



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>	14 th February – 2 nd April 2024

Key Points of work carried out since last meeting

Príomhphointí ón gcruinniú deireanach

Welcome back to the final ever episode of the Union show; Elections have ended, Congress was survived, and Exams are fast-approaching. As per tradition, the structure of this report is as follows:

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

However, similar to my last Report, for detailed information under any heading other than President & Democracy, please see the reports of the Relevant Officers (I only included major updates). Finally, I've saved my many, many thank you messages for the end of the report, so scroll down for those!

President & Democracy

- All Full-Time Officer positions filled (14 candidates total, TUDSU record)
- Part-Time Officer positions semi-filled (by-election in April Council)
- Plebiscite [Confidence in Government] achieved 'NO' vote [No Confidence]
- Referendum [USI Affiliation] achieved 'YES' vote [TUDSU remains a member]
- Electoral Commission review actioned for next semester [i.e. Appeals Board]
- Electoral Commission Chairperson Selection process due to be complete by April Council
- U-Survey completed + final report expected by April Council
- Partnership Agreement Follow-Up meeting occurred + due for signing before July
- HEA brought forward TUDSU proposal in March [student charge review] which passed
- TUDSU President met 'Wonkhe' (UK SU Group) & formalised relationship (excellent resource)
- TUDSU President attended Dail for Launch of Opposition party DIGS Legislation
- Student Advisor [Tallaght Campus] Interviews Completed + Candidate Selection completed
- General Manager Onboarding completed + TUDSU welcomes her



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- COO [Denis Murphy] failed to attend Student Finance Committee
- COO [Denis Murphy] failed to attend meeting regarding Canteens + Parking
- TU Dublin President [David Fitzpatrick] resigned + COO [Denis Murphy] retiring
- TUDSU President met with UCC Academics regarding joint action on Palestine

Academic Affairs

- Academic Calendar 5-year plan developed + University broadly support 'Exams before Christmas'
- Student Charter completed due to be approved at next Academic Council

Welfare & Equality

- Stance on Green paper [for Disabilities] adopted by Council, Feedback sent, Socials Updated
- Trans Healthcare Mandate adopted at USI Congress [identical version denied by USI in January]
- Meeting occurred between TUDSU + TU Dublin Medical Service regarding Trans Harm Reduction
- T-Fund suggested to be utilised via sub-category of SAF [Currently being investigated]
- Period Product Initiative denied / SEC claimed no access to funding [Currently being argued]
- EDIC, EDI Director, SEC, and Campus + Estates have all refused to push for pan-university appropriate signage despite ¾ groups agreeing that current signage is outdated/offensive

Events & Fundraising

- RAG Week very successful [significant amount of funds raised, high daytime engagement]
- Relay for Life taking place soon [live music, inflatables, ice-cream, the works!]
- Daffodil Day took place on Count Day [1400 euro raised in one day]
- Seachtain na Gaeilge [shoutout to PTO Gaeilge!]

Communications & Media

- Media Outlet questions included in U-Survey
- U-Survey data provisionally indicates significant interest in newspaper
- Article Generation trial conducted to judge writer interest
- Terms of Reference / Proposal to be presented to Board CLG [May]



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Campus & Facilities

- All water fountains + projectors due to be replaced in BST + LH
- Paintwork + roofs due to be redone before start of next semester in BST + LH
- Additional water fountains due to be added to LH
- Additional microwave due to be added outside BST Canteen
- Additional seating delivered to AST, BL, Lower House + Bradogue
- Picnic Benches due to be delivered to CQ/GG + Tallaght
- Calm spaces implemented / ready to open in most campuses [delay with Tallaght]
- Safety measures significantly enhanced in GG [gates, student cards, security]
- Free weekly gym slots secured across all sites + new equipment added [BL]
- Breast-feeding room opened in BL

National Affairs & USI

- Annual Congress event took place
- Several TUDSU motions passed [Trans Healthcare, Borrowing Framework, etc]
- Referendum received 'Yes' to USI vote [TUDSU affiliation remains]

The Emotional Section

The time has come. After eight years in the sphere of higher education, six years in TU Dublin, four years of reports, and two years as your President, I am finally finished. I've written a lot of reports during my time in TU Dublin SU, but I have to admit that this is the most emotional. There's so much to say, and none of it feels quite right, but I'll do my best.

