



**Minutes:** TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Time:** 6pm

**Platform:** Bolton Street Room BST281 and online via Zoom

**Present:**

Chairperson	Graham Hayes
President	Brian Jordan
Postgraduate Officer	Jessica Perez
Blanchardstown Deputy President	Louise Kavanagh
Blanchardstown Vice President for Welfare & Equality	Kayla Nolan
City Deputy President	Adam Clarke
City Vice President for Welfare & Equality	Hazel Doran
City Vice President Education	Saoirse Daly
City Vice President for Events & Engagement	Ian Kelly
City East Quad College Officer	Moses Eusebio
Tallaght Deputy President	James Curry
Tallaght Vice President for Welfare & Equality	Abbie Nulty
Tallaght Vice President for Education	Niamh Gibbons
Tallaght Clubs Officer	Sam Delaney
Tallaght Communications Officer	Oisin Putt
Tallaght Societies Officer	Silvie Molloy

**In Attendance:**

Clerk to the Council	Anna Perho
Union of Student in Ireland (USI) Dublin Regional Officer	Sierra Müller-Owens



The Chair welcomed everyone to Student Council, congratulated new elected Student Councillors and the meeting was pronounced quorate. The agenda was accepted by the Council.

1. Matters Arising	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No matters arising.</li> </ul>	
2. Correspondence	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Letter to the Chair re School Representative Structure:</b> Electoral Commission and Chair of Student Council wrote to each other to confirm a derogation replacing School Reps with Student Councillor positions for the Academic year 2022-2023 due to the changes in the school structure of TU Dublin.</li> <li><b>Letter to the Chair re Tallaght Officers:</b> President wrote to inform Council that two Vice Presidents for Tallaght Campus have resigned, and there will be a by-election held for these positions alongside part-time officer by-elections in November.</li> <li><b>Letter to the Chair re Appointment of Deputy President:</b> President wrote to inform Council that Deputy President for Tallaght Campus James Curry has been appointed as Deputy President.</li> </ul>	<p>Derogation noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
3. Elections	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair announced that nominations are opening for:</li> <li>Electoral Commission members (4 students)</li> <li>Student members of TU Dublin SU CLG (6 students)</li> <li>Student Director of TU Dublin SU CLG (1 student from Tallaght, 1 student from City)</li> <li>Deputy Chair of Student Council (1 student)</li> <li>Students are encouraged to go for these positions. Nomination forms are published on TU Dublin SU website and hustings take place in the next Student Council meeting. Students for these positions are elected by Student Council.</li> </ul>	<p>Councillors encouraged to run for the open positions.</p>
4. TU Dublin SU Constitutional Review	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President presented the results of Constitutional Review. He explained that constitution is a statement of basic principles of TU Dublin SU and in order to change it SU needs to have a 10% of TU Dublin students vote in a referendum. He explained that the review is made due to constitutional requirements, duplications of roles and the change in TU Dublin structural change with the School Rep structures.</li> </ul>	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President explained the main proposed changes to the constitution, which were to officer structure, Student Council, impeachment process and TU Dublin SU CLG board and membership. He explained the new officer structure which includes 8 Full-Time Officers and 10 Part-Time Officers; who will be a part of Student Council and new changes to the Standing Orders of meetings; the new impeachment/recall of office procedure and formation of TU Dublin CLG structures.</li> <li>• President explained how the Executive came to these conclusions. They followed the Constitutional Working Group from last academic year. After coming to a shared understanding with the Executive, they brought the findings to students in a Constitutional Discussion Panel, Class Rep meetings and a student survey (662 students answered where 70% answered that they would vote in a referendum).</li> <li>• President opened the floor for questions and discussion. Student Councillors asked about the new Communications Officer role, payment of Part-Time Officers, responsibilities of current Part-Time Officers within the possible change, communication between officers in different campuses, Part-Time officer roles and commuter-friendliness of the roles. Officers answered questions.</li> <li>• Chair asked councillors to speak for or against this proposal. Deputy President for Tallaght Campus James Curry, Deputy President for City Campus Adam Clarke, Deputy President for Blanchardstown Campus Louise Kavanagh, Student Councillor Jamie O’Neill and Student Councillor Mel Sexton spoke in favour of the referendum and advocated for councillors to vote in favour of it. Student Councillor Jack Cuddy spoke against the proposed changes and advocated for councillors to vote no.</li> <li>• Chair asked Student Council to vote on Constitutional Review. 74 Student Council members voted to approve the constitutional review. 1 student councillor voted against the proposal. This was passed.</li> <li>• Chair of Student Council presented Legal advice from the solicitor.</li> <li>• Student Council took a vote on taking this proposal (results of constitutional review) to an all-student vote in a Referendum. This was passed unanimously.</li> </ul>	<p>Constitutional Review was approved by Council.</p> <p>Constitutional Referendum to be held (anonymous vote).</p>
<p><b>5. Motions and Policies</b></p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One motion was presented for Student Council. President presented the motion as follows:</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion: Vote YES (Referendum Campaign)</b></p> <p><u>Student Council notes:</u></p> <p>The motion to amend the Constitution was passed at Student Council (26th October 2022), which means a referendum asking the student body to vote will take place on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th November 2022.</p>	



