



Technological University

Dublin Students' Union

Student Council

Policies

**Policies are valid for a period of three years from the date they were passed
i.e. 12th December 2019 to 12th December 2022**

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Student Council Policies	Falling
<p>1. <u>Student Levy - 5th May 2021</u></p> <p>Student levies are a common instrument used to raise capital for investment in student facilities across third level institutions in Ireland. Currently TU Dublin does not have the financial means to construct a student or sports centre on Grangegorman, while the government does not provide funding for non-academic facilities.</p> <p>Such levies apply in most other 3rd level Institutions in Ireland including: Dublin City University Maynooth University National University of Ireland Galway Trinity College Dublin University College Cork University College Dublin University of Limerick</p> <p>With the move to Grangegorman there are a number of issues that the Students' Union, Societies and Sports now face with regards to the provision of student recreational services on the new campus in Grangegorman. There is also a lack of student facilities and space in Tallaght and Blanchardstown which needs to be resolved.</p> <p>There has been regular pressure from the University for the Students' Union to pass a levy to fund student facilities, without any clear information on how much such a levy should cost, what exact facilities it would build, where exactly those facilities shall be, what those facilities shall consist of, when those facilities shall be built, what students will receive on payment of such a levy, or any concrete information that students and the Students' Union would need to pass such a levy.</p> <p>That based on the investigation of the Student Levy around the country, TU Dublin SU therefore resolves that any such levy can only be introduced following approval in a referendum of all students and subject to the following:</p> <p>That agreement has been reached with the Students' Union and approved by the Student Council on the purpose, structure, legal status and management of any fund so established. That the University commits to developing purpose-built space for student activities; including space for societies, sports and Students' Union activities. That the student levy isn't the only source of funding for the proposed facilities. That no increase can be made in any such levy, without resource to a further referendum. That any levy proposal serves all students across all TU Dublin Campuses. That any such levy be for an agreed fixed period only. That proposed facilities have confirmed plots of land designated to them prior to going to referendum. That design and project teams are assigned to the Student Centre and Sports Centre projects, with building schedules to be presented to students and Student Council in advance of a referendum.</p>	05/05/24
<p>2. <u>Intersectional Work- 3rd February 2021</u></p> <p>Intersectionality is the acknowledgement that most people have their own unique experiences of discrimination, micro-aggressions, and oppression, and we must consider all areas when dealing with marginalised groups, particularly when campaign planning or lobbying.</p>	03/02/24

Intersectionality further acknowledges that one person is not limited to one barrier or oppression, but can be affected on multiple areas, for example, an LGBTQ+ member of the traveling community may experience both homophobia and racism simultaneously. It is important for social justice, but also for the work we do to adopt an intersectional approach to the work in which TU Dublin SU does.

Therefore, this policy believes that all lobbying and campaign work done through TU Dublin SU, should adopt the consideration for intersectional approaches, for example including diverse speakers on multiple platforms.

The spirit of this policy will ensure TU Dublin SU adopts an intersectional approach to work

3. Stand Against Image-Based Sexual Abuse & Revenge Porn 10TH December 2020

10/12/23

Image-Based Sexual Abuse is the non-consensual sharing of private or personal images that may be of a sexual nature. Revenge Porn is the sharing of media online used to coerce, abuse, or intimidate somebody, often done anonymously. Image-Based Sexual Abuse (often shortened to IBSA) is not just a hot-topic issue. This is an issue that has consistently shown gaps in legislation, which allows perpetrators to emerge scot-free. Women are primarily affected by this, and the lack of any routes to support and justice for them contributes to misogyny, rape culture, and victim-blaming in Irish society.

That IBSA and Revenge Porn is unacceptable and feeds into a larger conversation around bodily autonomy, respect for privacy, how we treat women (or anyone affected by this) in society and gender-based violence. Student Council Recognizes and Applauds: Activists and Organizations such as Linda Hayden (Victim's Alliance), Dublin Rape Crisis Center, TENI, Women's Aid, Men's Aid, EndIBSAireland, and endless more for their endless work to support those affected by IBSA and Revenge Porn.

