



TU Dublin Students' Union
Student Council Officer Report 23/24
Tuarascáil Oifigeach Comhairle na Mac Léinn
Aontas na Mac Leinn, Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta,
Baile Átha Cliath 23/24



Officer Name: <i>Ainm an Oifigeach</i>	Brian Jordan	Email Address: <i>Seoladh Ríomhphoist</i>	president@tudublinsu.ie
Officer Position: <i>Seasamh an Oifigigh</i>	President	Period of Work: <i>Treimhse Oibre</i>	19 th October – 10 th November 2023

Key Points of work carried out since last meeting

Príomhphointí ón gcruinniú deireanach

Today, in the Big Brother TUDSU house; our second Student Council of the year! Quick reminder that this term the political side of the Union has taken a more structured reporting approach, which you'll see reflected in a more structured set of updates here.

The Executive (full-time elected Officers) now meet weekly to provide items for noting, discussion, and/or approval. Minutes are taken by a staff member and updated to the website to enhance accountability (as requested by Student Council). Several sub-committees report to the weekly Executive meeting, as follows:

- 1) President & Democracy
- 2) Academic Affairs
- 3) Welfare & Equality
- 4) Communications & Media
- 5) Campus & Facilities
- 6) National Affairs & USI
- 7) Campaigns

Each of these sub-committees provide a weekly briefing note to the executive, and all items for 'approval' go through the executive ultimately. This aims to improve communication, transparency, accountability, and provide a sense of responsibility to the Executive for the direction of the Union.

President + Democracy

University Finances

Still no updates regarding potential underpayments in relation to the funding agreement, nor any further information on the student development fund, student charge allocation, or student numbers. COO (Denis Murphy) promised he would respond one week after Governing Body, and three weeks later, has failed again. Other members of University Finance have similarly missed deadlines for response. At the student facilities working group, head of Student Services & Wellbeing (Jennifer Farrell) admitted to none of them knowing either, but suggested a very rough estimate of 5 million. They expressed interest in a levy once again, but no real discussion on that can take place until a clear list of student facilities (in priority order) is established (to which progress is incredibly slow).

Partnership Agreement

After another follow-up email requesting updates, it was finally agreed that a working group would be established to progress a Partnership Agreement between the University & Union. Several dates have been proposed for an initial meeting, meaning progress should begin to accelerate after many, many months. I've attached the original draft (submitted by the Union) for discussion at Council.

Staffing Updates

Our new Welfare, Equality & Advice Lead has settled in quickly and her assistance has been invaluable. We have



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successfully hired a new Democracy & Representation Executive who, at the time of writing, starts next week. We are currently hiring for a new Finance Executive, as well as a Student Advisor in Tallaght Campus. At present, our Student Advisors are rotating to ensure coverage on Tallaght Campus.

Part-Time Officers

The by-election for a Postgraduate Officer has concluded, with the winner named as Avice Meya. By-elections for LGBTQ+ Rights Officer, Sustainability Officer, and the newly approved Placement Officer, are underway. Role descriptions for several of the Part-Time Officers have been made more comprehensive, given the addition of their positions to the workplan (see attached). Payment of the Part-Time Officers (schedule amendment) is due to be approved at this Council (pending legal advice). Proposal for Part-Time Officer reporting + timesheet approval due to be completed by next Council + will be circulated amongst the team.

Student Council + Faculty Boards

Phase 2 of Student Council elections is underway (nominations have opened), with a recruitment / awareness campaign to follow. President will attend Class Representative Meetings to ensure students understand the voting process (given RON issues previously). Faculty board student representatives due to be selected this week.

Progress on Executive Mandates / Policies

'Honorary Membership' of Brian Gormley mandate completed, Placement Officer mandate completed, PTO Role Description mandate completed/stalled, PTO Payment mandate completed, USI Officer Report mandate completed, Increased Seating mandate in-progress, Letter to the Board mandate completed, Canteen Protest mandate stalled, Officer Archive mandate completed. All policies (opposition to fees, relationship with TU Dublin/Funding, Facilities, and Student Levy continue to be followed. Review of mandate/policy files to be conducted in coming weeks.