<p><u>Student Council further notes:</u> The importance of this referendum passing so that the Union can serve the students in the best and most effective way possible.</p> <p><u>Student Council recognises:</u> The incredible work of the Constitutional Discussion Panel, the Constitutional Working Group, and countless previous SU officers, all so that the Union can continue to improve and better represent all students of TU Dublin.</p> <p><u>Student Council therefore mandates:</u> The President and all the officers to support and campaign for a YES vote in this referendum held on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th November 2022.</p> <p>Proposed by: TU Dublin SU Executive</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p><b>6. Standing Items</b></p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standing Items</li> <li>• <b>USI Update.</b> USI Dublin Regional Officers Sierra Müller-Owens gave an introduction to Union of Students in Ireland (USI) which is the national representative body for most undergraduate and postgraduate students in Ireland. They explained the role and encouraged all students to engage with USI. They encouraged students to reach out to USI officers (you can contact Sierra at dublin@usi.ie), attend events and trainings (e.g. Pink training, Mature Student Seminar, Women Lead, Eco Action Forum, Power of Disability, EMPower) and come to USI Congress. Sierra also gave an update on the current work of USI. Sierra invited Student Councillors to join a Dublin Class Reps and TUDSU Focus Groups WhatsApp groups.</li> <li>• <b>TU Dublin Update.</b> President gave an update on new structures in TU Dublin. The schools in TU Dublin have changed into 25 overall schools that are no longer campus-based. TU Dublin SU is working on the partnership agreement with the University.</li> <li>• <b>Campus development.</b> Deputy Presidents gave Campus Development updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- City: More seating on Lower House (got 5 picnic tables outside Lower House and more ordered), notice walls in Lower House are on the way, better signage in Grangegorman, and accessibility issues are worked, meeting with University on anti-social behaviour (Increased Garda patrols, increase in CCTV to be installed and continued communication on this issue).</li> <li>- Tallaght: SU building was cleaned before students came back in, they are working on getting seats outside SU building, deputy talked with canteen manager about prices of food.</li> <li>- Blanchardstown: SU Office in C-block was renovated, more furniture and talking with estates about common room,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>USI update slides (along with Whatsapp-links) to be circulated to Student Councillors.</p>