TU Dublin Students' Union Executive to lobby for real, meaningful, and working legislative change to be enacted to make IBSA and Revenge Porn a criminal offense but to also lobby for supports for students affected by perpetrators.

To run an information campaign for staff and students to inform around issues such as gender-based violence, desensitisation, IBSA, de-platforming, and more.

4. Supporting Students in Sex Work -10th December 2020

10/12/23

Sex Work refers to but is not limited to; escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcamming, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex. Austerity and services and support cuts have led to an increased risk level with engaging in this work and that online platform such as OnlyFans have led to an increase in accessibility to sex work, but without correct supports. This can lead to instances of abuse.

Current legislation in Ireland has increased the risks of engaging in sex work, with Gardaí targeting sex workers and criminalising them. Sex Work is not a "bad" thing to engage with and that anyone who chooses to engage in Sex Work should be supported, with particular care to marginalised / minority communities that trend higher in sex work. Sex work is work and should be treated as such.

To support students who are sex workers, this policy's intent is to achieve that by:

- The Students' Union supports and campaigns for the full decriminalization of sex work and to support sex worker-led organizations such as the Sex Workers Alliance of Ireland.

<p>- That the Students' Union campaign against any attempted regression of rights for those who engage in sex work and to support and signpost effectively and meaningfully any student sex workers that may be outed, targeted, faced with prejudice, harassment, or discrimination as a result of their status as sex workers.</p> <p>- That the Students' Union lobby for a framework that is designed to allow anyone engaging in sex work engage in the industry safely, without fear of persecution, blackmail, or coercion.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Support for the Traveller & Roma Communities –12th November 2020</u></p> <p>TU Dublin is one of Ireland's largest third-level bodies that encompass nearly 30,000 students across the island of Ireland located among the three campus sites. With that title and breadth of influence, comes a large responsibility to the communities in which we are very pro-active and contributive members of.</p> <p>The progress review for the National Access Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education states that there is a need to improve participation rates among the Irish Traveller Community. This encompasses the Roma community also.</p> <p>It is important to draw note to the fact that the Traveller & Roma community is classed as an ethnic minority in Ireland and experience racism daily, and as a community, we cannot let our friends and colleagues go through this without it being challenged and corrected. This policy would enshrine the belief that every student is an integral part of our wider community and should be supported regardless of who they are, where they come from or their background.</p> <p>This policy will aim to tackle that by ensuring that TU Dublin Students' Union actively includes the Traveller and Roma representations in the appropriate campaigns, and as a further step, that TU Dublin Students' Union works with TU Dublin and relevant partners to ensure that the University becomes much more accessible for students from the Traveller and Roma communities, in partnership with working with the University to ensure the wider community knows that TU Dublin.</p> <p>The works should further in the respect that the Students' Union should lobby for the implementation of impactful and meaningful of different tools, status kits and more (such as iReport, Yellow Flag, STATUS Tool Kit, Guaranteed Scholarships and more) to ensure there is a real change in culture towards the Travelling and Roma community.</p> <p>The essence of this policy ensures that TU Dublin Students' Union recognizes and understands the need for attention to be drawn to the difficulties faced by the Traveller and Roma communities and that the Students' Union should do everything possible where appropriate to ensure their experience in third-level education goes unhindered, and their access (and progression) to (and throughout) education is free from stigma, hatred, bigotry or unnecessary barriers.</p>	12/11/23
<p>6. <u>TU Dublin SU RAG Charity-11th March 2020</u></p> <p>TU Dublin Students' Union recognises the benefits of raising money for charity, both in terms of fundraising for worthy causes and in raising the profile of the Students' Union and the services it provides. RAG stands for Raising and Giving.</p> <p>In order to further raise the profile of this concept, the TU Dublin Students' Union Student Council shall vote on and determine one charity, by the last Council meeting of the academic year to be the official charity for the following year. A percentage contribution of</p>	03/11/23

all profitable events run by the TU Dublin Students' Union throughout the year, shall be set aside and added to the proceeds generated from the designated RAG charity events.

