this type of Motion to work it would need a lot of discussion, preparation, and weeding out the smaller logistics of the motion. The Speaking Councillor hopes that



when this motion has materialised that it doesn't discriminate trans people and hopes it will materialise in the right way one day.

The President believes the 2 hours limit a week is tokenistic and unworkable. The President believes the idea behind it is great, and that it is very important to have the conversation but a motion like this needs to be done in the most effective and right way.

The VP for Tallaght has 9d'd this motion for the next Welfare Meeting. They have done this with the aim of bringing it back to next Council.

Annabell (EQ) agrees with the previous comments but laid down the importance of having this sort of conversation with the University where something like this can be sorted out.

**Motion: Lobbying for early release of supplemental exam results**

The PTO for Ethnic Diversity presented this Motion. There are issues with some students going into the wrong classes that they are unsure as to whether they are a part of those classes due to the timeline as to when supplemental exam results come out. This motion aims to mandate Council to lobby the University to have supplemental results available in a timely manner and to ask the Blanch campus to adopt the same system of other Campuses.

Point of Information by VP for Communications and Media noted that the USI have started work in this field and expressed to the proposer that there is an intersectional issue with this and the TUI, as it is the case that lecturers don't work before September 1<sup>st</sup>.

A Speaker from Bolton St Councillor noted that they had moved from Blanch to Bolton Street unsure as to whether they were to be in that class or not because they hadn't gotten their results at that stage to tell them if they were or nor. This hindered their education.

The VP for AA expressed that communicating and working with the TUI is a component of their remit and approves the pass of this motion.

**Motion: Passing engineering modules by combining CA and exam grades**

The PTO for Ethnic Diversity presented this. The proposer explained to the Council that the examination format for Engineering Modules are combined CA and written examinations. It has been implied by Lecturers that in order to pass a module, a student must pass both the CA and Exam individually, whereas in other Modules a course can be passed with the two grades combined. This Motion aims to recombine

**Motion has been 9d back to Welfare and Equality Working Group.**

**Motion Passed.**



the two formats and to pass by 40% with both combined.

A speaker against this Motion from Dominique, Placement Officer – in her Course, both formats must be passed individually to pass the module.

Another speaker has noted in Mechanical Engineering that their course is passable by the combination of the two formats.

Another Speaker Against indicated that the Motion should look into whether CA's and Exams have different learning outcomes and to assess whether to redraft the motion with this data.

**Motion: Subsidized Food**

This Motion has been immediately referred back to the Proposer, VP for City Campus.

**Motion: USI Affiliation Referendum**

The Executive has brought this Motion forward to align their policies surrounding USI Affiliation with that of other Irish Universities, where it is commonly exercised that other Universities vote on their affiliation with the USI at different times over the years.

**Motion: Wheelchair Access**

The PTO for Ethnic Diversity tabled this motion. The PTO outlined their personal experience in the previous year in contacting the University to obtain keys for Campus elevators for Wheelchair Users. The PTO believes open-access for wheelchair users should be accommodated, with a specific focus on Blanchardstown.

Speakers Against (VP for Blanch): The CVP supports open access, but agrees it is not strong enough across the University. The CVP agrees the current system to contacting certain offices to obtain keys for wheelchair users is not sustainable and sign-posts will be needed in future to rectify this problem. The CVP has spoken against the motion as they are currently working on a similar framework.

Alexander of Bolton St further spoke against this Motion. On a wording issue, the Councillor outlined how the Motion solely mentions Blanchardstown, and mentions that a motion like this should be a Pan-University access model.

The PTO for Placements urged a 9d referral back to the next Council to allow the PTO to include all Campuses' in their motion and allow the CVP for Blanchardstown to attain the relevant information to add to

**Motion has not passed.**

**Motion referred back to CVP.**

**Motion Passed. 53 votes.**

**9d has failed.**



the Motion.

The 9d failed under the premise that the CVP for Blanchardstown is already developing a motion in this remit and doesn't want to impede their progress.

**Motion has failed.**

**Plebiscite: No Confidence in the Irish Government**

This Plebiscite has been tabled by the Executive to construe a cross-university message that the students of TUD have no confidence in the current Irish Government.

The President in presenting the Plebiscite outlines the reasons the Executive has taken this decision: namely, housing crisis for regular citizens and students alike, access to healthcare, cost of living and the homeless crisis.

A Point of Information was raised by the president: the vote would take place at spring elections so would have no extra cost.

Samantha Corcoran Tallaght, Speaker For: Representing 30k students and passing this would send a strong message. Samantha believes the SU should use the power in numbers that the student body has.

The president outlined that Ireland's 18-24 has the lowest voter turnout in the European Union, and it is for these reasons the Dep of Higher Education has a lack of care for 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Students.

**Plebiscite has passed.**

**Policy: Academic Affairs**

This Policy repeals the previous Academic Affairs Policy.

**Policy is Passed.**

**Policy: Holistic Support of Transgender students**

This Policy has been referred back to the proposer for re-submission for the next Council.

