

Minutes: TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting

Date: 28th February 2024

Time: 6pm

Location: Blanchardstown

Present:

Chairperson Graham Hayes

President Brian Jordan

VP for Communications and Media Louise Kavanagh

VP for Events and Engagement Ian Kelly

VP for Academic Affairs Shauna O'Toole

VP for Welfare and Equality Nekesa Khisa

VP for City Campus Peter McCann

VP for Tallaght Campus Sheran Bahadir

VP for Blanchardstown Campus Jeremy Lawler

In Attendance:

Clerk to the Council Caoimhín Kelly

Union of Student in Ireland (USI)

Nathan Murphy

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

1. Minutes	Action item
Councillor Annabel requested the previous minutes from 13 th of February	
to amended to reflect the correct version in which their name is spelt.	
Otherwise, minutes from the last meeting were approved.	Noted.
2. Matters arising	Action item



There were no matters arising from the last meeting other than the fact that PTO and FTO Officer Reports from the 13 th of February and 28 th were dually to be noted at the start of this Meeting.	Noted.
3. Part Time Officer Report	Action item
This Council will hear the Officer Reports of two Student Council's due to time constraints from the previous Council.	
Ethnic Diversity Part Time Officer	
The Officer took their Report's as read and opened the floor to Questions.	
Councillor Annabel questioned the PTO for Ethnic Diversity on how they aim to implement the strategies and learning outcomes from a recent event they attended into the Students' Union.	The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and
The PTO outlined in order to implement the learning outcomes of the event; a top-down approach should be practised as education should be the most paramount element of the University experience.	28/2 were approved by Council.
Mature Student	The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were rejected by
The Mature Student Part-Time Officer failed to attend both Meetings, did not submit any Officer Reports and did not send apologies to the Council re their absence.	Council.
Due to the absence of both Officer Reports, the Council, under newly inaugurated provisions in the Constitution, rejected the Mature Student PTO's absent Officer Reports and thus, triggered Article 17 of the Constitution – initiating an impeachment procedure.	The Representation Team, under the instruction of the Chair, will make available Impeachment Petitions to the Council under the triggered provision.



International Student

The International Student PTO spoke on their Reports outlining Meetings and Events attended.

The PTO attended Culture Week on every Campus, which was heavily supported by Ian, the VP for Events and Engagement.

The PTO outlined their work status on a motion they are planning on bringing to Council.

The PTO took everything else as read.

The PTO for Placement asked the International Student PTO, whether the low engagement from Students for Culture Week was to do with the dates in which they were held, and if so, whether the Team would consider changing those dates in future?

The PTO outlined the reasoning for low engagement was due to the lack of preparation warranted to Students and also the times in which the Event was ran.

Councillor Annabel requested the PTO to clarify as to who was the leader of the Culture Week Event, as there seems to have been a contradiction of wording between the Int. Student's Report and the Report of the VP for Welfare and Equality.

The PTO outlined that they could not explain that contradiction.

The Ethnic Diversity PTO outlined that the concern outlined by Annabel has footing as a form of plagiarism. The PTO for E.D outlined that this is a concern to VP for Welfare and Equality's remit and that it is a wider Academic Affairs issue.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.



Gaeilge

The Gaeilge PTO apologised for the absence of their second Report as they didn't come across the reminder email in time.

Besides that, the PTO outlined that they organised Seachtain na Gaeilge with the VP for Events and Engagement, securing funding from the University and putting the Event date for April. A band from BIMM will be performing at the SnaG event.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

LGBTQ+

The LGBTQ+ Rights Part-Time Officer failed to attend both Meetings, did not submit any Officer Reports and did not send apologies to the Council re their absence.

Due to the absence of both Officer Reports, the Council, under newly inaugurated provisions in the Constitution, rejected the Mature Student PTO's absent Officer Reports and thus, triggered Article 17 of the Constitution – initiating an impeachment procedure.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were rejected by Council.

The Representation
Team, under the
instruction of the
Chair, will make
available
Impeachment
Petitions to the
Council under the
triggered provision.

