



**Technological University
Dublin**

Students' Union

Student Council

**Motions & Policies falling in
Academic year 2022-2023**

This document consists of all motions that have been passed by TUDSU Student Council and are valid

Motions are valid for a period of two years and Policies for a period of three years from the date they were passed

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Student Council Motion/Mandate	Falling	Mandated
<p>1. <u>Access Student Information Campaign</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: That most students do not know what an access student is or how to appropriately engage with them. An Access Student is a Student that has come into university by HEAR, DARE, and TU Dublin's Access Foundation Programme among other programs. Access Students often feel disjointed by an already elitist nature perpetrated by many third-level institutes.</p> <p>Student Council further Notes: That this feeling of being othered, shamed and stigma could be the turning point for some students dropping out in the earliest part of their college experience due to not feeling included in university life. Many Access Students will never engage with the Access Service and will often hide that they are Access Students due to the stigma. Many Access Students that are open about it are often met with negative, uninformed comments and this can be debilitating to their mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Student Council Mandates: That an information campaign be ran about Access Students to encourage education about Access Students and to promote the acceptance of Access Students in a collaboration between both the Vice-Presidents for Education and Vice-Presidents for Welfare and Equality.</p>	5/5/23	Welfare & Education
<p>2. <u>Period Poverty</u></p> <p>Council Notes: Students have many other expenses throughout their time in college. It is our feeling that sanitary items should not be an additional expense on students. Through the work of USI on the national front, there is a bill being pushed through the Dáil with the aims of making period products available free across all third-level institutions. This will hopefully come to fruition in the next year which would be a great achievement and massively beneficial to menstruating people.</p> <p>Council further notes: There is no choice in the need for sanitary products and therefore people should not be burdened with additional associated costs. It is our feeling that they should be distributed for free in all sectors similar to the 'Scottish model'.</p> <p>Council Mandates: Should the bill be passed, the VPs For Welfare and Equality ensure relevant TU Dublin Staff, are equipping every bathroom on each campus, with the necessary sanitary items (not just female bathrooms). Also to ensure that if there are items available to suit the needs of all, i.e. to suit different flows and sizes.</p> <p>Council further mandates:</p>	5/5/23	Welfare

<p>That the VPs For Welfare and Equality continue to work with USI to lobby the relevant departments of government and state for the aforementioned bill to be passed without further delays. In the event that the bill falls that the Student Union continue to provide sanitary items free in the various union locations. Further to this to assess the feasibility of having some basic spare clothes available in Student Union offices in case of emergencies that may arise.</p>		
<p>3. <u>Black History Month</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: There is a huge lack of participation within student politics for black students. There are currently less than 10 officers across the island of Ireland who are people of colour and that representation matters when it comes to participation.</p> <p>Student Council Further Notes: Black History Month began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African and Carribean diaspora, and is now globally celebrating Black excellence, the importance of remembering, uplifting and empowering an entire group of young activists.</p> <p>Student Council Believes: That the celebration of black excellence, black history, etc, should not be limited to tokenistic representation or events, and that events ran under Black History Month should be led with Black voices with the goal of staying true to the ideals and goals of Black History Month.</p> <p>Student Council Therefore Mandates: TU Dublin SU Executive (or the appropriate officer) to run an extensive Black History Month month campaign which will include speakers, events, data, and showcase Black excellence throughout the month of October.</p> <p>Student Council Further Mandates: TU Dublin Students' Union Executive seek to include the voices of Black students when organizing and brainstorming the event to ensure that students are at the forefront of leading this campaign and officers are facilitating this where intersectionality is also a key focus.</p> <p>Student Council Further Mandates: That Black History Month should not be the only time of the year that Black voices are platformed, and that the work on decolonising education, inclusion of Traveller and Roma students in education and community outreach, continue to be done throughout the year.</p>	5/5/23	Exec
<p>4. <u>Establishment of an Independent Student Media Outlet</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes:</p>	5/5/23	Events

