



Minutes: TU Dublin SU Student Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday 18th April 2023

Time: 6pm

Platform: Council Chambers, City Hall, Dame Street

Present:

Chairperson	Graham Hayes
President	Brian Jordan
Blanchardstown Deputy President	Louise Kavanagh
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 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 and the meeting was pronounced quorate. The agenda was accepted by the Council.

1. Minutes	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Councillor John Benedict Divinagracia asked about last meetings minutes and the date for the following meeting time to be amended from 19th April to 18th April, but as the meeting time was amended afterwards they were stated to be an accurate reflection of the previous meeting. Minutes from the last meeting from 22nd March were approved as they were. 	Noted.
2. Matters arising	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection Panel presented their recommendation for the Chair of Student Council. They recommended Graham Hayes to be reappointed as the Chair of Student Council. Student Council ratified the recommendation. 	Graham Hayes was ratified as Chair of Student Council for the following 3-year term.
3. Correspondence	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Councillor Samantha Corcoran had sent correspondence about Clarification of Terms of Service under the New Constitution. Chair of Student Council clarified that the maximum term time for all Full-Time Officers is 2 years. 	Noted.
4. Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Statements	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Philip Monahan of Keveny Monahan Ltd presented Summary of the Financial Statements for the year-end 30th June 2022 to Student Council. 	Noted.
5. Hustings	Action item
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hustings took place for several positions that are elected by Student Council with Candidates as follows: LGBTQ+ Rights Officer: Giulia Bianchi, Samantha Corcoran. International Student Officer: Marco Nocerino Student Directors for the Board of TU Dublin SU CLG: Mary Akinlolu, Annabel Biddulph, Robert Brennan Bell, Alisa Cantir, Niamh Fanning Student Members for TU Dublin SU CLG: Jamie Murphy RAG Charities: Blood Bike East, Cardiac Risk in the Young Ireland, Cancer Fund for Children, Irish Cancer Society 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During hustings (Student Director nominees question time), there was a disturbance and a non-Councillor was removed from the meeting. • Nominees answered questions from Student Councillors. Elections will take place online after the Student Council meeting. 	<p>Student Councillors to vote online for the positions.</p>
<p>6. Motions and Policies</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Policy and 7 motions were presented to Council as follows: • Policy: Fair Pay for Work <p>TU Dublin Students' Union values the role work placement has on a student's educational journey. Work placement provides opportunity to gain practical experience, increasing their employability and broadening their understanding of their field.</p> <p>The Union also values the work done by students in their workplace environment and recognise that value is added to the workplace, with students bringing fresh ideas and perspectives, increasing the overall work capacity, and enriching the workplace environment. Often work placement helps employers recruit those that are a particularly good fit.</p> <p>Work placement is aligned with the vision of the students' union as it plays an important role in students reaching their potential academically, socially and professionally. The students' union also has a responsibility to advance and defend the rights of students. While students are on placement, their voices can be difficult to capture, and when they return, it is too late to improve conditions for them specifically, but it is important to progress toward improving conditions overall going forward.</p> <p>Full time education comes with financial challenges, with reduced capacity to work due to time spent engaging with learning, as well as specific costs incurred in pursuing education. The ongoing housing and cost of living crises exacerbate the financial pressure put on students. In some cases the period of placement is one of increased financial stability, but in others it is one of serious financial strain, with further reduced capacity to take on part time work and extra costs such as transport or accommodation closer to placement. Unfortunately, this causes this to be when some students are forced to drop out or defer to earn the money to undertake placement.</p>	



TU Dublin Students' Union will advance the cause of seeking fair pay for work done by all students. All financial barriers including but not limited to travel costs, the need to secure additional accommodation and general expenses expected to be incurred by students must be flagged with students with sufficient notice. Wherever possible, placements with payment should be preferred by the university and the Union shall advocate to this effect. The Union will ensure that every opportunity to promote better practices in this area by the college is taken, and that all officers are cognisant of this pressing issue for students.