Disabilities

The PTO for Disabilities outlined that the Green Paper is going ahead, with good progress being made with the Welfare and Equality Team.



The PTO is aiding in the pursuit of a program of bettering disabilities representation in Sport. Councillor Oisín requested an update on the Green Paper. The PTO outlined that a lot of progress is being done with WE with hopefully more updates in next few weeks. The Int. Student PTO requested clarification on the new calm spaces. Who is the PTO having the discussions with about their introductions to Campuses and will the new Calm Spaces be in every Campus? The PTO answered that yes, it is for every Campus and there is no timeline as to when they'll be introduced. The Officer Reports Point of Information by President Brian: Calm Spaces are the new Sensory from both 13/2 and Spaces. 28/2 were approved by Council. **Sustainability** The Sustainability PTO has been in discussions with Facilities about creating better bike facilities, noting that the preferred location for the bike racks is to move it from the car park to inside the building. Discussions have also been undergoing for the procurement of more bin facilities in BST. The PTO has also had multiple meeting with Green Campus. Councillor Aleksander requested, to the Chair, more time to be given to the PTO to discuss their Report. Councillor Marco asked the PTO about more bin facilities in every Campus,

and asked whether we will see that this year on every Campus?



The PTO mentioned that this measure is likely to be completed next year, and if they are re-elected to serve a second term; they will work to better that timeline.

Councillor Annabel asked the PTO that a lot of their work mentions BST, and asked whether the PTO aims to focus more on other Campuses?

The PTO mentioned that there are natural restrictions in place with fulfilling cross-Campus duties like exams.

The Sustainability Part-Time Officer outlined that the University recently got the Green Flag across all Campuses. The PTO invited all Councillors to the Presentation.

The President thanked Amber for her hard work and commitment to sustainability in the SU since taking up the role.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

Placement

The Placement Officer attended an event for the new Workday building being built on Grangegorman. The Officer has organised to meet with the VP for Academic Affairs.

Councillor Orlagh asked the PTO when they plan to represent Placement Students in TU Dublin, suggesting that nothing is happening in the Placement Officer's remit.

The PTO responded that they planned on creating a survey, but noted Students are tired of surveys. The PTO also suggested that there have been a lot of events lately making it ten times harder to engage with Students.



Councillor Samantha noted that the Placement Officer's Reports are extremely bare, and followed up in asking whether the PTO is doing anything meaningful for Placement Students?

The PTO responded in confirming that they plan on working more for Placement Students.

Councillor Eoin asked the Placement Officer that, in the event that TU Dublin SU leave USI, how may this remit get their funding?

The Placement Officer noted that they have not yet considered that yet.

A Question was raised on, the small scale, what is going to be done for Placement Students?

The Placement Officer noted that the motivation is to get care for all Placement Students and to have them sufficiently renumerated.

Point of Order from Councillor Samantha noting that the Placement Officer is speaking off topic.

Councillor Annabel suggested that none of the Officer's Reports reflect their remit, and asks the Officer, in summary, what do they plan on doing in their remit?

The Officer answered in saying that there are a variety of things they want to cover in their remit like: canvassing the University on the eradication of unpaid Placements, look at the options of securing feasible paid Placements, and look more widely at Industry-specific issues. Alongside this, the PTO wants to understand the gender equality issues in the Placement sector.

Councillor Robert noted that it is understood that the Officer's end-goal is long-term feasible paid Placements Robert, however, the Councillor noted

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were rejected by Council.

The Representation
Team, under the
instruction of the
Chair, will make
available
Impeachment
Petitions to the
Council under the
triggered provision.



that the working conditions are higger issues for Discoment Ctudents mare	
that the working conditions are bigger issues for Placement Students more so than pay.	
<u>Postgraduate</u>	
The Postgraduate Officer failed to attend both Meetings, did not submit any Officer Reports and did not send apologies to the Council re their absence.	The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were rejected by Council.
Due to the absence of both Officer Reports, the Council, under newly inaugurated provisions in the Constitution, rejected the Mature Student PTO's absent Officer Reports and thus, triggered Article 17 of the Constitution – initiating an impeachment procedure.	The Representation Team, under the instruction of the Chair, will make available Impeachment Petitions to the Council and wider Student Body under the triggered provision.
4. Full Time Officer Report	Action item
4. Full Time Officer Report VP for Tallaght	Action item
	Action item
VP for Tallaght The VP noted that the Cash Cow went well again. There has been a new water cooler installed in Tallaght as the old one wasn't working. There has	Action item



Discussions have been had on the need for more cigarette bins, the introduction of more signed bins (recycling, glass, plastic).