It has been a genuine honour to serve as your President for the last two years, and I really mean that. It has been so, so hard, and I have cried far too many times, and worked way too many hours. But guess what? It was worth it. It was worth it, because of you. Every student, every Class Representative, every Student Councillor, who feels like they're part of something bigger. Who feels like their college experience has been made just that little bit better. That little bit easier.



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I remember when I ran for election, I told people that I felt very privileged during my time here as a TU Dublin student. Unlike my siblings who hated their experience, I was involved in clubs, societies, and the Union. I went for every voluntary position one could think of. And you know what? It saved me. I remember during the pandemic, I would literally look forward to online Student Council (which to be clear, was fairly grim). It was something that kept me connected. And I think that's what everyone is looking for when they start college. Yes, there's the degree, there's the job prospects. But ultimately, we all want to belong. We all want to feel connected to something larger.

Ultimately, that's what I wanted for as many students as possible. Every student elected, every class representative in place, every position filled – it meant another student was potentially saved. They were now part of something bigger, where they felt they had value. That feeling was something I struggled with for a long time. I know that this is impossible to do for every single student, especially in a University as large as ours, but hopefully I made the student experience just that little bit better.

But of course, I didn't do this alone. In fact, the opposite. I have so, so many people to thank. And you know what? I'm absolutely going to:

Thank you to **Shauna**, the President-elect, for doing something so brave. I hope you know just how proud I am of you, and how happy I am to call you my successor. You're more passionate than you know, and far smarter than I think you realise. I hope that winning the election has made you believe in yourself more, because you should! Students believe in you. We all believe in you. I cannot wait to see the things you achieve, and please know that I will always be available to offer advice, even if it's just "*How the hell do I approve timesheets?*" The role of President can sometimes feel so lonely, but please know that you are never alone. Jessica, the Leads, the previous Presidents, and your wonderful new team – they're here for you as much as you are for them.

Thank you to **Ian**, our VP for fun times & good vibes, and Deputy of Campaigns. Without you, I think I would have ripped my hair out this year. You were a confidant, an exceptional event organiser, and more politically savvy than I think most people realise! You are intelligent, creative and like me, have no understanding of a work-life balance (sorry Caroline); I hope you know how much I've appreciated your support this year, and never let the small things weigh you down; you're too special for that.



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Thank you to **Sheran**, you are absolutely feral, and absolutely dedicated. I don't think people realise just how hard you work for the Union, and to be fair you're terrible at writing it down – so let me say it here: we are lucky to have you. I remember watching you collect 1500 signatures in the span of a single day. I saw you organise a campaign the way a leader does; you respect your team, you understand the pressure they're under, and you thank them. I cannot wait to see you excel next year. And it would be remiss of me not to say, for the 8000th time, thank you for believing me. Without you, I would have lost the election 12 months ago. You made my dreams come true, and you protected the Union at all costs. So, one last time, thank you, Sheran. But for the love of god write things down because there's no way in hell I'm sitting through a three hour Council to hear about your work next year. Godspeed, Academic Affairs Elect.

Thank you to **Jeremy**, same thing goes for you; sell yourself! I have seen how hard you've worked this year, and I want everyone else to know. You didn't just fulfil your own manifesto points; you helped me push forward projects that had been in a state of inertia for literal years. I've seen you grow from being (admittedly) quite a shy guy, to being confident in what you say, and believing in yourself far more. You're also far wittier than people realise! And, like with Sheran, I have to say it – thank you for spending three full days of your life in East Quad helping me win an election last year. I may have been militant, but hopefully it was worth it, and hopefully I've been the leader you wanted. And in case I haven't said it before, thank you for always being there for me.