Proposed by: Jamie O'Neill Seconded by: Samantha Corcoran

Three Student Councillors spoke in favour of the policy. Policy was passed.

- **Motion: Mandate USI to change the time of Officer Reports at Comhdháil**

Student Council Notes:

Comhdháil is a yearly event hosted by United Students of Ireland (USI) in which Student Unions and their delegates from all over the country attend to pass motions and mandates for USI officers. USI officer reports regularly occur on the last day of congress, right before the closing of Comhdháil. Having a time and space to ask questions about officer reports are crucial in ensuring there is accountability for USI officers and the work they have carried out throughout the year.

Student Council Notes with Regret:

Due to the placement of officer reports at the end of Comhdháil, there is no real facilitation of a space to question officer reports; the time is being used to thank officers for serving their term. While validating the work officers have done is important, the 'Officer Reports' section at Comhdháil is not the correct place for this. Council feels the officer reports would be better placed earlier during the week of congress so that delegates can question earnestly on their reports, and emergency motions could be developed based on the outcome of those discussions.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The TU Dublin SU President brings this motion forward to National Congress and mandate USI to change the time of the USI Officer Reports at Comhdháil.

Proposed by: Samantha Corcoran, Seconded by: Aoife O'Brien

Policy passed unanimously.

Motion passed.



Four Student Councillors and an external attendee in favour of the motion. Motion passed.

- **Motion: Amendment to Schedule E of the New TU Dublin Constitution**

Student Council Notes:

As set out in Schedule 6 of the new constitution, Part Time Officers will work on a voluntary basis.

“Schedule E - Part 6: Roles and Responsibilities of Part Time Officers
This is an elected representative role for which students act on a voluntary basis”

While Student Council recognises the need for issue-specific, pan-campus officer roles; to not provide monetary compensation for the labour provided by these officers may result in a lack of engagement and motivation.

Student Council Also Notes with regret:

We are currently experiencing a cost-of-living crisis, and many students may have to make decisions between paid work and providing valuable assistance to the full-time officers of the union, possibly resulting in an overall decline in quality of the work completed by the Students Union.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That

“Schedule E - Part 6: Roles and Responsibilities of Part Time Officers
1. This is an elected representative role for which students act on a voluntary basis”

Be amended to:

“Schedule E - Part 6: Roles and Responsibilities of Part Time Officers
This is an elected part-time position paid at an hourly rate”

Proposed by: Samantha Corcoran, Seconded By: Roberto Leahy

A Student Councillor spoke against the motion to amend it to be more specific on what Part-Time Officers will be paid for. Three Council members spoke for the motion. Motion passed.

- **Motion: Issuing improved scope of responsibility/role description to part time officers and signposting current role description.**

Student council notes:

Scope Of Responsibility governs the actions that we are held accountable for. Part time officers are ex officio members of the student council (and TUDSU) and therefore must be treated as employees. Due to the referendum that was passed last year, most part time officer positions are new, so the responsibilities are not

Motion passed unanimously. Legal advice will be sought and it will be brought to next Student Council Meeting.



yet fully communicated to the officers. USI for example, has detailed role descriptions for all of the positions.

Student council also notes:

Examples of role description (USI VP campaigns)

"The Vice President for Campaigns:

- 5.6.1 The Vice President for Campaigns (hereinafter referred to as the VP/Campaigns) has overall responsibility for organising all Union campaigns.
- 5.6.2 The VP/Campaigns has the responsibility to organise and prepare campaign strategies and plans of action as required by National Council, Executive Team or Congress in pursuit of Union policy in liaison with the President. "

Areas of exploration:

- Main responsibilities
- Publications (emails, posters, social media...)
- Collaborations (with President, VP, officers...)
- Events
- Stakeholders (internal and external organizations, staff, etc.)
- Committees (which committees they are expected to be a part of)
- Boards (which boards they are expected to be a part of)

Mandate

President to oversee and delegate relevant Vice Presidents and other relevant staff to produce a more specific scope of responsibility/role description for part time officers and signpost current role description at the meantime, before the start of academic year 2023-2024.

