



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



Officer Name: <i>Ainm an Oifigeach</i>	Brian Jordan	Email Address: <i>Seoladh Riomhphoist</i>	president@tudublinsu.ie
Officer Position: <i>Seasamh an Oifigigh</i>	President	Period of Work: <i>Treimhse Oibre</i>	6 th December 2022 – 31 st January 2023

Key Points Since Last Meeting

Príomhphointí ón gcruinniú deireanach

Welcome everyone to our first Student Council of the new year! (*throws confetti*) Aside from dreaded exam results, there's so much to be excited for! We have some new councillors, a million-and-one upcoming campaigns and events, and of course, some student protests! Read on below for some of the major work done by the Union and myself since December, and to hear about what's coming up:

Elections

The democratic elephant in the room! Spring-time elections are nearly upon us, and with the passing of our Referendum last semester, they'll look a little different this time. We'll have 5 overall positions available (which means far more active campaigning across all major campuses), 3 local positions (campus representation!) and of course, 10 brand-new part-time officer positions. If you're interested in running for election, then please check out our beautiful elections page (<https://www.tudublinsu.ie/studentvoice/elections2023/>) – it has all of the positions, dates and information you could possibly need to make an informed choice! As well, we've officially launched our Elections campaign, which will include social media, class addresses, posters, and videos galore – so follow our social media over the next few months!

Staffing Update

If there's one thing I love, it's equality and parity-of-service across all of TU Dublin. For that reason, we expedited the process of hiring Student Advisors in Tallaght and Blanchardstown campus! I'm happy to announce that now have both of these staff positions filled. This means students in both locations will have a far better level of service being provided, in terms of office-hours, casework resolution, and more. It also means that Officers can focus more on the political side of their role, ensuring that your voice is heard across all of TU Dublin.

USI (Union of Students Ireland) Update

Since our last Student Council, several members of your Executive (myself included) attended two National Councils. The first one was in Athlone (8-9th December) and the second was in Tralee (26-27th January). Over those two events, TUDSU passed three motions:

- 1) 'Operation Transformation',
- 2) 'Government Financial Aid for Students who do not Qualify for the Free Fees Initiative'
- 3) 'Climate Campaign'

Two of your Officers (James and myself) have also been elected onto the 'Constitutional Review' committee for USI, where we'll be aiming to propose several amendments that could improve the functioning of our National Representative body. We've also become more outspoken about various areas for improvement, such as the need for a 'term-time calendar' and far more notice for island-wide campaigns (such as upcoming National Protests).



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Canteen Protest

One of the spiciest parts of the semester so far! A few months back, Student Council mandated us to hold a TU Dublin-wide protest against the various canteens across the university. The proposed date for this protest was the 1st February 2023; however, following positive negotiations between myself and the University, we've agreed to postpone the protest. Several of the initial agreements were:

- 1) The immediate procurement of (additional) microwaves across all major campuses (to be placed within campus canteens, as well as be cleaned and maintained by University staff).
- 2) The immediate set-up of a Canteen Committee / User Group (including student representatives) where discussions around pricing, opening hours, and availability of seating can be formally facilitated.

We've also flagged the reality that should these agreements not be met within a reasonable deadline, that we would ultimately have to proceed with the university-wide protest; I expect to have an decision on whether or not we proceed with such an action by the next Student Council.

National Protests / Walkouts

USI is rolling out several protests this semester. While the Walkout last semester was impactful, we were ultimately left asking 'What's next?' "What's the follow-up action?" USI took this into account, and have developed a far more significant level of protests for the coming semester. These are likely to include a second National Walkout (except elevated, where students will march to the City Centre), lobbying days, and other large-scale events; the dates for all of these should be finalised by the next Student Council (8th February) – be sure to ask the visiting USI representative!

EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion) Update

I was fortunate enough to get a meeting with the TU Dublin Director of EDI (Yvonne Galligan); I brought forward a multitude of welfare-slanted motions and mandates that the Executive have been tasked with. These included everything from the T-Fund, Period Poverty, Gender-neutral bathrooms, Abortion care in TU Dublin, Provision for Students in Need of Food, EDI Training in Orientation Week, Private Medical Insurance for International Students, and International Student Rights. Yvonne Galligan was able to signpost many of these issues to the various appropriate channels, and confirmed that the stance of EDI was that they would be supportive of such initiatives. Due to ongoing staffing, funding, and organisational design issues, there's still a lot of work to be done in order to solve many of these issues – but it was an excellent start, and Yvonne Galligan was happy to meet in the next 1-2 months about progress.