The VP also mentioned that food vouchers are also being re-distributed due to the increase in demand in recent weeks.

Part-Time Officer Marco asked whether the lobby for vouchers is a 'lobby University' measure or is it addressed via e-mailing the University. The PTO noted their concern on how long time is spent in getting things completed.

It was also noted that in the VP's Manifesto, there was an aim to bring more events to Tallaght and that this hasn't happened.

The VP responded in stating that when asking for things from the University on e-mail, there is a lot of back and forth and it is difficult to get things done in a time efficient manner.

On the Events point, the Officer stated that they first want to better the events that the SU already runs instead of adding more onto the remit.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

VP City Campus

The VP for City Campus provided an update on the inappropriate bathroom signage that was recorded around the City Campuses. An update on the relocation of the bike facilities to move inside has also been provided.

The City VP has been working on the procurement and maintenance of new water fountains, picnic tables, and has been working on fixing the ripped basketball nets on Campus.

The VP with the Presidents and Sports in TU Dublin have arranged 1 hour free gym time for each Student, on each Campus per week going forward.



New pods have also arrived and will be distributed.

The President commended Peter's commitment and hard work to bettering Student Life on the City Campuses.

PTO Marco asked on the mention of Pods, how much does the SU actually work in the planning on the procurement?

The VP for City answered that they are working closely with the University on procurement.

A Point of Information from the President suggested that the SU has no say in what the University spends money on.

The VP went on to mention that Disabilities is in charge of Pods purchases as their concept is for the peace and quiet of Students to go somewhere and get that.

The PTO for Sustainability mentioned that a lot of Students in BST don't get on with the Porters, is there an update on that?

The VP mentioned that the Porters have maintained a tangible link in keeping their positions as BST porters and suggested that they may be good members in a bad team. There have been talks re sending them around other City Campuses but also suggested that concerned Students should contact Ciaran Stone if the Porters are closing the building too early.

Councillor Annabel asked what a PP Liaison Officer is?

The VP explained that they are the public-private point of contact between the SU /external actors and the University. This person is responsible for undertaking the duties the University cannot.



There was a question raised that there is no uniform approach to the East Quad Gates being opened and closed.

The VP for City recommended to contact him in this event that they're open and he can liaise with EQ porters.

Councillor Aleksander thanked the VP for their work on the Disabilities remit, and asked for an update on the Building Development?

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

VP for Blanchardstown

The VP has secured access for all Students for the Campus's elevators, no longer needing a key.

A breastfeeding room has been set up on Campus, but awareness needs to be raised on its use.

The VP is working with the other CVP's on securing more appropriate bathroom signage across the Campuses.

Councillor Annabel asked is there a reason that the change of the inappropriate bathroom signage is in the remit of the CVP's and not in the remit of the VP for WE?

The VP confirmed that inappropriate bathroom signage is a Facilities issue.

Councillor Fiona asked for an update on Transport in Blanchardstown.

The VP has been working with USI to better transport services in the Blanch area.

A point of information by the VP for Comms and Media that planning permission has been put through for the Shopping Centre Bus Shelter.



An Update was requested on the servicing of the toilets.

The VP submitted that they are a work in progress.

Councillor Aleksander noted major leakages across the Campus upon their arrival to Campus, has Estates been liaised on this?

The VP answered that this has been raised with Estates.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

VP for Events and Engagement

The VP for Events and Engagement started their Report in telling Council that a lot of campaign and events were slow off the mark, thus the Events and Campaign Working Group was established to facilitate streamlining and coordinating E&C's better.

