

Abolish or Reduce Appeal Fees by 60%

The Student Council Notes:

the necessity for reform regarding appeal fees, advocating for their complete abolition or a substantial reduction of up to 60%. Currently, students are required to submit a formal request for review to the appropriate Examinations Officer or Dean's Office within a strict seven-day window following the scheduled examination script viewing date, coupled with a fee amounting to €75.00.

This financial burden, particularly exacerbated by the current economic climate, casts a shadow over students' pursuit of fair assessment. Consider the myriad challenges faced by students today: the escalating cost of living, exorbitant rents, the rising expense of essential goods like food, and the ever-mounting tuition fees. These economic realities serve as formidable barriers, deterring students from availing themselves of the appeals process to ensure their academic achievements are duly and fairly recognized.

Despite the commitment of many students to full-time studies, a significant portion finds it necessary to supplement their income through part-time employment. This balancing act between work and education is often precarious, leaving little room for additional financial obligations such as appeal fees.

Moreover, the Student Council emphasizes the pragmatic stance taken by students when presented with the choice between appealing for a fair assessment and the alternative of repeating exams. Many students express a preference for the latter option, even if it entails a slightly higher fee (typically around €100), as it offers the assurance of improvement over the uncertainty inherent in an appeals process.

Further notes:

The Student Council draws attention to the practices observed in other prestigious institutions in Dublin, such as Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. These institutions either do not impose charges for appeals or levy fees significantly lower than those imposed by TU Dublin.

In light of these disparities, it is incumbent upon TU Dublin, as a publicly-funded institution, to critically evaluate its approach to appeal fees. It is incongruous for a university committed to fostering an environment of inclusivity and fairness to impose such significant financial burdens on its students merely for seeking redress and recognition of their academic endeavors.

The Student Council urges the administration to take immediate action to address this issue, either by abolishing appeal fees altogether or implementing a substantial reduction, thereby ensuring equitable access to the appeals process for all students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Mandate:

VP for Academic Affairs to lobby for the abolishment or 60% deduction of appeal fees, by the end of the Academic Year 2023/2024.

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