Accountability Updates

President has drafted a list of recommendations for discussion at Council (see attached).

Academic Affairs

Mandated campaigns (Academic Integrity, Don't Drop Out) were delivered on time; they were chiefly composed of posters and social media information. Class Representative elections has proceeded into phase two (co-option); heads of school have been emailed and VP Academic Affairs is in the process of developing a nomination form for release on social media channels. Current statistics (% of elected reps per campus) will be displayed at Council. Class Rep Training took place on 6th and 7th of November, with 98/200 places filled. Feedback form to be circulated shortly. Additionally, the annual 'Student Survey' is due to be reviewed in terms of the SU supporting it.

Welfare & Equality

Black History Month concluded on 28th October; events included movie screening at Stella Theatre (collaboration with TU Dublin Africa Society), IMMA visit (BHM artwork), platforming Black Artists on each campus (Spotify), and an African culture exhibition (collaboration with University). Optically excellent, good engagement at evening events (due to collaborations with societies) but Councillors noted poor 'on-site' events in Tallaght & Blanchardstown. Mental Health Week concludes this week, and SHIFT week will be ongoing during this Council.



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Policy-wise, there have been some welcome developments. Data has been collated by SU Staff from all HEI's that have successfully implemented period products across campaigns. Gender neutral signage was finally delivered onto campus after expensive lobbying from President and has been implemented. VP Welfare & Equality due to meet Director of EDI in two weeks regarding T-Fund and Period Poverty funding. Simultaneously, President has requested its addition onto the agenda of the EDI Sub-Committee of Governing Body.

Events & Fundraising

'Halloweek' events were very successful. Common room activities occurred across all campuses, as well as many sold-out evening (overall) events. Feedback was very positive, graphics (designed by VP Events & Equality) were excellent, and attendance was high. Events & Engagement is currently running below expected budget due to profits being higher than expected (this is good!)

Fundraising has launched with a significant number of students interested in the 'Shave or Dye' event. As well, individual Officers are all due to carry out their own fundraising events (feel free to donate to the SU President who is dying his hair pink for charity!) Overall Events & Engagement are tracking well, everything is submitted on time, and on a personal note, a shoutout to our VP Events & Engagement for contributing to other work areas (e.g. Welfare events) to ensure the SU is optically excelling.

Communications & Media

No additional progress on media outlet since September Board update; plan remains for VP Communications & Media to conduct market research on some sort. Likelihood is for 'finished product' to be ready for rollout in the following academic year if desired by Executive, Board and Student Council. Additionally, meetings have taken place between Societies & SU on how to collaborate regarding their proposed media outlet.

Recent social media posts, regarding the Union's response to additional Broadstone Plaza attacks & subsequent photos of a Grangegorman rally, received significant social media traction (with one of our videos going 'viral' on TikTok). Planned 'media statements' due on various topics in the coming weeks, such as the lack of seating, the ongoing issues around lack of transparency within the University (on all things financial), and canteens. Furthermore, some media attention (e.g. FM104) was achieved after the announcement of funding for student accommodation.

National Affairs / USI

Currently, no other USI direct actions (regional/national) are planned. Some potential positives include progress on DIGS legislation making its way through the Dail, and our President (me) continuously pushing for USI to highlight ongoing issues around the lack of a borrowing framework for TU's (meaning we can't build accommodation). Other upcoming USI events include Pink Training and Empower. There are concerns around the affiliation fees paid by TU Dublin to USI (120,000+ euro annually) given some of the following issues however:

VP for BMW Region failed to submit a plan of work for the year and was not present at National Council. VP Equality & Citizenship, and VP Dublin Region submitted plans of work for Semester 1 only; this has been queried as their constitution specifies "The Executive Team shall produce a plan of work for their term and present it for approval not later than the second National Council of the year".



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National Council was also held for the first time ever in TU Dublin; it was generally well-received, but the council itself was notably 'tense'. Credit must be given to our Union Executive, who confidently spoke out on a variety of concerns we noted beforehand (e.g. plan of work for certain officers was deemed insufficient).

