



**TU Dublin Students' Union**  
**Student Council Officer Report 22/23**  
*Tuarascáil Oifigeach Comhairle na Mac Léinn*  
*Aontas na Mac Leinn, Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta,*  
*Baile Átha Cliath 22/23*



<b>Officer Name:</b> <i>Ainm an Oifigeach</i>	Brian Jordan	<b>Email Address:</b> <i>Seoladh Ríomhphoist</i>	president@tudublinsu.ie
<b>Officer Position:</b> <i>Seasamh an Oifigigh</i>	President	<b>Period of Work:</b> <i>Treimhse Oibre</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 – 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2022

### Key Points Since Last Meeting

*Príomhphointí ón gcruinniú deireanach*

Welcome everyone to our very first Student Council of the year! Firstly, congratulations to each and every one of you for getting elected; it's been years since we've had such high levels of competition and engagement, and I'm so grateful to be able to play a part in empowering the largest Students' Union in the country! Each of you here now represents approximately 300 students across TU Dublin – so represent them well. Don't be afraid to put forward motions, to debate on things that'll affect your fellow students, and most importantly, have fun! Above all else, myself and other full-time officers are here to represent you – **make us work!** Without further ado, here's some of the major points of information regarding all students that I've found since starting all the way back in July:

#### Referendum

Everyone in TU Dublin knows by this point that I have a passion for referenda! Since July 1<sup>st</sup>, I've been working towards the goal of holding a constitutional referendum before the end of Semester 1. The major changes include a restructuring of the Full-Time and Part-Time Officer positions, the impeachment process, a simplification of certain council procedures, and many, many spelling errors. I think everyone involved can vouch for the fact that the process has been as transparent as possible. The executive had several open-discussion meetings where we unanimously voted for the structure being presented today. The CDP (Constitutional Discussion Panel) consisting of Officers and students across all three major campuses (in both cases) had several meetings, where we debated and voted unanimously on everything from the structure to the impeachment process. This proposed constitution has since been proposed at every single class representative meeting across all major sites for feedback (all positive – I was at 5/6 of them!). Finally, we generated a survey regarding the SU in general for students to complete, and as of 9am, the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the % of students who would be interested in voting in a referendum is 84%. The finalised draft has also been redrafted in line with recommendations by a solicitor, to ensure its wording is not ambiguous.

To summarise: All of the Officers, all of the members in the Constitutional Discussion Panel (double the membership of the working group last year), and an overwhelming majority of class reps and students in general, support the proposed constitutional amendments. As a result, we are now bringing this to Student Council, where we hope you'll vote to bring this to referendum. Represent your 300 students well!

#### Graduations

TU Dublin has thankfully reverted back to in-person graduations! However, the main issues reported by students were 1) the late notice of graduation schedules and 2) the fact that all graduations are due to take place in Blanchardstown campus. The decision regarding Blanchardstown campus was made prior to my appointment to office, so unfortunately I was unable to fight this. However, I was able to seek feedback on why this decision was made – the argument was that it was the only 'suitable' location until West Quad is completed on Grangegorman campus, and they had concerns regarding the cost when previous Officers mentioned locations that DIT, ITT, and ITB used previously. We will however absolutely fight any attempt to repeat this decision in future (I sit on the Graduations Committee). Furthermore, I criticised the extremely late publications of graduation dates, and we received an apology off relevant staff – this was again an 'anomaly' and won't happen next year (which again, I'll be very vocal on).



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**Orientations**

The best and worst few weeks of my life! Every year, the SU works with the university to deliver general orientations for the first years, as well as pre-orientations for ACCESS, Mature Students, Masters Students, etc. The team generated a pan-university approach, where we aimed to deliver a similar/identical presentation to all students, whether from Blanchardstown, City or Tallaght campus. I'm proud to say I attended orientations across every campus, including every Access orientation (even the one on a Saturday, gasp), and assisted in making this goal come true. Overall they were a resounding success – feedback from the university and students has been overwhelmingly positive. However, we were distinctly aware of disparities across different campuses due to the failings of certain university staff e.g. less time was provided for Tallaght campus compared to others, Blanchardstown had no projector for the presentation, Aungier had less than ideal room set-ups. I collated all of this feedback, provided it to the chair of the orientations committee as well as the head of student services, provided feedback at review sessions, and made it clear what we expect for next year. Once again I think the team can vouch for the fact that I will fight until every student across TU Dublin gets an equitable experience. As well, while these issues were present and noted, the executive team still did an exceptional job with empowering students despite such obstacles, as evidenced by our Student Council numbers!

**Campus & Facilities Development**

Many exciting updates! The Blanchardstown team are working on renovating the common room in (shocker) Blanchardstown, Tallaght Campus is likely to open its new sports building by Semester 2, and Lower House is in the process of being better furnished e.g. we have picnic benches outside now. We received feedback from students on improvements they'd like to see throughout their campuses, and we'll be carrying out further feedback sessions soon to get as broad an understanding as possible. My goal is to present a tangible improvement in every single campus, whether that means more pool tables, more microwaves, kettles, or an entirely renovated common room. Rest assured the deputies and myself are working on it – as I keep saying, ALL students deserve similar facility access.

**Staff Recruitment**

During the summer, I sat on many, many interview panels! This was done because we had three staff vacancies to fill i.e. a communications executive, a Student advisor, and an interim General Manager. For those who are new to Council, the Officer team basically receive support from various staff positions (they provide consistency during Officer crossover, provide operational support, and are notable apolitical). The process involved second round interviews in many cases, and was carried out transparently with feedback to the board. All three positions have now been filled, which will allow the Union to function more optimally.

