



Minutes: TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting

Date: Wednesday 8th February 2023

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 Clubs and Societies Officer	Lee Browne
Blanchardstown Entertainments Officer	Patrick Moisan
City Vice President for Events & Engagement	Ian Kelly
City Vice President for Welfare & Equality	Hazel Doran
City Vice President Education	Saoirse Daly
City Aungier Street College Officer	Magdalena Seldmayr
Tallaght Deputy President	James Curry
Tallaght Clubs Officer	Sam Delaney
Tallaght Entertainments Officer	Sophie Warren
Tallaght Societies Officer	Silvie Molloy

Apologies:

City East Quad College Officer	Moses Eusebio
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In Attendance:

Clerk to the Council	Anna Perho
Union of Student in Ireland (USI) President	Beth O'reilly

The Chair welcomed everyone to Student Council and the meeting was pronounced quorate. The agenda was accepted by the Council.



1. Minutes	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from the last meeting on the 14th December 2022 were approved. 	Noted.
2. Matters arising	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Update from Chair of Student Council on Letter to the Board</u>: Chair gave an update that the letter to the Board according to Student Council mandate has been sent. <u>Questions to Kayla Nolan from Councillors</u>: questions were sent but no answers were received. <u>President's updates on Student Services and Peak Times</u>: Brian updated that Student Services Committees in the new TU Dublin structure, included are at least Canteen User Group, Student Facilities Committee and Student Finance Committee. Question: Finance what does Student Finance Committee include? Answer: Student Contribution Charge will be discussed (how it is contributed to Clubs/societies/SU etc). President updated that Peak Times at gyms are considered to be 12pm-3pm and 4:30pm-6:30pm, everything else will be seen as non-peak time. <u>Tallaght Deputy President's updates on Tallaght car park</u>: James updated that he contacted Sports building, it will be fixed in the next few weeks. <u>Blanchardstown Deputy President's updates on speed bumps and vending machine</u>: Louise updated that she has contacted estates, Estates Supervisor is to be hired, they had positive discussions. Complaints have been sent about vending machine, all complaints have been forwarded to estates. Changes have been made to common room. 	
3. Correspondence	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter from President about resignation of Kayla Nolan, Blanchardstown Vice President for Welfare and Equality, was received. 	Noted.
4. Elections	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hustings took place for 2 Student Members of TU Dublin SU CLG. The following candidates gave their hustings: Lee Browne and Silvie Molloy. Candidates answered questions from Student Councillors. Elections will take place online after the meeting. 	Councillors to vote for the Members of TU Dublin SU CLG.



5. Motions and Policies	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 motions were presented to Council as follows: • <u>1. Motion – TU Dublin Lecturer / Student Review System</u> <p><u>Student Council Notes:</u> As numbers for class representatives remain low and students have many frustrations with their lecturers, this motion plans to implement a useful feature. We wish to implement an outlet, be it through Microsoft Forms or another software, for students to give information on lecturers.</p> <p><u>Student Council Regrets:</u> No real communication is in place in relation to reviews and addressing issues between students and lecturers. Many students find it difficult in gaging workloads and have difficulties in working with lecturers’ conditions and teaching practices. Students may also have issues with lecturers that may be lost in the shuffle or discredited by the institute. This in due in part to the failure of the Education Boards and their lack of interaction with the student bodies such as class representatives and student councillors. This system will hopefully create clarity and ease of convenience amongst the college.</p> <p><u>Student Council Further Regrets:</u> As class representatives’ numbers continue to flounder, the communication link between students and lecturers is still volatile. Students struggle to voice their concern among lecturers and classmates alike and this system will allow for this leeway</p> <p><u>Student Council Mandates:</u> The Executive to compose a forum-based system (be it Microsoft Forums, Typeform, Survey Monkey etc.) to allow for review. Students will be asked to provide student details (can’t be anonymous for GDPR reasoning) and lecturers likewise. The forum will contain rating systems and text boxes to allow for detailed reviewing.</p> <p>Proposed By: Jamie Murphy, Seconded By: Christina Grammatikopoulou</p> <p>Guy Keogh spoke against the motion. Saoirse proposed procedural Motion 9D to defer this issue to a meeting with VP for Education and the Proposer and Seconder. 9D passed and the motion is deferred back to that meeting.</p>	<p>9D passed and motion was deferred to a meeting between VP Education, Proposer and Seconder. Saoirse to organise meeting.</p>



- **2. Motion: Climate Emergency Campaign**

Student Council notes:

The impacts of climate change might be the biggest threat to a stable present and future for humanity today. To avoid global warming carbon emissions must be stopped.

A working group of students and SU members should be set up to carry out a climate emergency campaign. We ask TU Dublin to make the necessary changes quickly and become carbon neutral within the next years.

The group could lobby the government to phase out Fossil Fuels until 2030, to support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty* on an EU level, and to set all new policies in line with the 1.5 degree limit (outlined in the Paris Agreement).

