



Minutes: TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting

Date: 13th February 2024

Time: 6pm

Location: Aungier Street, Room AST 2 - 046

Present:

Chairperson	Graham Hayes
President	Brian Jordan
Vice President - Comms & Media, Deputy President	Louise Kavanagh
Vice President – Welfare & Equality	Nekesa Khisa Nancy
Vice President – Academic Affairs	Shauna O’Toole
Blanchardstown Campus Vice President	Jeremy Lawler
City Campus Vice President	Peter McCann
Tallaght Campus Vice President	Sheran Bahadir

Gender & Equality PTO
Sustainability PTO
Access PTO
Ethnic Diversity PTO
Mature Officer PTO
Gaeilge PTO
LGBTQ+ PTO
Disabilities PTO

Student Councillors

In Attendance:

Clerk to the Council	Liam Cosgrove
Minute Taker	Trish Cullen
Interim General Manager	Mary Scally
USI – VP for Campaigns	Zaid Al-Barghouthi

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING	Action item
Minutes from the last meeting were approved.	
No amendments to be made to minutes, minutes approved and seconded.	
Minutes passed unanimously by all.	



2. CORRESPONDANCE	Action item
<p>Letter to the President from the Chair of the Student Council Graham Hayes, dated 18th December 2023. Regarding Amendment to Schedule E of the New TU Dublin SU Constitution that was brought forward to allow the union to pay PTOs. The Chair to the Student Council Graham read through the Constitution and communicated this to the president. The Chair of the Student Council’s interpretation is that constitutionally, officers cannot be paid for work performed in their role as PTO before 13th December 2023.</p> <p>TU Dublin F.O.I Response re Weapons Industry – A request made under the FOI Act 2014 for access to records from TU Dublin which was received by the FOI Officer on 23rd November requesting the names of companies involved in the weapons industries. The university responded by saying they had no records relation to such investment; therefore, the request was refused on administrative grounds under section 15(1)(a) of the Act which states that an FOI Request may be refused.</p> <p>TU Dublin F.O.I Response re TUD Relations with Israel – A request made under FOI Act 2014 for access to records from TU Dublin requestion a list of Israeli companies that have provided funding for research conducted in TU Dublin as well as a list of partnerships that TU Dublin has with Israeli institutions and a list of any Israeli companies that provide any services to TU Dublin. The university could not provide records for everything requested. They could only provide records for Israeli companies that provide services to TU Dublin</p> <p>EUt+ Report from CVP Tallaght - Sheran explained how students benefit EUT+ explaining how students are at the centre of EUT+ and how EUT+ will steadily improve teaching in partner universities and with future opportunities for graduates. The President and the VP for Tallaght are on the board from TU Dublin</p> <p>TU Dublin Safety Update was noted.</p>	<p>The Correspondence was noted</p> <p>The Correspondence was noted</p> <p>The Correspondence was noted</p> <p>The Correspondence was noted</p> <p>The Correspondence was noted</p>
3. ELECTIONS	Action item
<p>Nominations opening for Officer Elections on the 19th of February.</p> <p>There are 2 Student Members of Electoral Commission positions available– One Candidate pulled out and the other did not present themselves. No hustings took place in the Student Council for these positions as no nominees were present, therefore no election will take place.</p>	



<p>There is 1 Student Member of TU Dublin SU CLG Student Member for TU Dublin SU CLG – The husting took place in the student council meeting, the following nominee introduced themselves to the student council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maeve Montgomery for student member of CLG, City Campus • Chair opened questions from Council members to candidate, no questions were asked. • The election to take place online after the Student Council Meeting <p>There is 1 Access Part Time Officer – Candidate did not present themselves therefore no election took place.</p> <p>Positions will reopen today and will open only for 1 week will be closed next Wednesday; anybody can nominate themselves for this position.</p>	<p>Student Council members to vote in the elections for members of TU Dublin SU CLG</p>
<p>4. APPROVAL ITEMS</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<p><i>Motion - Blanchardstown Transport</i> <i>Proposed by Jeremy Lawler, Campus VP for Blanchardstown</i> <i>Seconded by Peter McCann, Campus VP for City Campus</i></p> <p>The VP for Blanchardstown proposed and presented this motion, explained the situation with transport in Blanch, the motion aim to lobby the NTA, BusConnects and the Irish Government to increase bus service reliability, including more frequent and transparent updates on bus schedules and routes (38,38a, 139, N4) to expedite the ‘BusConnects’ Network Redesign for 2025, and to redesign the bus routes so that at least one bus enters the actual campus.</p> <p>Amendment 1 (9c) suggested that the word ‘Demands’ be changed, PTO for placement feels the word ‘Demands’ sounds too aggressive.</p> <p>Amendment: Fell</p> <p><u>Motion – Passed unanimously.</u></p> <p><i>Policy - Free Gym Hours</i> <i>Proposed by Sheran Bahadir, Tallaght Campus, VP for Tallaght</i> <i>Seconded by Jeremy Lawler, Campus VP for Blanchardstown</i></p> <p>Sheran explained how we were promised free gym hours, however, this has not happened. With the opening of the new Sports Building in the Tallaght campus, there are now gym facilities on three major sites. Prior to the building opening, the University met with the Students Union to agree on a university-wide membership process. The agreement specified that all students, on all campuses, would have access to ‘free gym hours’ each day, during non-peak times. However, this has not happened. Therefore, the campus VP with the oversight of the president must therefore (a) continuously lobby the university for ‘free gym hours’, (b) Continuously lobby the University to remove the fee required for students to use the sports hall in blanch and Tallaght. The campus Vice President 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.</p>	<p>This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.</p>