<p>canteen has allocated 15 vouchers to students in need, work done on getting more microwaves on campus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Class Rep Recruitment.</b> President gave an update on Class Rep Recruitment, the percentages of elected reps are as follows: Aungier Street: 43%, Bolton Street: 50%, Central Quad: 41%, East Quad: 51%, Blanchardstown: 78%, Tallaght: 49%. President explained that the team is actively working on electing more class reps.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. Discussion Items</b></p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Annual Work Plan.</b> President presented Annual Work plan to Student Council. The workplan was unanimously approved by Student Council.</li> <li>• <b>By-election.</b> President explained that the Students' Union will have a By-election in November in conjunction with the Referendum. Nominations are now open until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1pm for SU Officer positions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Blanchardstown: Clubs &amp; Societies Officer (Part-Time) and Entertainments Officer (Part-Time)</li> <li>- City Campus: Aungier Street &amp; BIMM College Officer (Part-Time), Bolton Street College Officer (Part-Time) and Grangegorman Central Quad College Officer (Part-Time)</li> <li>- Tallaght: Entertainments Officer (Part-Time), Vice President for Education (Full-Time) and Vice President for Welfare and Equality (Full-Time)</li> <li>- A Student Councillor asked if a student has a SUSI grant how this will work for Full-Time roles. President explained that he talked to TU Dublin about this, and students will be able to defer their studies and for the students are paying for their fees themselves the university will be able to giveback the fees. For SUSI grants it is unfortunately not possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Workplan was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Councillors encouraged to run for SU officer positions.</p>
<p><b>8. Questions for Part-Time Officers</b></p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Postgraduate Officer Jessica Perez</b></li> <li>• <b>East Quad College Officer (City) Moses Eusebio</b></li> <li>• <b>Clubs Officer (Tallaght) Sam Delaney</b></li> <li>• <b>Communications Officer (Tallaght) Oisin Putt</b></li> <li>• <b>Societies Officer (Tallaght) Silvie Molloy</b></li> <li>• No questions were asked from Part-Time Officers.</li> </ul>	<p>Taken as read.</p>
<p><b>9. Questions for Full-Time Officers</b></p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>President Brian Jordan</b></li> </ul>	



- Student Councillor asked the about the costs of Phone Case and protective screen in President’s Student Council report and why some officers have them but not all. President explained that Officers use work phones (these supplies will go to next officer in the following year) and some officers got new phones and some old ones from last year. President bought the equipment so that the phone doesn’t get broken which would lead to more costs.
- Student Councillor asked for updates on Pink Training. President answered that it will be on the 18-20th of November you can sign up through LGBTQ+ society.
- Student Councillor asked why TU Dublin mascot is a worm and why did it cost €125. President explained that they decided about it with the Executive to encourage engagement (other SU’s also have mascots) and explained that the cost was not seen as vast in the Grand scheme.
- Student Councillor asked President about his main goals for the year. President explained that he aims for a pan-university so that all students across TU Dublin would have the same college experience (aiming for this also with the referendum).
- Student Councillor asked about the new structure and the workload for the officers when the officer number is smaller. President explained that the SU currently has roles that are multiplied on many campuses, and that the new structure would take off the duplication of work and people getting signed off on issues. President thanked the whole Executive for their excellent work this autumn.
- **Deputy President for Blanchardstown Louise Kavanagh**
  - No questions asked.
- **Vice President Welfare & Equality for Blanchardstown Kayla Nolan**
  - No questions asked.
- **Deputy President for City Adam Clarke**
  - Student Councillor asked about the lack of microwaves. Deputy explained that they are working on this. He will bring this in facilities meeting on all city campuses and provide updates in the future.
  - Student Councillor asked about 4<sup>th</sup> year students being able to update their access cards for lab doors in Central Quad. Other Student Councillors also explained about access card issues in Central Quad. Deputy President asked councillors to email them at [deputy.cc@tudublinsu.ie](mailto:deputy.cc@tudublinsu.ie) after the meeting and this can be worked on a local level.
  - Student Councillor asked Deputy about the issues with the microwaves. Deputy updated that the issues are with cleaning and upholding the premises (safety and hygiene risk of the microwaves).
  - Student Councillor asked where the quiet rooms in TU Dublin (especially Grangegorman) are. Vice President for Welfare and



Equality for City campus explained that the locations can be found in [TU Dublin digital Wayfinding app](#) that marks all quiet spaces. In Grangegorman there is one in the Bradogue (old dance studio) and in the back room of St Lawrences church.