**Walkouts & Protests**

Student activism is back! On October 13<sup>th</sup>, students from all across TU Dublin walked out of their lectures at 11:11am and joined the Officers in protesting both the cost-of-living and student accommodation crisis. Our estimates of students involved are within the thousands! I also spoke on Newstalk (National Radio Station), and some of the Deputies spoke to local newspapers / radio shows. The following night, myself and some of the Officers participated in our annual sleepout event, in aid of student homelessness. The event was also a resounding success I'm glad to say! Many of the Officers including myself also attended a protest a few weeks prior to this regarding PhD stipends (many are working for less than minimum wage currently), again with a great turnout.

**Freshers Fortnight**



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Possibly the most exciting update if you aren't as passionate as I am about referenda and protests! We had over 60 events across the two weeks of freshers, across all campuses, day-time and night-time. We made sure that whatever your campus, whatever your timetable, whatever your financial situation, that you could enjoy the two weeks! The team worked tirelessly across all campuses to deliver these events in conjunction with other campaigns, class rep recruitment, and so, so much more!

**Class Rep Meetings & Training**

My final major update (I could keep going but I'm trying to keep an overall view of the Union!) – class reps! I'm happy to say I've been able to attend 5/6 class rep meetings taking place this week, and so far the overall view has been very positive! Students recognise their Union Officers, they're providing feedback on campus issues (which we're delegating in a structured way to relevant officers so that change does in fact happen), and we're electing student councillors in the masses! It's been a lot of work, and that probably doesn't come across – but know that at all times I make it my goal to attend major events like these across all the campuses, so that I can ensure a streamlined and fair delivery of services. Speaking OF – our overall class rep training event is overnight this year, and will be taking place on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of November, so see you all there!



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<b>Meetings Attended (and Number)</b> <i>Tinrimh Choistí agus Cruinnithe (agus Líon)</i>	<b>Priorities for Next Period</b> <i>Tosaíochtaí don chéad tréimhse eile</i>
Crossover Training (1 <sup>st</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> June) In-house Training (1 <sup>st</sup> July – 22 <sup>nd</sup> July) USI SUT (11-14 <sup>th</sup> July) Comms Week (8-12 <sup>th</sup> August) PTO Training (29 – 30 <sup>th</sup> August) Workplan Meetings (x3) Weekly Exec Meeting [TAM] (x12) Leadership Meeting (x8) National Council (x1) USI Equality + Diversity WG (x1) TUDSU CLG Board (x3) TUDSU CLG FARC (x1) TUDSU CLG HR + Renumeration (x1) Interview Panels [SA, CE, GM] (x18) Presidents Meeting (x8) Class Address Training (x5) Class Rep Meetings (x5) Executive Referendum Meetings (x2) Constitutional Discussion Panel (x4) UET Meeting (x1) Graduations Committee (x1) Orientation Sessions (x17) Officer Check-Ins [Formal] (x12) Governing Body (x3) Governing Body EDI Sub-Committee (x1) Governing Body Induction Training (x1) Electoral Commission (x6) Meeting with Chair of Council (x3) Meeting with Chair of TUDSU CLG Board (x5) Clubs, Societies + SU Meeting (x1) USI President Meeting (x1) USI Dublin Regional Officer Meeting (x1) Team Photos & Videos Day (x1) Team Campus Tours (x3) Finance Executive Meeting (x12)	Referendum Bye-Elections Class Rep Recruitment Student Council Recruitment Fundraising Facility Improvements Partnership Agreement Student Charter Formal Review Process



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<p>Academic Council Preparation (x1)          Academic Council (x1)          Student Walkout Preparation (x2)          Student Services Introduction [City] (x1)          Media Training (x1)          Safe Talk + Handling 'Disclosures (x1)          Healthy Campus Meeting (x1)          Common Room Activities Planning (x2)          Our Student Voice Meeting (x1)          Class Rep Recruitment Management (x3)          Class Addresses to Elect Reps (20% of total)          Lift the Lid on Equality Meeting (x1)          Sleepout Preparation (x2)          Newstalk Interview (x1)          Bye-Election Discussion (x1)</p>	
<b>Events/Activities Attended</b> <i>Tinrimh Imeachtaí / Gníomhaíochtaí</i>	<b>Annual Leave Taken</b> <i>Saoire bhliantúil</i>
<p>Student Walkout          Student Sleepout          'Let Loose Freshers'          'Trolley Crawl'          'Freshers Ball'</p> <p>Note: Attended all of these in a work capacity, not in a social capacity</p> <p>Teambuilding in Carlingford</p>	4.5 days
<b>Mandates (Complete/In Progress/Uncompleted)</b> <i>Sainorduithe (Déanta / Ar Siúl / Le Déanamh)</i>	<b>Comments</b> <i>Ráitis</i>



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Officer Archive (In Progress)	N/A
<b>Gifts Received</b> <i>Bronntanais a Fuarthas</i>	<b>Personal Expenses</b> <i>Costaisí phearsanta</i>
USI Laptop Bag + Coffee Cup Free Lunch/Dinner at SUT, SUT+ & NC	TU Dublin Mascot = 125 Phone Case + Screen = 50.98 Taxi (Blanch, June) = 31.70 Taxi (Blanch, July) = 27.40 Taxi (Blanch, July) = 37.40 Taxi (Blanch, September) = 43.60 Taxi (Blanch, September) = 38.20  Note: Further expenses (specifically taxis during orientations) have yet to be claimed and will be included in my next council report (once claimed).
<b>Any Other Matters</b> <i>Aon nithe eile</i>	
N/A	



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