This policy should be advertised to all students in the lead up to the election of the charity. Nominations for the RAG Charity shall open during the second semester. Two registered students shall be required to nominate a charity. Following the close of nominations, the charity nominated shall be contacted and required to submit a proposal detailing who they are, what they do and how any money raised for them will benefit the charity.

Student Councillors will be given the opportunity to review the proposals and decide on which charity they would like to support. The charity who receives the greatest support, from Student Council will become the chosen charity for the following academic year and will be announced at the Student Recognition Ceremony. The Student Council will only select ONE chosen charity, to which all RAG proceeds for the following academic year will be donated.

A presentation of the funds raised for the designated RAG charity by the Union shall be made at the Recognition Ceremony held at the end of the academic year, on the total funds raised throughout the year.

The chosen charity to receive RAG funds may not be nominated as a RAG charity for the following two years.

The Union shall not offer financial support to any charity other than the official RAG charities in any given year but shall advise any other charity seeking financial support as to how they may receive a nomination as the official RAG Charity for future years, by way of a standard reply from the Clerk to Student Council. Thus, where a charity wishes to promote itself on campus, it may be allowed where it is deemed by the President not to interfere with the official RAG Charity, and where it is not a burden on the Union.

23/10/22

7. Drug Harm Reduction- 23rd October 2019

TU Dublin Students' Union is the largest students' union in Ireland with approximately 29,000 members.

As outlined in Article 2 of our Constitution (2019) we act in the best interests of our members and per Article 3 (v) we work to 'promote the welfare and well-being of members'.

One area of concern for us relates to addressing the issue of drug use which is becoming more widespread in the general population according to data from the *European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction*, as follows:

"Available data suggest that drug use has become more common among the adult general population aged 15-64 years in Ireland over recent years. Fewer than 2 in 10 adults reported use of any illicit drug during their lifetime in 2002-03, but this figure increased to approximately 3 in 10 in 2014-15"

Trends would assume that since this, numbers may have further increased. There is currently a lack of understanding in Irish culture regarding harm reduction and due to this

<p>there is no effective response to drugs in Irish society. Drug harm reduction aims to reduce harm associated with the use of drugs, and do not fail based on abstinence.</p> <p>The Union recognises that drugs are illegal but believe that harm reduction should be viewed as a middle ground where people with widely differing views on drug policy can agree with one another regarding practical immediate ways to reduce drug-related harm among users.</p> <p>The Students' Union wishes to promote the safety of students by providing accurate and relevant drug harm reduction information.</p> <p>To act upon this the Union will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lobby TU Dublin to work towards having a policy on drug harm reduction ● Collaborate with organisations which already run drug harm reduction initiatives ● Provide drug harm reduction information in all campaigns related to drugs. 	
<p>8. <u>TUDSU Accommodation – 10th April 2019</u></p> <p>The difficulty that students face in finding accommodation has risen dramatically in the last few years. Students struggle to look for affordable and fit-for-purpose accommodation. There is also a need to increase student awareness of their rights and responsibilities as tenants.</p> <p>We have seen an increase of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) around the Grangegorman area that is unaffordable and taking advantage of our students. TUDSU has serious concerns and disappointment in the price of these PBSA complexes.</p> <p>TUDSU has decided that it can no longer support or publicly promote this private student accommodation as we believe that it is not affordable for most of the student population that we represent in TU Dublin. Students will be paying over €1000 a month which we cannot stand for.</p> <p>TUDSU also will not support and will stand up against any unaffordable accommodation that TU Dublin, Grangegorman Development Agency or any other external or internal organisation build on the Grangegorman campus.</p> <p>The Union wants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secured grants for Higher Educational Institutions to build purpose-built student accommodation ● Affordable and fit-for-purpose student accommodation ● Lobby for the regulation of Air B n B ● Introduce rent pressure zones for purpose-built student accommodation ● Ensure students have appropriate tenancies rights in both student accommodation and digs ● Criteria to be introduced on the TU Dublin Student Pad so that student accommodation is safe, affordable and of good quality 	10/04/22
<p>9. <u>TUDSU Welfare – 10th April 2019</u></p> <p><u>Homelessness</u></p> <p>TUDSU recognises and supports the Coalition for Homelessness and Housing policies as formed in 2016</p>	10/04/22

LGBTQ+

TUDSU recognises that Northern Ireland does not recognise same-sex marriage. After supporting the marriage for equality campaign in 2015, TUDSU believes that same sex marriage should be legal. TUDSU also believes that everyone is equal and has the right to marry the person of their choice regardless of their sexual orientation.