<p>Journalism and media play an essential role in maintaining the accountability of organisations; from the Government to the University to the Students' Union, the media act as a key partner in spreading awareness and factual information to the general public.</p> <p>Student Council notes with Concern: The TU Dublin does not have an established site for student journalism to fulfill this valuable role within the organisation. This prevents students from accessing information that should be available to them, in order to keep their University community to account. The Students' Union attempts to fill this role, whoever, a dedicated student-run newspaper or media source is required to fulfill this function.</p> <p>Student Council therefore mandates: The VP for Events and Engagement, to investigate the feasibility of the establishment of a student-run media organisation for TU Dublin. This work should involve researching best practice organisational structures, funding sources and practices in other Higher Education Institutions running these operations. The Vice President should seek involvement from relevant part-time officers in this task also. The Vice President is to form a report on their research and report back to the Student Council by the third meeting of the 2021/22 Academic Year.</p>		
<p>5. <u>Motion on Effectiveness of Proctoring</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: That all students have been forced to complete assessments, including examinations, online due to the pandemic that the world is facing. Due to these assessments having to take place virtually, the standard invigilation procedures can not take place.</p> <p>Student Council Further Notes: Academic Integrity Procedures must still be followed to ensure that all assessments are taken fairly and that these assessments are an accurate reflection of the work that all students have put in.</p> <p>Student Council Believes: TU Dublin are currently looking into getting online examinations fully proctored through different proctoring softwares like Examity etc. This gives students a lack of privacy when sitting assessments and may make students feel uncomfortable while sitting their assessments which may inhibit them from progressing their education.</p> <p>Student Council Mandates: The Vice President for Education to investigate proctoring and make sure that there is constant communication with the college and Students' Union to make sure that students privacy and rights are being considered</p>	5/5/23	Education
<p>6. <u>Officer Network and Archive</u></p>	5/5/23	President

<p>Student Council Notes: TU Dublin Students' Union has a proud and rich history of student activism, led by many Executive teams over decades. These past officers achieved a lot throughout their terms and passed the baton of student representation to their successors.</p> <p>Student Council also notes: The people who were on previous Executives carry a wealth of knowledge and experience, and this will be lost if they lose contact with the Students' Union and cannot act as mentors to incoming Students' Union officers.</p> <p>Student Council therefore mandates: The Executive to collect and archive contact information on previous sabbatical officers of the three former Students' Unions of IT Tallaght, IT Blanchardstown and DIT as well as TU Dublin Students' Union, with their consent. This is to be kept in the files of the office of the President. The current Executive also should store their contact information to remain contactable for the future team.</p> <p>Student Council also mandates: The President is to contact past sabbatical officers at least once a year to provide key updates relevant to past officers on the developments within the Union, in order to build a stronger network and keep past officers engaged.</p>		
<p>7. <u>Lobby TU Dublin to Encourage use of pronouns in email signatures</u></p> <p>Council Notes: TU Dublin SU acknowledge and celebrate all voices and experiences across our union. An easy way to normalise the use of pronouns is to include them in your email signature. TU Dublin SU are aware that having pronouns in an email signature signals you as an LGBTQIA+ ally.</p> <p>Council further notes: Some peoples pronouns are extremely important to them and their gender identity, the use of the wrong pronoun can be very distressing, even if it was accidental. It can be equally distressing for individuals to feel they only are having to identify their pronouns as they may feel this singles them out. By including pronouns in email signatures it 'normalises' their use. We believe that if TU Dublin staff implement pronouns into their signatures, this would aid in the destigmatising of correct pronoun use and lend to a more inclusive accepting environment throughout the TU.</p> <p>Council therefore mandates:</p>	5/5/23	Welfare

<p>The VP's Welfare & Equality to lobby TU Dublin to encourage the use of pronouns in emails by all staff. This work may include but not be limited to drafting an email that can be sent to all staff on behalf of the Student Union explaining why pronouns are important and asking staff to add pronouns to their signature.</p>		
<p>8. <u>Running of In person and online exams during Covid-19</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: That teaching and learning has been severely impacted by remote learning, and that students undertaking exams face a number of practical difficulties i.e. poor internet, access to a laptop/PC, and difficulty engaging with online lectures etc... Due to these negative impacts on learning, students sitting in person exams would not be as well prepared as in previous years. There is no best practice in place concerning the running of online exams. Several lecturers are of the opinion that just because the lectures are online that exams do not necessarily have to be online. In the unlikely event that the HSE should increase the vaccine rollout to the point that it is possible to return to college in May, students may be asked to present in person to complete an invigilated examination.</p> <p>Student Council Further Notes: That it is only fair and consistent for the end of semester exams to be online, if appropriate, if all or part of a college semester is online, to mitigate the already turbulent nature of an online semester. Preparing for written components of modules (exams) in an online environment cannot be equated to an in-person environment. In the unlikely event that exams are scheduled to be in person, yet the college semester is online, and due to the aforementioned negative impacts of remote learning, sitting in person exams would be grossly unfair as students would not have had the equivalent learning experience.</p> <p>Student Council therefore Mandates: That the VPs for Education lobby Academic Council for a clear decision on the format of assessments for the summer assessment period as soon as possible, in order to bring certainty to the student body so they can prepare for the assessment that has been set.</p> <p>Student Council also Mandates: That these officers also state the case for holding assessments (where suitable) online, as the entire semester is likely to be held online.</p>	<p>24/2/23</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>9. <u>Lobbying Against CETA</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: CETA is the Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement that would set up an investor court system between the European Union and Canada within Ireland. This would allow businesses to take legal action against the state for punitive</p>	<p>24/2/23</p>	<p>Welfare</p>

