

Motion: Regulation of the Executives Ability to Mandate Voting Rights of Student Representatives

Student Council Notes:

The Mission, Vision and Values that form the foundation of our Student Union are as follows in the TU Dublin SU Constitution:

“The Mission of the Union is to be the independent representative organisation for students of the Technological University Dublin, to act in the best interests of its members, to advance and defend their rights”

“The Vision is that each TU Dublin student will have a positive and transformative experience to assist them in reaching their full potential academically, socially and professionally, and to develop as ethical and informed individuals”

“The Values of the Union are that it will be student-led, democratic, inclusive, transparent, accountable, ethical, respectful, empowering, and professional”

The Student Union also promotes the rights of student councillors to exercise their voice as is also explicitly stated in the Constitution:

“Schedule E. 5.4. The Student Councillor will play a strong role in developing student engagement within the cohort of students that they represent.”

One of the guiding principles of Student Council is as follows:

“iii. All members will be afforded the opportunity to fully contribute to meeting deliberations and where necessary, provide constructive challenge. At the same time, the Chair and members will guard against attempts by a member/s to exert excessive influence over decision making”

Student Council Notes with Regret:

That the principles and guidelines as laid out in our constitution are not upheld for student representatives at external events, and terms and conditions for delegates are decided solely by the Executive with no predetermined guidelines or limitations.

The concept of ‘calling whip’ was introduced to delegates that attended Comhdháil/Congress which mandated them to vote a certain way on a motion which was not voted on by student council. No additional context was given as to why such

a mandate was imposed, and delegates were warned there would be consequences for not voting in line with the delegate leader. There was no procedure or method of appeal for delegates who broke such a mandate.

Student Council Notes with Concern:

The concept of a delegation leader having and exercising discretion over the voting rights of delegates makes the appointment of student delegates to external events such as Comhdháil/Congress pointless. Delegates have been appointed to represent the view of students, not the view of the Executive or individual officers; and mandated voting on individual motions goes against the ethos of our union to promote diversity, inclusivity and empowerment of students to exercise their voice.

Student Council Therefore Mandates:

The Executive will take the stance that 'calling whip' or mandating voting positions of student representatives and delegates is undemocratic.

Student Council Further Mandates:

The Executive must develop a document that outlines the level of authority a delegation leader may have over a student delegates ability to represent the student voice at external events. This document must also include a clearly outlined procedure that must be followed should a delegate appear to have broken such a mandate. Furthermore, this document must include methods of appeal should the delegate disagree with the delegation's leaders decision or any punitive measures that have been taken.

Proposed by: Samantha Corcoran

Seconded by: Sarah Gough, John Benedict Ocampo Divinagracia, Marco Nocerino, (Nell) Arnel Gerald Dong-E Kidpalos, Gabriele Miceviciute, Zakhar Romaniv, Joyce Husemann