Motion – Passed unanimously.

***Policy - Holistic Support of transgender Students in TU Dublin
Proposed by Sheran Bahadir, Tallaght Campus, Vice President
Seconded by Jeremy Lawler, Blanchardstown Campus, Vice President***

The Union has, over the years, evidenced its attempts to improve the lives of transgender students in TU Dublin. However, the Union must now formalise its beliefs, views, and actions, to ensure that it properly, and consistently, advocates for students. The Union will therefore commit to the following actions / goals:

1. Advocate for the use of Pronouns in Email Signatures
2. Advocate for Gender Neutral Signage in TU Dublin & Nationally
3. Host an Annual 'Pride Week'
4. Platform the Experiences & Views of Transgender Students
5. Support Transgender Organisations
6. Participate in all related Direct Actions
7. Ensure the Establishment of a T-Fund Initiative (by TU Dublin)
8. Denounce the current system of Trans healthcare in Ireland

Summary

These actions must be championed by the VP for Welfare & Equality, with oversight by the President, and questioned regularly at Council by the Part-Time Officer for LGBTQ+ Rights.

This Policy therefore repeals the following motions:

14. 'T-Fund'
30. 'Pronoun Use in Email Signatures'

Amendment 1 (9c) Remove 'Pride Week' wants it to be more specific.

Amendment – Fell

Policy – Passed unanimously.

Motion - Repeat Fees

Proposed by Dara Meenan

Seconded by Brian Jordan, President

TU Dublin student 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 already met with countless financial barriers.

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.

Speaker for the motion - said how UCD and Trinity SU worked with university to abolish fees.

Speaker for motion – said how students with disabilities or PC1 form get fees waived, therefore the University can waive fees.

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.



Against motion – Alex BST – mentioned how the university is already in debt and that asking for fees for be waiver might be too much, he suggested that a reduction in fees be proposed rather than asking for repeat fees to be abolished.

For Motion – Student councillor said how we are not here for TU Dublin whether they are in debt, that we are here for the students.

Amendment (9c) ‘Student Council further Mandates the Vice President of academic affairs’ to be changed so that PT Officers and International Students be included.

Amendment - Fell

Motion - Passed unanimously.

Schedule Amendment - Schedule I Amendment – Deputy Chair of the Board Proposed by Louise Kavanagh

Secoded by Shauna O’Toole

Schedule I – The members of TU Dublin SU CLG and Membership of the Board of Directors of TU Dublin SU CLG In the absence of the chairperson one of the other external directors shall perform the function of chairperson.

To the Following:

Schedule I – The Members of TU Dublin SU CLG and Membership of the Board of Directors of TU Dublin SU CLG In the absence of that Chairperson the President shall perform the function of Chairperson for the Board of Directors.

Brian explained what this is, if approved as a motion Graham will get advice from Legal team.

Speaker against, Dominic, feels President has enough on their plate,

Speaker for, Louise highlighted how important that we do have the president because the president represents the students.

The president also said how this would be unfair on a student to take on.

Motion - passed unanimously we will see this in 2 weeks’ time after getting legal advice.

Policy – Stance of Student.Survey.ie

Proposed by Shauna O’Toole, VP Academic Affairs

Secoded by Brian Jordan, President

StudentSurvey.ie (formerly known as ISSE, the Irish Survey of Student Engagement) is a collaborative partnership between the HEA, IUA, THEA and USI. Since its inception in 2013, its main purpose was to help each institution and its students by collating feedback and developing appropriate follow-up

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.