Proposed by: John Benedict Ocampo Divinagracia, Seconded by: Amber Thomas

Three Student Council Members spoke for the motion. Motion passed.

• **Motion: Placement Officer**

Student Council Notes:

Placement is a valuable part of the educational experience and that TU Dublin prides itself on this aspect of many of the programs offered.

Student Council Laments:

The hardships undergone by some students on placement including the financial barriers, the difficulties inherent to this new paradigm of learning and the inconsistency of support received.

Motion passed unanimously.



Student Council Recognises:

The voice of placement students is harder to capture as they are not on campus but that they are full members of the union, deserving of whatever support can improve their experience.

Student Council Believes:

There is value in having an officership focused on the unique needs of this cohort of students.

Student Council Mandates:

Part 6.5 of Schedule E of the Constitution of the Technological University Dublin Students' Union, which lists the Part time officers of the Union, be amended to add:

"j. Placement Officer"

Proposed by: Jamie O'Neill, Seconded by: Konstantin Shramko

Two Student Councillors spoke in favour of the motion. Procedural Motion 9A was approved and Council moved to vote. Motion passed.

- **Motion: Improved infrastructure support and funding on Bolton Street and Linenhall Campuses**

Student council notes:

Bolton Street and Linenhall are part of TU Dublin and are home to over 8,000 students. However, with the proposal of the campus moving to Grangegorman in at least the next eight years, the campus has been left without proper maintenance. The student's health and well-being are endangered, with noted infrastructure hazards such as poor ventilation and mold. This is unacceptable and needs to be addressed and fixed as soon as possible.

Student council also notes:

By law, the campus must be kept up to standard and maintained to prevent any potential injuries or health problems. With the current state of these buildings being extremely poor, it is leading to current and future students being exposed to issues such as water leaks damaging exposed live electrical wires and outlets, damaged windows, lack of student spaces and seating spaces. We need the college to put funding into improving these issues on campus, to not just protect students' safety but improve attendance and participation. Every single TU Dublin student here deserves a good quality experience during their time in college, which should not be limited due to issues that could be easily fixed.

Mandate

Motion passed unanimously. Legal advice will be sought and it will be brought to next Student Council Meeting.



<p>The SU to help support the demand of these issues being raised and help secure the needed funding to improve the quality of life on campus.</p> <p>Proposed by: Amber Thomas, Seconded by: Dominique Baldwin</p> <p>Two Student Council members talked in favour of the motion. Motion passed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Improve accessibility to blocks in TUD specially in Blanchardstown for wheelchair users <p><u>Student council notes:</u> The aim of this motion is to improve the physical environment of the campuses for wheelchair users. Blanchardstown is not very wheelchair accessible, in the student council meeting held in Blanchardstown campus a student council member found it hard to access block D. This should not happen to anyone with mobility issues. This is a welfare issue that students with limited mobility suffer.</p> <p><u>Mandate</u> Vice president of campuses, specially Blanchardstown, and Welfare and Equality Vice President to work together and provide solutions to improve the wheelchair accessibility of buildings before the start of academic year 2023-2024</p> <p>Proposed by: John Benedict Ocampo Divinagracia, Seconded by: Amber Thomas</p> <p>Brian Jordan proposed motion 9D to move this to a meeting with Deputy President for Blanchardstown Campus Louise Kavanagh. 9D passed.</p>	<p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>9D passed and motion was moved to a meeting with Louise Kavanagh.</p>
<p>7. Discussion Items</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tallaght Deputy President gave an update on Officer elections: 7 Full-Time Officers and 8 Part-Time Officers have been elected, by-election for 2 Part-Time Officers taking place after this Student Council and by-election for City Campus Vice President taking place on all city campuses this Thursday 20th April 2023. 	
<p>8. Discussion items</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USI Update: Sierra Müller Owens gave an update. Student Achievement nominees are contacted, Know your rights week is ongoing and Sierra encouraged Councillors to join events and share 	