Other 'National' events include the recent announcement that 434 million would be provided by the Government to fund the development of 'affordable student accommodation' (in the form of a low-cost loan). However, TU's still cannot access loans & there is no clarity on what is considered 'affordable'.

Campus & Facilities

CVP's (Campus Vice Presidents) continue to meet weekly with the President to progress all 'campus' / 'facility' issues which plague the different campuses in TU Dublin. Seating, Sensory Pods, Canteens, and Accessibility is being progressed by all three CVP's; some local updates are discussed below:

Blanchardstown

VP Blanchardstown working with societies to remove charge to use Sports hall, and leading Blanchardstown Transport campaign, as well as Blanchardstown Parking issues. Successfully got CCTV fixed in common rooms + hooked up to TU Dublin system.

City

VP City has worked with Estates to change the elevator repair suppliers given the unacceptable wait time when they break down. He has also secured canteen vouchers for all city campus sites & is due to launch these before the end of the week. He has secured additional seating in AST, refurbished seating in BST (ongoing), and some within CQ. VP City is also in talks with Estates to significantly improve conditions in BST + LH (update expected by Council). Vending machine added to East Quad + coffee machine vending machines progressing rapidly. Bolton Bike racks finally being moved to a safer location within campus.

Tallaght

VP Tallaght + International Students PTO secured new signs for water fountains in Tallaght (i.e. number of fountains has gone from 2 -> 11. Canteen hours extended and study pods implemented. Currently working with estates to fix CCTV in the common room and to secure phone signal in the new Sports Building. VP Tallaght also leading on Cash Cow Campaign, assisting with USI policy, and free gym facilities across TU Dublin.

Campaigns

Review of this sub-committee to be carried out as a significant number of campaigns can be allocated underneath specific work areas (e.g. Blanchardstown Transport has been given to CVP for Blanchardstown). This sub-committee may be tabled given all listed campaigns are already progressing in other meetings.

Summary

While this update captures the main priorities of the Union executive over the last few weeks, it does not capture everything – it was genuinely impossible to list every meeting, every success, and every 'win' by the Officers, but I tried! I'm, as always, happy to take questions on anything and everything you might have an interest in! Thank you!



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Meetings Attended (and Number) Tinrimh Choistí agus Cruinnithe (agus Líon)	Events/Activities Attended Tinrimh Imeachtaí / Gníomhaíochtaí
Luas Data Discussion x 1 Representation Catch-Up x 3 Governing Body x 1 Campus & Facilities Weekly x 5 Legal Advice [Schedules] x 1 LCSP Partnership Meeting x 1 Pink Training Planning x 3 AST Orientation x 1 Leadership Weekly x 2 Democracy Executive Shortlisting x 1 Democracy Executive Interviews x 1 BHM Review x 1 Officer 1:1's x 4 Weekly Executive Meeting x 3 Payroll Process x 1 NTUTORR Oversight Board x 1 Grangegorman Walkaround [CVP] x 1 Community Liaison Committee x 1 Design & Construct Briefing Student Council Briefing x 2 Postgraduate Officer Candidate Briefing x 1 Campaign Manager Training x 1 Cash Cow Campaign Discussion x 1	Broadstone Plaza Demonstration x 1 President + Deputies Day [USI] x 1 European Youth Parliament x 1 BTDG Launch [Blanchardstown] x 1 Black History Month Event [TU Dublin] x 1 National Council [TUDSU] x 1 TUDSU CLG Strategy Day x 1 EUT+ Wrap-Up Event [Phase 1] x 1



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Welfare Weekly x 1 Finance Queries [TU Dublin] x 1 Mental Health Week Sign-Off x 1 Risk management Committee x 1 Elections Communication Meeting x 2 Communications & Media Weekly x 3 Student Council x 1 TUDSU CLG FARC x 1 Culture Week Society Meeting x 1 Student Facilities Working Group x 1 Class Rep Training Preparation x 1 Student Charter Catch-Up x 1	
Gifts Received <i>Bronntanais a Fuarthas</i>	Personal Expenses <i>Costaisí phearsanta</i>
N/A	N/A
Additional notes <i>Aon nithe eile</i>	
Democracy persists!	