

Vote 'LEAVE'

Student Council Notes

On the 12th December 2023, Student Council voted in favour of holding an Affiliation Referendum for USI (Union of Students in Ireland).

Student Council further Notes

TU Dublin SU pays significant annual affiliation fees to USI, amounting to 140,000 euro in the academic year 22/23. This excludes the cost of travel and accommodation for the Full-Time Officers to various parts of the country (on a near-monthly basis), the cost of Congress Fees (over 9000 euro), and the salary cost associated with engaging in USI 'National Council'.

Student Council Notes with Concern

TU Dublin SU pays a significant amount of student money on an organisation that does not provide tangible results to its student population, nor does it represent students effectively on a national level. This is partly due to the 'anti-staff' rhetoric of many member organisations (which prevents any level of consistency year on year), a 'toxic culture' amongst many member organisations and an ineffective policy system (virtually no mandates from Congress 21-23 have been progressed, rendering Congress pointless).

Student Council Regrets

Despite significant work being put in by the TU Dublin SU Executive over the past two years (as well as many previous teams), virtually no improvements have taken place i.e. the Constitution is often broken, mandates are ignored, and 'populist' culture often guides decision making more than actual content. This is evidenced for example in the lack of a cohesive improvement in Transgender Healthcare despite multiple mandates and hundreds of thousands of student money being funnelled into USI Officers.

Student Council Applauds

Non-affiliated Universities (such as UCD and UL) receive significantly more media attention, receive invites to National Events, and are more effective at lobbying, due to not outsourcing national lobbying efforts to an organisation that inherently cannot succeed at it.

Student Council Believes

Unions should continue to work together, as UCD and USI do, and come together for national protests and actions. However, a Union does not need to pay extortionate affiliation fees to achieve this, nor is it a morally appropriate way of managing student money.

Student Council Regrets

If students were made aware of the funding that is misappropriated to platforming ineffective National Officers, or that their elected representatives (Full-Time Officers, Part-Time Officers, Student Councillors) are sent on an all-expenses paid trip to a hotel annually, and still defended it, that it may bring TU Dublin SU representation into disrepute.

Student Council Acknowledges

Even if students wish to stay, by developing a 'Leave' stance, USI Officers will be allowed to campaign for TU Dublin students to 'Stay'. This will likely generate the largest voter turnout in TU Dublin SU history, and will provide phenomenal recognition factor to both the Union and USI; either way, TU Dublin students stand to benefit from a 'Leave Stance'.

Student Council Believes

Should this decision not be seen to be beneficial to TU Dublin students after one year, TU Dublin SU can simply re-affiliate to USI, meaning this is not a 'high-stakes' stance compared to other referenda.

Student Council therefore Mandates

The Executive Team (President & Vice Presidents) and Part-Time Officers to support and campaign for a 'Leave' vote (i.e. disaffiliate from USI) in this USI Affiliation Referendum (due to be held in March 2024).

Proposed by: TU Dublin SU Executive