Legal advice will now be sought, and this will return to Council.



actions, objectives included improving transparency in relation to the student experience, enabling direct student input.

Despite its objectives, StudentSurvey.ie has been criticised for years by both Students' Unions and University staff. Concerns include:

Concerns include:

- 1) The length of the survey (>20 minutes per student)
- 2) The effort required by all institutions + SU's during rollout (>2 weeks each)
- 3) The questions themselves being unclear or unhelpful (no facility-based questions, few questions relating to the Student Experience / actually asking the 'why')
- 4) The lack of efficiency and transparency around receiving the results (TUDSU was only given a presentation of 'some' results in November, 9 months later)
- 5) The lack of meaningful action plans made by Institutions based on the feedback.

Despite these concerns being voiced for years, very few meaningful changes were made to reflect this feedback.

These factors are likely what lead to the recent decision by the steering committee of StudentSurvey.ie to not run the survey for this academic year (23/24).

The current understanding of TU Dublin SU is that they plan to review the feedback provided by the external review and make amendments to resolve the concerns listed previously.

Policy – Passed

Ensuring Equal Access to Education for Students with Physical Disabilities at TUD Campuses

Proposed by Aleksander Biegalski

Seconded by Amber Thomas

It has been observed that the Bolton Street building at TUD currently lacks sufficient accessibility for student/staff with physical disabilities, particularly due to the limited availability and frequent breakdown for the existing elevator, and the decommissioning of other elevators in the building.

There is only 1 elevator working in BST which is currently broke and has resulted with a student with physical disabilities not been able to access class.

The City Campus VP and Welfare and Equality officer would work with the disabilities officer alongside campus and estates and any relevant staff to prioritise the improvement of accessibility at Bolton Street Campus building, ensuring that students with physical disabilities have unimpeded access to all areas of the campus. The officers mentioned should urge the renovation and/or replacement of facilities in the Bolton Street building, including the repair and maintenance of existing elevators and the installation of additional elevators as needed.

For a comprehensive review of accessibility features across all TUD campuses to identify and address any shortcomings, with the goal of

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.



creating a universally accessible environment for all students by end of academic year 2023/2024.

Amendment 1 (9C) – Asked if TUD Campuses could be changed to TUD City campus – Councillors voted against (9c)

Amendment – Fell

9D –PTO - John Benidict – has 9D'd this motion for the next Student Council Meeting

Motion has been 9d back to the next Student Council Meeting

Policy - SU Stance on Confession Pages –

Proposed by Brian Jordan President

Seconded by Peter McCann – VP City Campus

Anonymous 'Confession Pages' are online platforms or spaces where individuals can share their thoughts, feelings, secrets, or experiences without revealing their identity. These pages typically allow for people to submit content anonymously and are subsequently posted onto the platform for anyone to read.

These pages will continue to operate, and future iterations will likely flourish on different and new platforms. While the Union cannot 'prevent' this, it can at least mandate its representatives to not platform or engage with them, given the innumerable complaints received by the Union from students about such pages over the past few years. Full- and Part-Time Officers therefore will not platform (i.e. post, share, follow, or otherwise promote) any 'Confessions Pages' associated in any way with TU Dublin or TU Dublin SU. Full- and Part-Time Officers will also discourage other Union representatives (i.e. Student Councillors, Class representatives, etc) from platforming these pages, given their tendency towards far-right rhetoric, extremism, racism, sexism, classism, and xenophobia.

Person online asked why motion was in place and what we were trying to achieve here. Brian explained how this works and who can use it.

Speaker against the motion – Speaker feels it's good for anyone who wants to reach out to other students anonymously.

Speaker for the motion - said there are certain things you can and cannot do when employed within the Union, it is a paid position therefore Exec should be held to a higher account.

Amendment 1 – (9C) - Eoghan Casey – Bolton Street - looking the change (engaging to participate) wants to allow PTO and Exec to participate but not engage.

9C - Fell.

9B – Dominic - PTO GG – feels that by mandating anyone you are taking away their rights and feels we've no right to dictate. Brian argued that we

Motion has been referred to the next Student Council Meeting



have the right because we pay PTO and Exec., We are allowed to mandate our officers.

9B – Fell

9A – Request that this be brought straight into vote.

9A - passed went straight into vote.

Policy – Passed

Policy - TU Dublin Canteen

Proposed by City, Blanch, and Tallaght VPs

Seconded by Brian Jordan, President

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.

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.

9D – asked that this be brought to the next meeting, he felt that this is very important and that there were not enough details – Feels this needs to be reviewed.

9D – Failed

9C –wants student to be aware of what Aramark do – amendment accepted.