- **Vice President Welfare & Equality for City Hazel Doran**
  - Student Councillor asked why international students have to call in advance to book a time for medical services. Officer explained that this is a protocol for all students with the Medical Services. Student Councillor said that it is not accessible enough. Officer said that this is something she can look into.
- **Vice President for Education for City Saoirse Daly**
  - Student Councillor asked about work ACCESS campaign. Officer answered that she finds it important as an ACCESS student herself and is working on amending a motion to bring up to Council.
  - Student Councillor asked about Exams campaign. There was Supplemental Exam Campaign that went well on all campuses and there will be another one closer to next exams.
  - Student Councillor asked about Brightpace plagiarism checker which doesn't work and about student charter. Officer answered that there are different plagiarism scores on different sites, and officers are planning to investigate this and focus on academic integrity. We don't have Student charter and officer explained that the team will be working on this.
  - Student Councillor asked about the security on campus which was brought up in a Class Rep Meeting. Officer explained that they take notes from all the Class Rep Meeting and are working on them and will update as we go.
- **Vice President Events and Engagement for City Ian Kelly**
  - Student Councillor asked about the possibility of having more convenient times or sequential days of events on campuses so students are able to attend better. Officer explained that he works with events on 5 different campuses so they usually roll over the campuses on different days, but thanked for the note and said he will work on having more time options for students to attend.
  - Student Councillor asked why the events cost something for students when there was a budget for Freshers. Officer explained that they are subsidised by the Union and the aim is not to make money but to afford more events for students.
  - Student Councillor thanked Vice President for Events and Engagement for their great work and bringing engagement up on campuses. Officer thanked the Executive. Another Student Councillor reinforced the thank you and highlighted the great feedback from first year students with Freshers.
  - Student Councillor asked if there are plans to work together with Societies. Officer explained that the team is working with societies and has plans for e.g. a Christmas event.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Councillor asked how the officers plans to get mature, postgraduate and international students involved. Officer explained that they want to make sure that they have inclusive events for all and gave examples of international and postgraduate events already organised. President filled in that they also came to all orientations for these groups and the aim is to include all these students in all the plans.</li> <li>• <b>Deputy President for Tallaght James Curry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Councillor asked about an update on contacting Jennifer Farrell with microwaves situation. He explained that there was not yet an answer. He explained that he brought the issue up with the canteen but there was no action from them with the microwaves. He explained that the campuses have different facility providers, but this is on the agenda on all campuses. Student Councillor asked why private companies on campus can have a say whether microwaves can be put in the SU space. Deputy said that it is also a cleaning and health issue in Tallaght campus.</li> <li>- Student Councillor asked if there is any news on the new Sports Science building. Officer answered that it is due to be finished in the end of October.</li> <li>- Deputy President for Tallaght campus thanked the president for his great work.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Vice President Education for Tallaght Niamh Gibbons</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No questions asked.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Vice President Welfare and Equality for Tallaght Abbie Nulty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No questions asked.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Officer reports taken as read and questions from councillors answered.</p>
<p><b>10. Reports from any other bodies</b></p>	<p><b>Action item</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following documents were circulated for Student Council: Aide Memoires – Board of TU Dublin SU CLG, Aide Memoires and Election documents – Electoral Commission, Constitutional Discussion Panel, List of falling motions and policies</li> <li>• Deputy President Tallaght Campus gave a National Council Report. Student Councillor asked whether the Executive could bring issues to National Council about protection for student in digs accommodation and protection in (unpaid) internships. The Executive explained that they and USI are working and doing their best to work on the accommodation issues (e.g. via last week’s walkout and talking to media). Vice President Education for City explained that she is going to a conference in Brussels focusing on unpaid internships and will work on this in USI. A student Councillor asked whether placements might be considered in the conversation about internships, Vice President Education for City said yes.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted.</p>





11. Any other business	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• President encouraged people to join people to join USI Congress in April 2023</li><li>• President encouraged students to bring motions/policies to Council</li><li>• President invited Student Councillor to join Referendum Crew</li><li>• President thanked Postgraduate officer Jessica Perez for her great work</li><li>• President updated that the Executive is working on security on campus – he has spoken to TU Dublin and are planning more surveillance and security cameras. He is also working on it with a local working group on the matter.</li><li>• President updated that the Executive is working on the microwaves. He agrees with all students that this is an issue and he clarified that there are microwaves on all campuses now due to the Students' Union work (there were none last year). He said that if this is brought as a motion to Student Council, the Executive can hold a protest on all campuses about the issue.</li></ul>	
12. Date of next meeting	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wednesday 30th November 2022 6pm Bolton Street room BST281</li></ul>	Clerk to send invite.