



Summary Guide to the TU Dublin Students' Union Constitution

ARTICLES

Article 1 – Name of the Organisation

- This section gives the title of the Organisation, and the condensed form of what it shall be referred to in the document.

Article 2 – Mission, Vision and Values of the Union.

- This section outlines the mission of the union to be an independent organisation for the students.
- The vision that each TU Dublin student will have a positive and transformative experience during their time as TU Dublin student.
- Outlines the values of the Union

Article 3 – Aims and Objectives of the Organisation

- This section explains why we are here, and what we aim to do
- Affirms that the Union is non party-political

Article 4 – Membership

- This section states that all registered student of TU Dublin are members of the Union.
- The Executive may award a n Honorary Membership to a person or organisation as it deems fit.
- All students who were members of the Students' Unions in DIT, IT Tallaght SU and IT Blanchardstown are deemed to the members of TU Dublin Students' Union as long as they are registered.

Article 5 – Powers of the Union

- This section recognises DITSU CLG as a Company providing services to students and the Students' Union only on the City Campuses (formerly DIT).
- The Students' Union in both Tallaght and Blanchardstown have the right to request that Student Council extend membership of the company and the services of the Company to their respective campuses.
- The work of the Union is overseen by Student Council and/or the President and Executive.

Article 6 – The Operational Structures of the Union

- This section states that every class in the University shall have one Class Rep.
- The Electoral Commission shall decide the class groups within the University.
- There shall be at least 2 CRM's per semester chaired by a sabbatical officer or part-time officer.

- Each CRM shall elect Student Councillors no later than the 5th week of the academic year.
- Each school within the University shall elect one School Rep.
- Student Council shall meet at least 7 times during the year.
- Student Council shall be chaired by an independent Chair for a 3 year period.
- The quorum for Student Council shall be 25.
- Policies adopted by Student Council are valid for 3 years.
- Motions adopted by Student Council are valid for 2 years.
- The President must present a Programme of Work to Student Council before week 6 of the academic year.
- Student Council shall establish Standing Committees.
- The Executive shall meet at least every 2 weeks between May and September with a quorum of 50% plus one.
- Sabbatical and part time officers to meet at least twice per semester.
- Each Deputy President shall convene meetings of sabbatical and part time officers on their respective campuses at least twice per semester.

Article 7 – Officers of the Union

- This section lists the offices of the Union i.e. President, Sabbatical Deputy President, Vice Presidents and Part-time officers.
- The President is an overall position and shall be elected by all registered students of the University.
- The Post Graduate Officer is an overall position and shall be elected by all registered Post Graduate students of the University.
- Deputy President, Vice Presidents and Part-time officers shall be elected by the registered students of the campus to which their office relates.
- If an officer vacancy arises within the first half of the term of office, a by- election will be held.
- If an office vacancy arises in the second half of the term of office, the President shall delegate the responsibilities of that office except where Student Council deems a by-election to be appropriate.
- No individual shall serve more than 2 terms in any one or any combinations of part-time positions.
- No individual shall serve more than 2 terms in any one sabbatical post and no more than 3 terms in any combination of a sabbatical post.

Article 8 – Student Forum Meetings

- The Executive may from time to time call Student Forum meetings or at the request of 100 students in any school or campus.
- The Executive shall nominate the chair for the Student Forum
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Article 9 – Elections and Electoral Commission

- Student Council shall appoint an independent Chairperson of the Electoral Commission and two other members – they shall not have been a member of the Union for at least 4 academic years.
- These members will serve for a 3 year term and can be appointed for a second 3 year term.
- The President shall be a member of the Electoral Commission.
- Student Council shall appoint 4 registered students of the University for a one year term and a maximum of 2 further 1 year terms.

Article 10 – Nominations to University Boards and Committees

- The President and Post Graduate Officer are *ex-officio* members of the University Governing Body and Academic Council.
- The 3rd student position on the Governing Body shall be chosen by the Executive subject to the requirement of gender balance.

Article 11 – Principles for Service Delivery

- This section states that the Union shall strive to ensure equal access for all its members to services and supports provided by the Union and University.

Article 12 – External Relations

- The Union shall be a member organisation of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI).
- The President shall report to Student Council and the executive in relation to USI.
- All Union delegates attending the Annual Congress of USI shall be selected by the Executive.