9C – Passed

9A Annable city Campus

9A Alex spoke against 9A feels we need to discuss longer.

9A overwhelmingly passed - going to vote.

Policy – Passed

Motion - TU Dublin Parking

Proposed by Jeremy Lawler – VP Blanchardstown Campus

Seconded by Peter McCann – VP City Campus

The parking arrangements at TU Dublin are characterized by a lack of a universal scheme applicable across all campuses. Presently, TU Dublin does not employ any specific selection criteria for parking allocation. Notably, paid parking is in effect at the Blanchardstown campus, offering both permits based and pay-as-you-go options.

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.



Additionally, Grangegorman utilizes a lottery system for parking allocation (for staff only) while parking at the Tallaght campus is currently offered free of charge.

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.

The President and Campus Vice Presidents to lobby TU Dublin for the following:

A pan-university student-staff parking space allocation system

The introduction of a student-share option

Establish clear selection criteria for parking assignments.

Prevent a charge being associated with a parking permit - Establish a committee to review all clamping case.

9A - Dominic

9A - passed, straight to vote.

Motion – Passed

Motion - Virtual University Card

Proposed by Marco Nocerion – PTO, Tallaght Campus

Seconded by John Benedict Divinagracia – PTO

The Student Council acknowledges the existing challenges faced by students in accessing various campuses within our university due to the limitations of the current physical university cards.

The current university card system restricts access to specific campuses, not allowing students from freely exploring other campuses' resources, libraries, events, and clubs. A unified virtual university card could streamline access across all campuses.

The Student Council hereby mandates the President to investigate the feasibility with the University Administration and to collaborate with the IT Services to explore a solution for the development of a virtual university card system and report back by end of the academic year 2023 / 2024.

Amendment 1 (9C) change President to Academic Affairs Officer

Amendment 1 (9C) Failed.

Amendment 2 (9C) change President to City Campus VPs

Amendment 2 (9C) Passed.

Speaker against motion, thinks that a college what is struggling to get timetable right, thinks that all cards should be just changed so that they can be used on all campuses.

9D – Louise would like to bring back to council no 7.

9D - Passed we will see this again in April.

Motion - Vote 'Leave' (USI Affiliation Referendum

Proposed by TU Dublin SU Executive

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

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.

Motion has been referred to the April Student Council Meeting



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'. USI – voted right to speak – 3 mins allowed. Vice president for campaigns, spoke for USI – €5 is passed from student directly to the USI, USI are the only SU on HEA, went through all the things that USI do for Students. Quadruple the visits on site, mandates in USI last 3 years. Annable city campus – said 5 euro could be spend in our own union rather that a union which we've seen very little off.

Speaker against - Robert City Campus – thinks that a leave campaign does not give students a choice, has problem with USI thinks it should be built from the ground up again.

Speaker for - Dominic – for motion thinks USI should be more accountable for what it is they do, there are things that have not been updated, wants to know what USI are doing.

Speaker against - Calum - thinks USI could do more but feels that this does not give students the choice, this should be open to all students.

Speaker against – agrees there are issues with USI but feels that leaving USI might be a bit of an extreme

Speaker for – USI have not been visible on site.

Speaker against – feels that this will become a Brexit, there is not enough information given regarding this.

Speaker for – Dominic – if students want to vote for free tea, red bull that's up to them, they can educate themselves.

Speaking against – we have less power but still thinks that USI need to tell students what they do.

Speaker against - Jack City Campus – Has not seeing any active protests within the union and does not know how they will do this without USI.

Sheran Tallaght – we are big enough to put on our own demonstrations etc. Brian explained the funding agreement – we have been agreed funding for the next 5 years. We have a contract with the university.

The union is neutral at the moment so what we are voting today is that we have a stance in this, we want to have the stance in voting leaving USI.

What would it look like if the motion is not passed, - It would mean that the union would not have a stance on this, but USI would.

Question asked - Would it be possible to hold a separate student council meeting regarding this – it was argued that councillors had a week to read this. There is not enough time to hold another meeting regarding this.

9D to the next council, Dominic, feels there is no clarity, what will be done with the money what will be put in place instead.

Brian explained how we must make decision now. What this motion does is that is allows the officer to promote us leaving USI, we have taken a stance



to leave but this will be still up to students to vote whether we should leave or not.

9D – Failed

9D – Eoghan Casey BST – proposal to move back to March. Brian explained that this must happen tonight, we cannot delay this otherwise we do not have a stance.

9D – Failed

9A – Dominic requested.

9A – Failed

9A proposed by Brian.