Student Council further notes:

In the second quarter of 2022 Ireland had the highest EU greenhouse gas emissions per capita in Europe (Independent, Jan 2023). Wealthy countries as well as educational institutions have the responsibility to take leadership in avoiding climate change. The campaign could be an opportunity to pressurize the government to take consequent climate action.

*About 91% of global CO2 Emissions originate from the burning of fossil fuels. The Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty, signed by the WHO, Dalai Lama and more than 3000 scientists, calls for an end to the expansion of new fossil fuel infrastructure and production, to phase out existing production and use, and to fast-track solutions and ensure a just transition.

Student Council Mandates:

The executive and the VPs for welfare to form a working group consisting of students to lobby the government and to hold a climate emergency campaign.

Proposed by: Magdalena Sedlmayr, Seconded by: Hazel Doran

Dominique EQ Student Councillor proposed procedural motion 9C to take the motion in parts – and to remove the part with “within the next years”. Parts were voted on and the motion was decided to be amended as follows:

Amended motion: Climate Emergency Campaign

Student Council notes:

The impacts of climate change might be the biggest threat to a stable present and future for humanity today. To avoid global warming carbon emissions must be stopped.

Motion amended.



A working group of students and SU members should be set up to carry out a climate emergency campaign. We ask TU Dublin to make the necessary changes quickly and become carbon neutral.

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Student Council Mandates:

The executive and the VPs for welfare to form a working group consisting of students to lobby the government and to hold a climate emergency campaign.

Roberto Leahy spoke for the motion. Motion was passed.

- **3. Motion: Lobbying for Earlier Leaving Cert Results**

Student Council notes:

It was relayed in USI's Academic Affairs working group that the leaving cert results are expected to be delayed once again in 2023.

Student Council also notes:

The delay in leaving results has multiple adverse effects on students.

Student Council Mandates:

All full-time officers and all part-time officers are to email the Education Minister, and three TD's of their choice, before the 28th of February 2023, lobbying for leaving cert result dates that reflect those of pre-Covid times.

Student Council further Mandates:

The VP of Education (City Campus) to create and share a draft email template that officers can use if they so wish.

Motion passed unanimously.



<p>Proposed by: Saoirse Daly, Seconded by: Ian Kelly</p> <p>Christina Grammatikopoulou and Konstantin Shramko spoke for the motion. Motion was passed.</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>6. Discussion Items</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Review of Work Plan</u>: mid term review of the Work Plan was circulated to Student Council. Question: What is the process of reassigning duties in the work plan? Answer: President explained that the work has been reallocated between current officers. • <u>Canteen Protest Update</u>: President gave an update. A protest was mandated by Student Council and planned by the Executive last week but stalled because of positive discussions with the University. Officers gave a deadline until next week's Thursday to have proof of getting new microwaves in the canteens from TU Dublin. In addition, TU Dublin is setting up a Canteen User Group to discuss the issues with canteens. Question: What if there is on action on the issue? Answer: President explained that officers are working to make sure these actions are taken and if not, the protest can still go forward. • <u>TU Dublin SU Officer Elections 2023</u>: President gave an update that since the TU Dublin Referendum passed in November, there are new SU Officer positions elected in March 2023 for the term 7/2023-6/2024. These include 8 Full-Time Officer and 10 Part-Time Officer positions. Full-Time Officers and Postgraduate Officer will be elected in an all-student vote on the last week of March and rest of the Part-Time Officers will be elected by Student Council on 22nd March. All elected Officers will automatically be part of Student Council for next Academic year. President encouraged Student Councillors to run for SU Officer positions, nominations are open Monday 27th February 9am – Friday 10th March 1pm. More information can be found on TU Dublin website here. • <u>Rally against Racism</u>: President gave an update. There has been racist assaults on Luas stop next to Grangegorman Campus. A statement has been sent by the Executive, Officers have been in contact with the local Garda and in discussions with the University and arranging a meeting with them in the upcoming days. In solidarity with these events, President explained that there will be a Rally in front of East Quad this Friday 1pm-2pm where people can talk about the topic and the University can explain what they are doing for this. Student Council had a discussion about the topic, and highlighted the importance of feeling safe coming to college. Safety on other campuses was also discussed. President encouraged Councillors to come and share their thoughts on Friday. A possibility of a pan university event with this topic was proposed too. Question: have officers talked to the victims about the rally? 	<p>Review of Work Plan noted.</p> <p>Student Councillors encouraged to run for SU Officer positions.</p> <p>Rally against racism to take place on Friday 1pm in front of East Quad, Student</p>