Article 13 – Interpretation and Constitutional Tribunal

- The Chairperson of the Student Council is the only person who interprets the Constitution.
- The Union shall establish a Constitutional Tribunal and if a ruling is challenged, the Constitution Tribunal shall make a final ruling on the matter.
- The Constitutional Tribunal consists of an Independent Chairperson and 2 other persons with considerable legal expertise, appointed by Student Council.
- Their term of office shall be 3 years with each member eligible to service for a maximum of 3 three year terms.

Article 14 – Amendments to the Constitution – excluding the Schedules

- This section outlines the process for amending the constitution either by variation, addition or repeal.

Article 15 – Amendments to the Schedules of the Constitution

- This section outlines the process for amending the schedules of the constitution either by variation, addition or repeal except where it is in contradicts an Article. The articles will always take precedence over the schedules.

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Article 16 – Transition Clauses

- TU Dublin SU came into being on 1st July 2019 on which date the SU's in DIT, IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown were dissolved.
- For future elections, Student Council upon advice from the Electoral Commission, shall decide on the terms and conditions of the posts to be elected taking into account existing posts and any recommendations from the Executive.

Article 17 – Transfer of Undertakings

- All powers, rights, contracts etc owned or associated with the 3 former SU's before this constitution became effective still belong to the Union.

Article 18 – Continuance of Policy and Mandates

- Any policies or mandates passed before the new Constitution shall stand until they are either repealed or lapsed

Article 19 – Review of this Constitution

- No later than 30th April 2020 the Executive will bring a proposal to Student Council setting out a process for a Constitutional review for consideration no later than the November 2020 council meeting.
- This review will seek the opinion of students, the Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Tribunal with a view to proposing any amendment deemed necessary.

Schedules

Schedule A: Location of Class Rep Meeting

- Sets out the campus locations where CRM's shall be held.
- Sets out the number of School Reps who are automatically become Student Councillors – Blanchardstown (3); City Campus (24) and Tallaght (3)
- Sets out the number of Student Councillors to be elected from each campus – Blanchardstown (12); City Camus (21) and Tallaght (15).

Schedule B: Titles of Sabbatical and Part Time Officers

- Outlines the title of all the officers both full time and part time for each of the 3 campuses
- The term of office of all officers is for one year starting on 1st July to 30th June.

Schedule C: Terms of Reference of Committees of Student Council

- In accordance with Article 6.5.2, Student Council may establish such committees as it needs to help in the effective and efficient management of the Union's business.
- There are two types of Committees:
- Standing Committee: established on a long-term basis, which shall have not less than 4 and not more than 10 members including the relevant sabbatical officer whose portfolio related to the business of the Standing Committee.
- The term of office of each Standing Committee is one year with no member serving more than 3 years on that committee either consecutively or cumulatively.
- Working Group: Shall be established from time to time to undertake once off tasks as defined in the TOR's as approved by Student Council.

Schedule D: Regulation of Elections and Referenda

- Explains the rules and regulations for holding TU Dublin SU elections for both full-time and part-time elections and referenda
- Every candidate seeking election for a sabbatical post must be nominated by not less than 100 members of the Union and for a part-time post must be nominated by not less than 50 members of the Union.
- Each candidate must submit a manifesto with their nomination form.
- The term of office for both full-time and part-time officers starts on 1st July each year.
- These officers publicly declare their oath of office at the Inauguration Ceremony held after the elections.
- This schedule outlines how to remove Student Councillors, Class Reps and School Rep.

Schedule E: Roles and Responsibilities of Officers and Elected Representatives

- Outlines the roles and responsibilities of the President, the Deputy Presidents, Vice President, Part-time officers, Post Graduate Officers.
- It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Class Reps, Student Councillors and School Reps

Schedule F: Standing Order for the Regulation of Student Council Meetings

- Sets out the guiding principles for the conduct of all Union meetings
- Notice of meetings, agenda, quorum and proceedings at the meetings.
- It specifies the order of business (agenda) for meetings i.e Student Council and Executive Meetings.

- The decision making processes through motions and policies and points of order and procedural motions.
- Outlines who can and cannot attend Student Council meetings and who can and cannot vote.

Schedule G: Procedure for holding of a Plebiscite

- Outlines the procedure and process for holding a plebiscite and the role of the Electoral Commission in this process

Schedule H: Process to appoint Independent / non-student members

- Sets out the processes for the Union to select and appoint the following
- Chairperson of Student Council
- Chairperson and two external members of the Electoral Commission
- Chairperson and two external members of the Constitutional Tribunal

Schedules F, G and H to be approved at Student Council meeting on 23rd October 2019.