<p>damages based on loss of revenue based on Social Policy passed by the government.</p> <p>Student Council Notes with Immediate Concern: The ratification and full implementation of the CETA deal, will not only set back eco-activism approximately 35 years, but it will also have dire ramifications on the Direct Provision process being ended, a commitment made in the Program for Government.</p> <p>Student Council Believes: The ratification of CETA will have permanent damage to social change within both Ireland and the European Union. CETA has the ability to push back many plans for Climate and Social action over the coming years, in the best interests of society, CETA cannot be ratified by the Irish Government.</p> <p>Student Council Therefore Mandates: The Student's Union to take an active stance against CETA, the Vice-Presidents for Welfare and Equality to lobby relevant Ministers and Departments for the repealing of CETA and to actively campaign against its implementation. TU Dublin Students' Union will also work alongside USI to achieve this goal, if not being done at a national level.</p>		
<p>10. <u>De-platforming & Rejecting Fascism</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: Fascism is a form of far-right authoritarian ultranationalism characterised by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition, and strong regimentation of society and of the economy</p> <p>Student Council Believes: That no student or citizen should live in fear and that freedom of expression is a core fundamental right of all citizens, does not morally permit somebody to actively oppress another.</p> <p>Student Council Believes: That TU Dublin Students' Union must fight for freedom for all students, meaning de-platforming harmful, oppressive, forceful, and/or violent acts that may hurt, intimidate, or actively oppress students. Affording racists and fascists a platform helps them in their search for credibility to promote their message of hate, which in turn can lead to violence against those that they target.</p> <p>Student Council Therefore Mandates:</p>	10/12/22	Exec

<p>That TU Dublin Students' Union Executive actively de-platforms and challenges the rise of fascism and to engage in the rejection of this, whilst acknowledging differences on the political spectrum through supporting USI's Le Chéile campaign and other methods.</p> <p>Student Council Further Mandates: That TU Dublin Students' Union to reject any forms of fascism and counter-protest in a situation where fascism in any form arrives at any campus of TU Dublin through peaceful means, where it is safe, as directed by the executive and/or council's direction.</p>		
<p>11. <u>Comprehensive Student Council Handbook</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: That the current student council handbook available online is outdated and lacking in certain relevant points of information.</p> <p>Student Council Further Notes: That the current student handbook available on the TUDSU website has many issues, including but not limited to: 1) Having 'DIT' written everywhere 2) Having presumably unused topics such as 'college fora' present 3) Having outdated information regarding motion writing 4) Lacking information/clear instructions regarding how to carry out council actions such as discussing motions that were never completed, removing motions from the motions manual and altering motions that have already been passed.</p> <p>Student Council Acknowledges: That the workings of student council can be difficult to understand, even for experienced councillors.</p> <p>Student Council therefore Mandates: That the Deputy Presidents (or relevant officers) from each campus create an updated version of the student council handbook, rectifying all of the issues mentioned above where possible.</p> <p>Student Council Further Mandates: That the updated student council handbook replaces the previous version online, be circulated to all elected members of council, and that all sabbaticals be knowledgeable of its contents. This should be completed by the first council of the second semester.</p>	10/12/22	Deputy
<p>12. <u>The Abolishment of Discriminatory Blood Donation Deferral Period</u></p> <p>Student Council notes: The Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) needs 3,000 donations a week to supply 71 hospitals nationwide. Regular blood donations by a sufficient number of healthy people are needed to ensure that a supply of blood will be available whenever and wherever it is needed.</p> <p>Student Council Acknowledges:</p>	10/12/22	Welfare