Th VP noted that this ECWG has ascended into him taking on more campaigns and events outside of their remit.

Councillor Annabel asked the VP on what mandates did some Officers miss? In other words, they ask, who's events did the VP take on / which Officers didn't show up to their rostered events?

The VP was unable to explain which Officer's didn't show up on their Roster times, however, some didn't.

The VP mentioned that they worked every day and every night to try and keep up with the E&C's.

PTO Marco mentioned with PRIDE Week, nothing happened – what may have been the issue with this?

Also on RAG Week, what is happening there, asked Marco? The PTO outlined how some Officer's haven't engaged with RAG Week.

The VP noted that due to the pan-university model, it is difficult to have constant engagement.

The VP noted on the question about PRIDE Week, that there was a fundamental issue with the promotion of the event.



The VP referred to the ECWG and mentioned that it was created to make everything seamless, and also noted that — Culture Week was another example of a not perfectly executed event.

Councillor Samantha asked why was it that the VP took on Welfare and Equality Events?

The VP mentioned that targets weren't being hit, and was thus asked to step in and better interaction in that remit.

Question from PTO for Sustainability as to why is the VP running for USI if they are pushing a Leave Vote in the upcoming referendum?

The VP outlined that like the job he has now, when started he didn't get on with the role, but as time went on he suited more into it. Like USI, he believes the Union is fundamentally wrong, but believes being within it can bring some change.

The President applauded the VP's hard work and commitment to his remit.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

VP for Academic Affairs

The VP has been working on Academic Council, Academic Integrity and graphics will be uploaded accordingly.

PTO Marco asked whether a lot more work is being done, or is it that their Report is just vague?

The VP elaborated on their work over the past 2 weeks.

It was mentioned that Students who had exams after 1 p.m. didn't see the benefits of the Exams 101 Campaign.

The VP noted that this was a stock issue.

The PTO for Ethnic Diversity requested an update on the Decolonized Curriculum Mandate.

The VP urged attendance at Academic Council in order to see developments.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

VP for Welfare and Equality

The VP commenced their Report to the Council with thanking the Team for their aid in current events, and noted that their remit has been playing catch-up a lot lately.



Councillor Samantha asked the VP why they felt it was appropriate, in the VP's report, to ask Councillors to suggest ideas for the remit if the VP already has mandates?

The VP answered in stating that the request was intended to suggest that the VP was looking for inputs on the current mandates in the Policy books.

Councillor Aoife noted to the VP, a contradiction between the VP's Report and with that of the VP for Events and Engagement's report.

The VP noted that while Ian ran the Events, the VP's Team was present to represent the VP in the execution of the Event. The WE Team sat in on meetings re the events, planned with Events and noted that due to work absences', the VP called upon the VP for Events and Engagement to aid in Event planning.

On the Transhealthcare mandate, the VP noted that the mandate in its current form is being handed into the competency of the VP for Blanchardstown's remit, that the VP solely asked the Blanch VP to step, "not take over".

It was noted by a member of the Council that the VP was not mentioned in the President's Report as the Officer that has led the transhealthcare policies in the Union, despite the VP claiming ownership over its' developments.

Councillor Michael outlined that various AI detectors detected AI use in the VP's Officer Reports.

The VP assured that the they wrote their Officer Report's by themselves.

Councillor noted that the VP's tab on the Motion and Policy Tracker has not yet been updated.

The VP thanked the Councillor for flagging this issue.

Councillor Robert asked the VP to list out which Events they have and haven't attended.

The VP assured the Councillor that they will refer back to them on that development.

Councillor Eoin requested the VP to outline, when the VP is suggesting hosting Events and mandating motions to aid and recognise the Traveller Community in TU Dublin, who does the VP necessarily intend to represent?

This action will be referred back to in the April Council.



The VP outlined that they will follow the guidance of the previous mandate (that has fallen) and seek to target the Traveller Community outlined in that mandate.

Councillor Oriana noted to the VP that the VP stated they "they took the lead on the Transhealthcare Week" but that the VP also said "that they had no knowledge on it".