**9d to next Council.**

**Schedule Amendment: Paying PTOs (Amended)**

This Schedule Amendment will allow for the SU to start to pay Part Time Officers.

**Schedule Amendment Passed. 53 Votes.**



<p><b>3. Standing Items</b> <b><u>USI Update: Zaid Al-Barghouthi, VP for Campaigns USI</u></b></p> <p>The VP for Campaigns at the USI reported on various items the USI are working on currently. Between the BDS movement and attending the ESU pushing for a ceasefire in Gaza.</p> <p>The USI has recently submitted a Digs Legislation which is in its Bill phase. Talks have been ongoing with UCD about affiliation.</p> <p>Under USI's Transportation Working Group, conclusion from a survey have informed the Union to progress in lobbying the Government for better transport services for Students.</p> <p>The USI have met with the Minister for Higher Education in lobbying for apprenticeships.</p> <p>The USI have been leading efforts in Voter Registration for the upcoming Local and European Elections next June. The Campaign is being progressed to the Dublin Region.</p> <p>In the wake of Exam Season, the USI have rebooted their distress campaigns.</p> <p>The USI have met with the Irish University Association on developing a healthier model on regulating frugs in Ireland.</p> <p>The VP for AA in USI presented at the EU SU board. Gender violence was discussed, alongside AI. The USI battled to change the language in the ESU Statement on Calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.</p> <p>The USI have been working with Conradh na Gaeilge to redevelop Gaeilge across Universities especially in the month of March, since its momentum was slowed down due to Covid. The USI is working</p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>



towards securing more representation in the Irish Language with the adoption of a Sabbatical Officer.

The VP for AA in the USI has been sitting on an Academic Integrity Campaign.

A Question arose on the UCD Referenda to Join the USI.

The VP announced that progress is moving slow but hopes for a referendum in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester.

Louise, the VP for Comms and Media queried, what exactly is the European Students' Union? Zaid from the USI explained that the ESU the European-level representation of Students' Union. The USI recently attended a Board Meeting in Estonia with counterparts where various motions were discussed.

The PTO for Placement, Dominique Baldwin asked Zaid re Website Update. Zaid responded with the clarification that the website is undergoing a full audit, and the next Reports will be submitted before next Comhairle.

The VP for Comms and Media, Louise, asked the USI rep re engagement with Government on Student Accommodation for TUD. The USI are pushing for the promised borrowing framework promised in 2017 and want it completed as soon as possible.

#### **Campus Development: Campus Vice Presidents**

##### **Tallaght:**

The bike racks the VP has been working with the University to remove have been removed. In their place, sustainable seating is going to be inserted. A breastfeeding room has been sanctioned. And further to their Update, all seating that had been moved for Graduations have been restored.

Aleksander asked whether the removed bike racks have been repurposed to somewhere else on Campus? The VP did not have this data.

The PTO for International Students asked the VP whether there are any plans to get more seating on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors? The VP responded that the University haven't been informative on this development, however there is discussions taking place on extending the canteen which may result in more seating.

##### **City:**

The VP has collaborated with Sustainability to get more seating in the City Campuses. Further to this, there are ongoing discussions in





rearranging the Pods in CQ. The VP updated that there is a new microwave in Aungier Street on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, which is always accessible – noting the fact some students are on Campus past 6pm.

The Projectors in Bolton Street are being replaced. The VP was informed by the University that there is 50,000 euro going into maintenance on the Bolton Street roof. On Bolton Street, the VP compiled a Document for the Dean of Bolton Street, Estates and Sustainability, outlining infrastructural and operational issues between Bolton and Linenhall.

In Grangegorman, the VP is working on getting more seating in Bradogue.

There have been 12 new bins put into Aungier, with 1 more added to Bolton.

The VP has been in contact with Sustainability re Linenhall financing. Noting holes in the walls, where warm air escapes and cold air comes in, the VP noted it is an unsustainable building for heating.

In Bolton Street, plugs are being inserted into the Stairs outside the Common Room and the microwaves are being moved out to that Seating Area.

Question by the PTO for Placements asked about the rearrangement of Seating in EQ and CQ. The VP for City Campus noted that Sodexo own both buildings and this makes it more complicated to rearrange.

On EQ and CQ, a Student Councillor noted that the Barriers outside both buildings aren't in function.

Inside both CQ and EQ, a Councillor noted that they're having issues accessing some rooms: the VP for Tallaght noted that they have the phone number for the relevant Department that can grant access to more rooms for Students.

The PTO for Placement asked about the introduction of more Vending Machines on Campus. The VP for City Campus illuminated that this is not possible as it is Coca Cola who own and distribute these machines: a company that the SU is currently boycotting under the BDS mandate.

**Blanch:**

Due to continuing Anti-Social behaviour, the SU common room in Blanch has had to close on multiple occasions recently.