Events, Welfare & Fundraising

Now for some of the fun things (if elections and protests aren't your thing) – events and welfare campaigns! Over the Christmas break, we were mostly preparing for many of our upcoming events (SHAG + Valentines = 13th Feb, EDI + Academic Integrity Week = 20th Feb, RAG = 27th Feb, Seachtain na Gaeilge + Green Week = 6th March, and a million other mini-events and socials). We'll also be carrying out a multitude of Officer-specific fundraisers (donate to make us embarrass ourselves!), and pushing for more local, on-site events (courtesy of Ian, Louise & James), as well as our revamped weekly common-room event 'Spill Da Lollies' (think Spill Da T but less tea). We also already launch our Drug Harm Reduction campaign a few weeks ago!



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Education Updates

Forever a nerd, I was really excited about our exams campaign that took place between the 2-13th January! As well as some informational aspects (everything from exam preparation and academic misconduct to self-care during assessments), we had daily 'Energy Boost' stands across every major TU Dublin campus. I'm proud to say I managed to make it to every exam site over the campaign – thank you to everyone who said hello!

This week we also launched the third round of Class Rep Meetings; I managed to attend several of them alongside our wonderful Officers, and it was great to see some of our most pro-active students in action. Our class rep stats for each of the sites have also improved once again; the most up-to-date figures will be presented at Student Council!

PTO Training & Mid-Year Reviews

Before the end of the semester, I also worked with our Operations executive to set up training for our newly-elected Part-Time Officers! Sessions included an introduction into the SU structure (current & incoming), student council, motion writing, HR, USI, Events 101, and a multitude of other topics. They were delivered by myself and some staff.

I also organised mid-year reviews with each of the full-time Officers so that we could analyse the workplan and evaluate areas that had been excelled at, as well as areas for improvement. We came to agreed actions for the coming Semester, as well as major 'focus' points, and feedback regarding the process was very positive.

Partnership Agreement & Funding Agreement

Verbal updates to be provided at Student Council!



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Meetings Attended (and Number) <i>Tinrimh Choistí agus Cruinnithe (agus Líon)</i>	Priorities for Next Period <i>Tosaíochtaí don chéad tréimhse eile</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events & Fundraising Weekly (x3) Weekly Executive Meeting (x4) Welfare Weekly (x5) Academic Council (x1) Student Council Admin Prep (x1) Grangegorman Consultative Group (x1) Paul Horan [Campus Development] (x2) Education Weekly (x5) Leadership Weekly (x2) Electoral Commission Agenda Meeting (x1) Student Council (x1) Finances (x6) Spill Da T Review (x1) Academic Affairs & Faculty Engagement (x1) Academic Integrity WG (x1) Faculty Board Selection Process (x1) Electoral Commission (x2) TU Dublin Staff Catch-Up (x1) Elections Campaign / Democracy Planning (x5) Charles Larkin Meeting [Governing Body] (x1) Partnership Agreement Drafting (x4) Mid-Year Review Preparation (x1) Mid-Year Reviews (x5) Staff Onboarding (x1) Christy O'Shea Meeting [Societies, Clubs] (x1) Sai Gujulla Meeting [USI Candidate] (x1) Access Office Meeting (x1) Canteen Protest Negotiation (x1) Faculty Board Preparation (x1) Faculty Board [Sciences + Health] (x1) TUDSU CLG [FARC] (x1) Yvonne Galligan [EDI Director] (x1) Blanchardstown Class Rep Meeting (x1) National Council (x2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding Agreement (Finalise, Sign) Partnership Agreement (Finalise, Sign) Student Charter (Draft following Partnership) Facility Improvements (Canteens) Elections (Full-Time, PTO, CLG Directors) Class Rep Recruitment (Achieve 80%+) Fundraising (Achieve 30,000) EDI / Welfare Mandates (Progress & Achieve) Formal Review Process (Internal, External)



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Events/Activities Attended <i>Tinrimh Imeachtaí / Gníomhaíochtaí</i>	Mandates (Complete/In Progress/Uncompleted) <i>Sainorduithe (Déanta / Ar Siúl / Le Déanamh)</i>
Christmas Dinner (Board CLG) Class Rep Christmas Party Staff Dinner (TUDSU) PTO Training (All-Day) Apprentice Orientations (x1) Erasmus Orientations (x1) Minister Harris / Broombridge Update (x1)	Officer Archive (Nearing Completion!)
Gifts Received <i>Bronntanais a Fuarthas</i>	Personal Expenses <i>Costaisí phearsanta</i>
Welcome Pack at NC (x2)	26.85 = Exams Campaign Food (For the stands) 20.57 = Exams Campaign Food (For the stands) 34.71 = Exams Campaign Food (For the stands) 82.13 (Total)
Any Other Matters <i>Aon nithe eile</i>	
N/A	