<p>Answer: President answered that yes that they discussed with the victims and they have their consent? Also the perspective of self-defence in this context was discussed.</p>	<p>Councillors invited to take part.</p>
<p>7. Discussion items</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>USI Update</u>: President of USI gave an update. Work is being done for Policies and Mandates to be more accessible and easier to hold USI accountable, Student Councillors were encouraged to give feedback and bring motions/policies to Congress - Student Councillors are encouraged to come to Congress, more information can be found at congress.usi.ie. USI President explained that students can run for USI positions and encourages this, more information can be found at usi.ie/elections. USI is doing constitutional review, there will be online focus groups – Councillors encouraged to give feedback. Campaign updates were given on Lobby day, Le Chéile Protest on 18th February, Student Newsletter, Stalking awareness week, SHAG week, Women Lead and Empower. DIGS update was given: there was a meeting with Simon Harris in October 2022, Raise the Roof Rally in November 2022 – and there will be a DIGS Survey in Semester 2, Lobby day, CATU Partnership, Digs legislation work, USI Student Accommodation Position Paper. Question about trade unions was asked, and officer explained that they are working on having more collaboration with trade unions. President updated that congress applications will open in a few weeks – TU Dublin SU has 29 positions. • <u>TU Dublin Update</u>: Partnership agreement is in the works. • <u>Campus Development</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>City</u>: Postgraduate Officer and VP Education are representing students in Broombridge working group in Grangegorman, they are working on getting student spaces. Question: are they asking for student levy? Answer: Not (yet). Question: Can we prioritise clubs who have to train off campus? Answer: it hasn't been constructed yet but they are doing research on the topic and will bring it up. Update on Aungier Street move was also given. <u>Blanchardstown</u>: PPP building in Blanchardstown with classroom based rooms is being built. TU Dublin is taking safety seriously, please contact officers if anything needs attention. <u>Tallaght</u>: Officers got the tour of the Sports Science building, it looks amazing. James is still working on getting more benches in Tallaght. There will be a new building in Tallaght campus. • <u>Class Rep Recruitment</u>: numbers elected per campus are as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aungier Street: 97% (last meeting 61%) Blanchardstown: 94% (last meeting 93%) Bolton Street: 94% (last meeting 94%) Central Quad: 84% (last meeting 54%) East Quad: 61% (last meeting 53%) 	



Tallaght: 69% (last meeting 56%)	
8. Questions for Part-Time Officers	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Officer Jessica Perez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hazel asked for Postgraduate updates. Jessica gave an update she is working on events for postgraduates and a Postgraduate Week. - Saoirse thanked Jessica for her great work. • Clubs and Societies Officer (Blanchardstown) Lee Browne • Entertainments Officer (Blanchardstown) Patrick Moisan • Aungier Street College Officer (City) Magdalena Sedlmayr • East Quad College Officer (City) Moses Eusebio • Entertainments Officer (Tallaght) Sophie Warren • Clubs Officer (Tallaght) Sam Delaney • Communications Officer (Tallaght) Oisin Putt • Societies Officer (Tallaght) Silvie Molloy 	Taken as read.
9. Questions for Full-Time Officers	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Brian Jordan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question was asked about NTUTORR and President answered. • Deputy President for Blanchardstown Louise Kavanagh <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No questions asked. • Vice President Welfare & Equality for City Hazel Doran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question was asked about upcoming events. Hazel updated that SHAG week is taking place next week (also evening events: big sexy quiz on Wednesday, Thursday Drag Race). Hazel encouraged everyone to come to the events and get involved. • Vice President for Education for City Saoirse Daly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saoirse updated that Education team is working on getting everyone to be able to access their exam results - Question: has there been progress in reducing the cost for repeat exams? Saoirse answered that she can give an update in the next meeting. - Questions: updates were asked on unpaid internships/placements. There is a European campaign ongoing, and survey being made by USI. Saoirse can give an update in the next meeting. - Question for USI was asked, and Chair encouraged Councillors to send all questions to USI via email. • Vice President Events and Engagement for City Ian Kelly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question: update on Student Newspaper that was mentioned in the Officer report? Ian updated that he has done research on what other Universities do and had a meeting with Trinity news. 	<p>Saoirse to update about cost of repeat exams.</p> <p>Saoirse to update on unpaid internships/placements.</p> <p>Questions for USI to be sent via email to clerk.</p>



<p>Ian wants to give a plan for Student Council for this for the new Communications and Media VP to work on next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy President for Tallaght James Curry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ian asked James to talk about Abseil, and encouraged everyone to join it. 	<p>Reports were taken as read and questions answered.</p>
<p>10. Reports from any other bodies</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following documents were circulated for Student Council: Aide Memoires – Board of TU Dublin SU CLG, Aide Memoires – Electoral Commission, Aide Memoires – All Officers. Deputy President for Tallaght Campus gave National Council verbal report. 	<p>Taken as read.</p>
<p>11. Any other business</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Recognition Award for the most active Student Councillor for this meeting was given to Christina Grammatikopulou. 	<p>Clerk to contact.</p>
<p>12. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 1st March 2023 6pm on Blanchardstown Campus room BD025. 	<p>Clerk to send invite.</p>