9A – Passed

Motion – Passed overwhelming majority.

Motion - YES-YES Vote in Referenda

Proposed by Brian Jordan

Seconded by Louise Kavanagh

Louise talked about the yes yes vote in 2024 and explained the importance on the SU having a stance on this.

On the 8th of March, the nation will vote on the amendment of Constitutional provisions related to family and family care. The Government last month approved the publication of the Thirty-ninth Amendment of the Constitution (The Family) Bill 2023 and the Fortieth Amendment of the Constitution (Care) Bill 2023.

TU Dublin SU takes a clear and unequivocal stance in support of a YES-YES vote in the upcoming referenda on March 8th, 2024, and to engage with external bodies to offer accurate information to students in support of this campaign.

Speaker against the motion – Annabel

Speaker for the motion – James GG – thinks we should vote yes yes, stating that the language is just outdated.

Speaking against, Dominic – Believes wording is inadequate.

Speaking for – believes that the wording is inadequate.

Speaking for – Ian events and engagement

Motion – Passed

Reviewed Workplan 2023-2024 – workplan is the main document that we work off and all the things that we should be doing throughout the year. We do a 6-month review. This is where you guys’ review what we do and ask question.

Marco – the comment section should reflect how each event went, e.g. Pride week, culture week, it should say how the reality was how event went and if it took place.

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.

This will now be added to the Motion & Policy Book.



<p>Dominic suggested that we add another column saying how events went. Graham explained how the work is for work for the future, that events etc would be listed on officer reports.</p> <p>No questions on the work planned for semester 2.</p>	<p>The Update Workplan was passed and will now be worked on by officers for Student Councillors to hold them accountable.</p>
<p>5. Standing Items</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<p>USI Update (VP Dublin) Ziad Al-Barghouthi, VP for Campaigns - gave update. Reg Work with VP Campaigns/Regional Officers for voting registration. Implementing a spin-the-wheel campaign with over 4,000 approx. students signed up to date.</p> <p>HEA Student Contribution Charge Review Meeting with HEA members, TUD President & CMLOG President to discuss the possibilities of looking into a review of the Student Contribution Charge. Awaiting feedback from the HEA on this to progress further.</p> <p>General Team Management Working with the team on various projects, organization and open discussions with team & planning.</p> <p>External Organisation Discussions Open discussion with various external organisations for the implementation of a Congress Fair for Congress 2024. Other discussions with various organisations such as Wild Roots Festival and iDonate for offers/work they can carry out with local SU's across the country.</p> <p>Congress Work Working closely with the Congress Director and Steering Committee to run a smooth and effective Congress. Further work on events for evening entertainment.</p> <p>Electoral Reform Looking at the potential of a pilot 'video style' hustings. This will reduce the amount of travel candidates will have to do and allows greater opportunity for more students "on the ground" to watch USI Hustings as they will be available online.</p> <p>Doninic asked about website – she wanted to know why website has not been updated. The website has been audited and has been worked on</p>	



<p><u>Campus Development Update (Campus Vice Presidents)</u></p> <p><u>Class Rep Recruitment (VP AA)</u> – Some states are down from last student council this is because some courses are now finished and were removed from the Class Rep Database</p> <p>Aungier Street 69% Blanchardstown 92% Bolton Street 83% Central Quad 72% East Quad 57% Tallaght 57%</p> <p><u>Motion/Policy Tracker Update (President)</u> – Brian read out update – proposed closure for payment of part time officers – Closed. East quad gates proposed for closure – Closed. Officer reports to get better, we are making improvements on this. Marco – 2 questions - notes that 2 motions are missing from the tracker, has a question on the black history month, this is to take place in Feb, is this happening? This has been held back, it was said in the last student council that it would happen in February, he wanted to know will this happen in Feb, Nekesa said this will still happen but not in February. Marco feels that this was never planned to happen.</p>	
6. PART TIME OFFICER REPORTS	
<p>With no remaining time in the meeting the Chair decided to move Part-Time officer reports to the next meeting on the 28th of February.</p>	<p>At the next council each officer will present 2 reports.</p>
7. FULL TIME OFFICERS REPORTS	
<p>With no remaining time in the meeting the Chair decided to move Full-Time officer reports to the next meeting on the 28th of February.</p>	<p>At the next council each officer will present 2 reports.</p>
8. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES	
	Action item



With no remaining time in the meeting the Chair decided to move Reports from Other Bodies to the next meeting on the 28 th of February.	Any other reports will be presented at the next council.
9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	Action item
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	Action item
28 TH February 2024, Blanchardstown	Clerk to send invite.