On Transport, the VP is continuing with putting pressure on the University to develop infrastructure around the Campus. The VP noted that the University told them that it is of the responsibility of the



students to lobby for better infrastructure around the Campus, but the VP announced that they don't accept this.

A Question was asked on the Development on a Sensory Room and the VP answered that plans are ongoing.

**Class Rep Recruitment Update: Vice President for Academic Affairs**

	<u>SC3</u>	<u>SC2</u>
<u>Aungier Street:</u>	<u>71%</u>	<u>69%</u>
<u>Blanchardstown:</u>	<u>92%</u>	<u>92%</u>
<u>Bolton Street:</u>	<u>73%</u>	<u>63%</u>
<u>Central Quad:</u>	<u>49%</u>	<u>46%</u>
<u>East Quad:</u>	<u>61%</u>	<u>57%</u>
<u>Tallaght:</u>	<u>65%</u>	<u>65%</u>

**Motion/Policy Tracker Update: President**

The President went through the Motion/Policy Tracker with the Council to determine "falling" some motions and policies. In essence, "falling" is the exercise of removing any motions or policies that have exceeded their lifetime whether by success or failure, and motions and policies that have been deemed completed.

**4. Discussion Items**

**Misogyny on Campus**

The Speaker of the discussion item spoke of her experience with misogyny on Campus, particularly in Bolton Street where it was a shock for her to witness. The Speaker illustrated that the misogyny has made students nervous and thought it would be relevant to discuss this topic collectively amongst other Students.

The VP for City Campus stated that the SU need to provide more signs promoting women around Campus, particularly in male-dominated areas like the Bolton Street Common Room.

It was further suggested that conducting misogyny training for Class Reps would be helpful to the issue.



<p>The VP for Comms and Media reminded the Council of the Speak Out Tool that is available for all Students. If it helps, the VP stated, the Executive can bring a motion or policy on this in future.</p> <p>Another Student Councillor insisted that there is a hostility between the LGBTQIA+ cohort of TUD and a fraction of Students in Bolton Street. This was an issue again taken into account by the Executive.</p> <p><b><u>Part Time Students’ Use of Medical Centre</u></b></p> <p>The Speaker on this discussion item is an Undergraduate PT Student in Bolton Street. The Speaker noted that despite the information online stating that the Medical Centre is not available for PT Students, it is different to understand the logistics of the policy as she, as an undergrad PT student, is paying a years-worth extra in fees and this feels restrictive towards her access to healthcare.</p> <p>The President responded that the argument made by the University is that the Student Charge paid by FT Students is what covers the cost of the Centre. The VP for Welfare and Equality compiled the data that the take-up of the centre is low by FT students and insists it should be accessible for PT Students.</p>	
<p><b>5. Part Time Officer Reports</b></p> <p>All Present PTO’s detailed to the Council the reason for their absent Reports.</p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<p><b>6. Full Time Officer Reports</b></p> <p><b>VP for Tallaght</b></p> <p>The VP for Tallaght Campus noted to the Campus that the sports Building now has a functioning First Aid Kit in the Building.</p> <p>The VP for Tallaght has been running a Cash Cow Campaign around the Campuses in response to the Government’s statement that Ireland has a 65-billion-euro surplus. Noting this surplus, the VP has dressed up as a Cow to convey the message to TU Dublin Students that despite the excess monies in the country, the Government is treating students as Cash Cows.</p> <p><b>VP for City Campus</b></p> <p>The VP for City Campus referred to his Campus Development Report as he outlined a predominant part of his role tackling those type of issues and referred to the incidents in Central Quad, noting plans of moving furniture around the building to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>When questioned re hanging up posters in CQ, the VP noted that due to Sodexo’s ownership of the building, they de facto prohibit hoisting</p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>



student posters around the building.

The VP for City Campus noted a concern re security in Bolton Street and stated he will return to this for next Council.

#### **VP for Academic Affairs**

The VP for AA noted that the Student Charter is near completion and hopes to have it in the new year.

Question from PTO for Ethnic Diversity asked whether the Faculty Board Meetings will be going ahead this year. The VP answered in the positive.

#### **VP for Communications and Media**

The VP noted their work with the Governing Body lately, where she has been focusing largely on fee contributions.

A Question from the PTO for Ethnic Diversity asked whether it is in the VP's plans to collaborate with micro-influencers around Campus for the SU's Social Media platforms. The VP noted the versatility of talent in TU Dublin from artists to influencers, to musicians and knitters, and answered that collaborating with TU Dublin students who are influencers could be a direction the SU could take in future.

#### **The President**

The President spoke on the Student Development Fund numbers received from the University. There is 7 million euro in this fund, and the core purpose of this fund is for the SU and University to coordinate efforts in allocating the funds, but only on Capital Projects. This would mean the money would be spent on things like new buildings, infrastructure and anything long term to the benefit of the Students and University alike.



<p><b>7. Any Other Business</b></p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<p><b>8. Next Meeting</b> Aungier Street, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.</p>	<p><b>Action item</b> Noted.</p>