<p>The testing conducted on blood donations is an RNA test with a window of 10 days, in contrast to antigen tests which would be longer. This, combined with individualised risk assessment, ensures the safety of all donations for recipients.</p> <p>Student Council Further Notes: The lifetime ban on gay men donating blood to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service (IBTS) was lifted in January 2017 and replaced with a 12 month abstinence deferral period which means that Gay and Bisexual Men and other Men who have had sex with Men within the preceding 12 months are still prevented from donating blood even if they meet all other blood donor selection criteria.</p> <p>Student Council Believes: Eligibility decided on sexual orientation is extremely discriminatory and no one should be prevented from donating blood based on their sexuality. Testing of donations and individualised risk assessment, well established as sufficient to ensure safety from heterosexual donors, should be applied across the board.</p> <p>Student Council Therefore Mandates: The VP's for Welfare and Equality to also run an information campaign around the ban. Also, the VPs for Welfare to campaign with USI for the abolishment of this deferral period to ensure that everyone who meets best practise eligibility criteria will be eligible to donate blood in Ireland.</p>		
<p>13. <u>Student Isolation during Covid-19 Pandemic</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: That a large volume of students in first year are reporting difficulty getting to know other students in their course due to the challenges of online learning this year.</p> <p>Student Council Further Notes: That feelings of isolation and loneliness can contribute to poor mental health and contribute to student drop-out rates in university.</p> <p>Student Council therefore Mandates: That the VP's for education in each campus lobby academic council regarding the possibility of lecturer/tutor-organised ice-breaker sessions for first year students this year. These brief-sessions could be integrated into lecturing hours (e.g. immediately after finishing a lecture) and lecturers/tutors could encourage students to exchange social media information, set up group-chats, as well as join student union and society pages.</p> <p>Student Council further Mandates: That the VP's for Education in each campus work with College officers and school reps to conduct a survey(s) regarding these issues in order to 1) get feedback on what first years would like and 2) to gauge success of these measures. These sessions and survey(s) should be distributed at class rep meetings where relevant and completed by the second student council of the second semester.</p>	10/12/22	Education

<p>14. <u>Lecture Recording During Pandemic</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: That lecturers are not required to record any of their lectures during the pandemic.</p> <p>Student Council Further Notes: That many students face significant difficulties associated with virtual learning this year due to lecturers refusing to record sessions; students such as those that are hard of hearing, that are working significant hours, that have poor internet connections.</p> <p>Student Council Regrets: That refusing to record lectures is therefore disadvantaging students that are already disadvantaged in other ways; students with disabilities and students from low income areas.</p> <p>Student Council Also Regrets: That students are already facing immense difficulties this year during a pandemic, without lecturers making access to education even more challenging.</p> <p>Student Council therefore Mandates: That the VP for Educations lobby academic council to make lecturers away of the benefits of recording lectures, the injustice of not recording lectures, and support policies that encourage lecturers to comply with these requests during the ongoing pandemic. Updates should be given by the second council of the second semester this year.</p> <p>Student Council therefore Repeals Motion: “Lecture Recording and Lecture Capture Technology”</p>	<p>10/12/22</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>15. <u>T Fund</u></p> <p>Student Council notes: That according to TENI, 78% of trans people in the UK and Ireland have thought about ending their lives and 40% have attempted suicide. For many people, beginning and continuing social transition brings significant relief. College is filled with financial stresses and for many transgender students, name changes and other transition expenses are not an option, even though they are life-saving. Social transitioning is the social portion of a transition, in which a transgender person makes others aware of their gender identity. Some parts of social transition can include: Telling people about your gender identity, changing name/gender (if applicable), getting clothes that allow them to express themselves etc.</p> <p>Student Council commends: The work of other Students’ Unions such as NUIGSU and DCUSU for the introduction of the ‘T fund’ for social transition, aiding students financially with</p>	<p>12/11/22</p>	<p>Welfare</p>

<p>elements of social transition which may include gender affirming items, such as makeup, and dysphoria relieving items like chest binders.</p> <p>Student Council mandates: The VP for Welfares to look into the feasibility of creating a fund in conjunction with the Equality and Diversity and Inclusion office within TU Dublin, for Trans*, Non-Binary and Gender Non-Conforming students</p>		
<p>16. <u>Support for Dying with Dignity</u></p> <p>Student Council Notes: Dying with Dignity is a term used to describe the end-of-life care to a patient, often diagnosed with a terminal illness, that includes for that patient to have the freedom to choose their end-of-life care, including how they will die.</p> <p>Student Council Believes: That no decision around this will ever be taken lightly and current legislation proposed is still restrictive, and that autonomy over one’s life is but a small act of kindness and Council further believes in the freedom of all qualified terminally ill people living in Ireland to make their own end-of-life care decisions, including how they die.</p> <p>Student Council Believes: That end-of-life care is a critical choice that should be made in primary consultation with those, and that illness can affect anyone, including students.</p> <p>Student Council Therefore Mandates: That the Students’ Union supports the Dying with Dignity legislation coming through the Dáil.</p> <p>Student Council Further Mandates: That the Students’ Union lobbies for the freedom of choice for people to pursue the end-of-life care without inhibition, discrimination, or judgement in a manner in a way in which they so please where there are appropriate grounds.</p>	12/11/22	President
<p>17. <u>TU Dublin SU RAG Charity</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 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.</p>	11/03/23	Executive

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>		
<p>18. <u>Drug Harm Reduction</u></p> <p>TU Dublin Students' Union is the largest students' union in Ireland with approximately 29,000 members.</p> <p>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'.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>"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"</p>	23/10/22	Executive

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 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.

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.

The Students' Union wishes to promote the safety of students by providing accurate and relevant drug harm reduction information.

To act upon this the Union will:

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.