<p>the information forward. Student Councillor asked about the Congress Motion passed by Council this evening about Officer reports, Sierra answered. Brian Jordan thanked Sierra for their work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TU Dublin Update: President gave an update Canteen user group and Student Experience group. • Campus Development: President and Deputy Presidents gave updates on City, Tallaght and Blanchardstown Campuses. Question was asked about Aungier Street move, President promised to update later. • Class Rep Recruitment: Aungier Street: 99% (last meeting 99%) Blanchardstown: 94% (last meeting 94%) Bolton Street: 94% (last meeting 94%) Central Quad: 87% (last meeting 87%) East Quad: 75% (last meeting 75%) Tallaght: 76% (last meeting 76%) <p>Saoirse Daly spoke and thanked Class Reps for all their amazing work. Question was asked by external attendee about Aungier Street Campus moving and why is there no information provided on the website, President answered that SU doesn't update TU Dublin website. VP Welfare and Equality for City Campus updated that University has not found a buyer for Aungier Street Campus so far. Student Councillor asked for updates on Broombridge, VP Education for City Campus gave updates about discussions and advocating for student services in the meetings.</p>	
<p>9. Questions for Part-Time Officers</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate Officer Jessica Perez • East Quad College Officer (City) Moses Eusebio • Clubs Officer (Tallaght) Sam Delaney • Communications Officer (Tallaght) Oisin Putt • Societies Officer (Tallaght) Silvie Molloy • No questions were asked from Part-Time Officers. 	<p>Taken as read.</p>
<p>10. Questions for Full-Time Officers</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City VP Welfare & Equality – Hazel Doran. Hazel thanked everyone for the year. No questions were asked. • City VP Education – Saoirse Daly. Saoirse thanked everyone for the year. No questions were asked. • City VP Events & Engagement – Ian Kelly. Saoirse thanked everyone for the year. No questions were asked. Mel Sexton, Student Councillor thanked Ian for their great work. 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tallaght Deputy President – James Curry. James Curry thanked everyone for the year. No questions were asked. Christina Grammatikopoulou, Student Councillor wished James Curry best of luck in USI. Brian Jordan, President thanked James Curry for his great work as Deputy President. • Blanchardstown Deputy President – Louise Kavanagh. Louise Kavanagh thanked everyone for the year. Caitlin Cunningham, Student Councillor from Blanchardstown thanked Louise Kavanagh for her great work. Jamie O’Neill asked about Lift the Lid event that took place this week, Louise updated positive news about the update and the recorded version will be published online. • President – Brian Jordan. Brian Jordan thanked everyone for the year. Jamie O’Neill asked about what could be done to improve how the Officer accountability to Student Council could be improved. Brian Jordan said that it is about empowering Councillors to hold Officers accountable. Student Council voted to ask Brian Jordan and the Executive to look at a ways to improve accountability in the upcoming summer – and this was to be added as an action point. Officer accountability was discussed. James Curry thanked president on behalf of everyone in the room for their great work – especially on referendum, partnership agreement and keeping the team together. Louise Kavanagh thanked President for his great work. 	<p>President and the Executive to look at ways to improve officer accountability.</p>
<p>11. Reports from any other bodies</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electoral Commission Aide Memoire was circulated to Council. 	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>12. Any other business</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annabel Biddulph and Samantha Corcoran were given the awards for most active Student Councillors of the meeting. 	<p>Clerk to contact.</p>
<p>13. 2023-2024 Student Council</p>	<p>Action item</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Council was thanked for their great work this Academic Year. Next years Councillors will be elected in autumn 2023. 	