TUDSU will support Students' Unions in Northern Ireland in their Love equality campaign to legalise same sex marriage in Northern Ireland.

Irish Gender Recognition

TUDSU will continue to support the lobby to review the Irish Gender Recognition Act, in support of a more inclusive society.

Abortion Rights

The TU Dublin Students' Union recognises the Repeal of the 8th Amendment and the legislation of Abortion Rights in Ireland. The Union also recognises the time, effort and hard work put in to achieve this result but that the legislation is still quite restrictive and has evident loopholes.

The Union shall support the campaign for full access to free, safe and legal access to abortion services in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, for all.

Consent Classes with TU Dublin

TUDSU welcome the exciting and ambitious project with TU Dublin to roll out consent classes to 4,500 first year students this September as part of the 2019 Orientation.

The Students' Union is further committing to working with and lobbying TU Dublin for rolling out mandatory consent classes to all students in TU Dublin across all campuses.

10. Solidarity with Victims of Terrorist Attacks – 10th April 2019

This Students' Union stands in solidarity with victims of terrorist attacks of any sort and anywhere in the

world. With the rise of white supremacy, fascism and far-right ideologies across the world, DITSU is

committed to supporting victims of attacks from these groups.

To take action, the Students' Union will:

- Oppose any speakers on campus who are known to promote the ideas of the far-right
- Lobby for hate crime legislation in Ireland
- Investigate the introduction of bystander intervention training for students who witness actions of

hate and/or harassment

10/04/22

<p>11. <u>Sustainability and Climate Action – 10th April 2019</u></p> <p>According to NASA, carbon dioxide levels in the air are at their highest in the past 650,000 years and since 2001, 18 out of the 19 warmest years have all occurred. In 2012, the Arctic summer sea ice shrank to the lowest extent on record and the global average sea level has risen 7 inches (178mm) in the last 100 years. In addition, every day in Ireland 2 million disposable coffee cups end up in landfill waste and 8 million pieces of plastic find their way into our oceans.</p> <p>Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our century and creates considerable stress to our environment. Shifting weather patterns threaten food production, the rising sea levels increase the risk of flooding, the impacts of climate change are global and bizarre. These impacts in the future will be more difficult and costly if we do not act on it today.</p> <p>To act, the Students' Union will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work in partnership with appropriate campaign groups to actively lobbying government on meeting sustainability targets. • Lobby TU Dublin to recycle their waste, for a plastic free campus and provide appropriate facilities to allow students and staff to wash any plastic materials • To work with USI to lobby government to increase the carbon tax in Ireland • Organise a 'Green Week' Campaign once a year that will raise awareness about sustainability to students • Reduce the use of paper and plastic where possible at all TUDSU meetings, events and commercial activities • Encourage the use of reusable cups and water bottles amongst students in TU Dublin 	<p>10/04/22</p>
<p>12. <u>Ending Direct Provision – 28th February 2019</u></p> <p>Direct Provision is the current system for accommodating asylum seekers in Ireland. Conceived in 1999, direct provision was intended as a short-term measure of 6 months, yet it continues today. The system is overseen by the department of justice through the reception and integration agency but is largely operated by private interests.</p> <p>The system has time and time again received criticism from human rights organisations for its living conditions and long stays, which often lead to declining physical and mental health for the residents. Direct provision represents state sponsored infringement of human rights.</p> <p>To this end, the Students' Union shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endeavour to inform students of Direct Provision and the reality of the lives of those living within it. • Oppose the system of direct provision; • Support the campaign to end direct provision; • Avoid supporting any company profiteering of the system of direct provision; and • Campaign for the Irish government to ratify the EU Receptions Conditions Directive which mandates minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers 	<p>28/02/22</p>