

TU Dublin Canteen Policy

Student Council Notes:

The Students' Union acknowledges the current concerns raised by the student body regarding the high prices at the canteens operated by the three existing providers (KSG, Sodexo, Aramark). The escalating costs have resulted in financial strain on students and adversely affected their overall college experience. Furthermore, the Union acknowledges ongoing difficulties around the lack of seating within canteens, the hidden prices attached to cutlery & hot water and the inconsistency between different campus locations.

Student Council Also Notes:

The Students' Union is aware of the significant impact the high pricing has on the student experience due to the unaffordability of the canteen services. Additionally, the dissatisfaction expressed by students highlights the urgency of addressing this matter to ensure the well-being of the students.

Student Council notes with Concern:

Many of the contracts agreed between the University and Canteen Service Providers make it difficult or at times impossible for the Union to alleviate the financial burden on students via initiatives such as microwaves, kettles, price freezes and more.

Student Council believes:

Given the fact that these canteen service providers are inherently for profit, it is therefore the responsibility of the college (who agree these contracts) to ensure affordable and accessible services to students. The current contracts, and University's method of 'outsourcing' canteen services, has result in pricing systems that hinders students' access to food and contributes to an overall less favourable campus experience.

Student Council Therefore Believes:

The President must lobby for the following goals (divided into short-, medium-, and long-term):

Short-term = Immediate price freeze/decrease + development of Canteen Oversight Committee (which would allow for student input on canteens + pro-student initiatives).

Medium-term = Additional seating + amend all contracts to allow free hot water, microwaves, free cutlery, better options, and other pro-student initiatives.

Long-term = To ultimately not renew contracts with third-party canteen providers (and instead for canteen facilities to be university-run), with a particular emphasis on Aramark.

Student Council Further Believes:

The President and Campus VP's must communicate with the University Executive team immediately and ongoing, demanding their support, to develop a media campaign on the same, and ultimately escalate to direct action.

Proposed by: Campus Vice Presidents (Blanchardstown, City, Tallaght)

Seconded by: Brian Jordan, President