The VP outlined that the transhealthcare policies come under the remit of WE.

The Chair ceased the VP from speaking further.

There was a question from a Councillor asking the VP, what have they done to lead? The Councillor followed on by suggesting by the looks of the President's and VP for Blanch's Reports, it is clear that they ran the Event.

A point of information from the VP Blanch noted that they can name all Transhealthcare meetings they have attended with the VP for WE.

Another question came in asking, if the VP for Blanch is responsible for a lot of the work on the policy, why aren't they mentioned in the VP's Report?

The VP responded by stating that the transhealthcare policy is under the remit of the WE Team.

An intervention from Councillor Oriana noted that the VP isn't answering the question.

Another question came in asking, why does the VP have the word-for-word same paragraph in their Officer Report that the International Student PTO has written in theirs?

The Chair proceeded to read out the disputed duplicated paragraphs.

A suggestion came from a Councillor that, if the VP won't commend the President and the VP for Blanch for their work in the VP for WE's remit – why won't the VP for WE resign?

The VP outlined that at this moment in time they do not procure the information to answer that question, and followed on by suggesting that is why there is a wider-team.

A point of clarification came from the questionee clarifying the question being asked.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were rejected by Council.



A Question came in asking the a Councillor asking the WE VP about the Government Survey related to the Autism Innovation Strategy. The Councillor asked whether the VP can increase signposting around this?

The VP outlined that this survey hasn't been brought to their attention yet.

The PTO for Sustainability asked the VP, what are their plans for sustainability?

The VP outlined that they will reach out to the PTO and request input.

The Representation
Team, under the
instruction of the
Chair, will make
available
Impeachment
Petitions to the
Council and wider
Student Body under
the triggered
provision.

VP for Communications and Media

The VP has taken their report as read.

The VP further noted that they got the SU into the Journal with a lead they passed onto the online media outlet.

Councillor Annabel noted that the Student Media Outlet has been nine months in the making, and as it stands, there isn't much tangible materials with the Outlet. The Councillor asked can the Union expect something in th current VP's term?

The VP outlined that the work they've been conducting over the past 9 months has been predominately desk research, interviews and they are now at the stage to put the research into material fruition.

The VP outlined that they will use the data from the USurvey to scope what students want to see.

The establishment of a Focus Group for the Outlet will aim to gather these conclusions on what content the Outlet will convey.

As of right now, the terms of reference of the Outlet are being developed, with the foundations of an Editorial Board being created. It is all in touching distance, the VP outlined.

The VP also noted that they have outsourced journalists to cover the VOTE 2024 Campaign.

Councillor Eoin asked in the event TUDSU leave USI, will those extra monies go into the Outlet?

The VP noted that in that event, a re-evaluation of distribution frameworks will have to be created.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

President



The President outlined the various topics their remit has been covering specifically around the Palestinian Solidarity Protests, USI Referendum, planning for the Plebiscite, the submission of the T-fund and work on the Period Poverty Campaign.

Councillor Annabel asked the President to elaborate on the workload balance across the Executive.

The President that his core role is service delivery – making sure students receive the best service of events, campaigns and mandates available to them and the President also noted that they are happy the VP for EE is able to support him so much in executing Events.

Councillor Aoife asked what Officers are working on the Transgender Policies?

The President noted that the VP for Blanch and himself are working on these policies.

The VP for City Campus commended the President's work and commitment in recent weeks.

The Officer Reports from both 13/2 and 28/2 were approved by Council.

5. Motions and Policies (Approval Items)

Action item



Motion: Accessibility in Bolton Street

The aim of this Motion is to improve the life of those in wheelchairs, and that the currently available elevators in BST are not good enough and better facilities should be sought from this motion.

Speaker for: Annabel noted that the Motion outlines the legal failings of the University in this regard, the Councillor suggested that the University need to be held accountable. It was mentioned that the Uni don't take regard unless threatened.

Passed by Majority.

Schedule Amendment:

This Schedule Amendment has been ratified by Student Council.

Passed by Majority.

Motion: Bolton street and Linenhall

This motion outlines the accessibility issues, maintenance and facilities issues in BST and Linenhall. It was noted that anyone who studies in GG shouldn't be at a more advantageous position than someone who studies in BST in terms of facilities services and maintenance.

Speaker for: Aleksander noted that the University has said since the 70's they are planning a move away from BST but that this hasn't happened yet.

9c suggestion: to change the date until "semester 1 24/25" just so the motion doesn't fall too early.

Amendment (9C) is accepted.

Speaker for: The University cannot keep using 'moving' as an excuse to not do anything.

Speaker for: Robert outlined that the move to Broombridge is realistically 15 years away, and that it is unacceptable that they are allowing BST to go into disrepair.

Speaker for: Eoin outlined that they have been studying in BST for three years, and that it ironic an engineer is studying in an arena where so much engineering needs to happen.

Passed by Majority.

Motion: Green Paper

This motion touches on the Government's current disability allowance fee and the reform of it. The Speaker noted that this new Green Paper does not take into account the consideration of disabled people.



Speaker for: the President announced that hopefully all of Council can endorse this Motion and denounce the Government's plans.

Passed by Majority.

Motion: Abolish Repeat Fees

This Motion outlined that 75 euro must be paid in order to appeal or repeat an exam in TU Dublin.

Point of Clarification: The President asked why a 60% decrease and not 100%?

The Speaker answered that there was no rationale with the 60% that they can start anywhere.

9c suggestion: VP for EE suggested abolishing all repeat fees; instructed to put into red and amend anywhere where 60% is mentioned and change it to "abolish".

The VP for EE outlined that they shouldn't give the University the opportunity to come back on it with numbers, that a firm line in complete abolition should be followed.

Speaker against 9c: a 9d was suggested in order to refer the motion back to the AAWG and elaborate on it more there to bring back a stronger motion.

9c was passed.

A 9d was initiated: Suggestion to bring Motion (with the 9c included) back to AAWG and refer back to it in April Council.

Speaker against 9d: Suggetsed there is no reason to 9d this Motion, that people right now may not have the financial means to wait for this to pass.

The 9d falls.

Speaker for Motion (incl. 9c that was passed): Motion should be passed as it is unfair for students to pay appeal fees when their exams have been corrected with prejudice.

Passed by Majority.

Honorary Membership to TU Dublin Students' Union

This Motion was passed by the Council.

Passed by Majority.





6. Standing Items	Action item
<u>USI Update</u>	
USI met with Students' Union's from the UK and spoke on USI structures and processes.	
Representatives from USI also met representatives in the Dáil to discuss upcoming policy on Digs Legislation.	
It has been decided in USI that PTO Training will be given to all remits going forward.	
USI representatives attended TUDSU's RAG Week where funds were being raised for the Irish Cancer Society.	
USI has been hosting an accommodation and transport survey where prizes have been included.	
The upcoming theme for USI Congress is Dublin themed, "Boom is back" and asked attendees to wear their best Celtic Tiger Costume.	



President Brian gives his thanks for Bryan O Mahony's attendance to TUDSU's RAG Week. A Question was raised on the shift of a student accommodation landlord changing leases from 40 weeks to 51 weeks. It was answered that Minister Harris has been met about this. The Ethnic Diversity PTO attended a lot of USI Training, in the event that TUDSU leave USI, will PTO's still avail of USI Training? A Question was raised on the event where TUDSU leave USI, and then the next USI want to re-join, can there be back-to-back referendums on this so the SU technically never leaves – as it takes a year to leave the USI? The Dublin Region VP answered that USI have an application process and TUDSU will be subject to that. A Question was raised on whether the USI will be running a 'STAY' campaign across TU Dublin Campuses? They will be. It was noted by a Councillor that TUDSU attained a meeting with the HEA relatively quickly, why is it the case that USI wait a long time? It was noted the UCD affiliation referendum has been postponed until April due to operational issues. **Representation Update**



The Representation Update on Student Council numbers, Faculty Board Numbers, Class Rep Numbers and current nominations for FT and PT Officer roles were noted.	
7. Date of Next Meeting	Action item