Thank you to **Peter**, you are the funniest person on the team hands down (sorry Ian). Please stop talking about fascism though, I cannot take being cancelled a ninth time this year. You are one of the most efficient people I think I've ever met, and if the rumours are true, then you're title of Deputy President is well-deserved. You're the only person I've met who without being asked, will generate an entire report on every issue ever reported in a campus, and not get mad when it takes me 42 business years to read it. You've gotten things done that I don't think any Officer could've, no matter how many years they had here. You're the epitome of establishing contacts in the University in order to achieve a goal – and I've learned from you! Thank you for everything, and again, please, please, stop talking about fascism. Unless it's funny.

Thank you to **Nekesa**, I've said it before and I'll say it again – we disagree on a lot of things professionally, but on a personal note, you're absolutely iconic. Seriously, you and I could be full on screaming at each other, and then five minutes later, be laughing over wine. I know this year was hard, but I really hope that



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you got something from the Union. You've done what very few people can do in the Union – you made an impact. Keep on making an impact, and know that I will absolutely be taking you up on the offer of using your house in Nairobi!

Thank you to **Louise**, the Deputy President and Governess of TU Dublin (I couldn't come up with a better Governing Body joke!) Your likeability and networking skills are unparalleled, and were instrumental over the past two years. Between 80,000 Class Addresses during the elections, to your ability to flag BDS Policy within 4 seconds notice at Governing Body, I hope you know how effective you are when you believe in yourself. Like myself, we can be our own worst enemies – so, whenever you doubt yourself or your skills, remember the many, many things you've achieved during your time in TU Dublin SU.

Now, for some rapid fire ones; to **Rebecca Gorman**, who inspired me to run all those years ago, and taught me how to campaign for something you really want. To **Mark O'Donnell**, for the time you put into giving me an actual handover, and offering invaluable insight during my first 6 (long, long) months in the role.

To the hundreds of students, over the last four years, who helped me to get to where I am today. I would quite literally be nothing without you. Without your enthusiasm, belief, and optimism, I never would have won. It's such a special feeling, and I feel so lucky to have felt it for so long. I will always remember that. I must give two particular shoutouts to **Oriana & Annabel**; two future President's in the making. Watching you throughout the last few months, I've seen something that is so rare. This ability to articulate yourselves so well, to win people over, to be likeable but not arrogant, and to critically analyse and apply the rules effectively. Thank you for everything, and you better go on to do great things!

To my twin, **Hugh**, and closest confidants, **Kenzi and Stephen**, for constantly putting up with my rants about niche topics that they really, really does not care about (SU Politics is so exciting!). As frustrating as it must have been to watch me care so much about things that seem so silly, you've always supported me – and for that, I will always be grateful.

To all of our staff in TU Dublin SU: to **Murray**, for never (visibly) getting annoyed at my 80,000 last-minute graphic requests. To **Abby**, for reminding me that stoicism is a thing, and that it is possible to remain centred even when it feels like the world is burning. To **Jason**, for reminding me that kindness works far



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better at resolving conflict than my conventional methods. To **Liam**, for helping me achieve everything that I wanted, and always supporting me from the wings. To **Caroline**, for so, so many things (the calm one, the organised one, the great advice giver, pragmatic even when I'd done something stupid) – you've all been exceptional, so thank you. I would not be here today without each of you.

To those on (or were on) the Board, you know who you are! This includes **Catherine**, whose insight has been invaluable when it came to staying focused, and of course our Chair, **Deiric**, who answered my many, many annoying phone calls when I first started. To Jessica, our new General Manager, who has already shown such talent and understanding in her role – I cannot wait to see you succeed!

And finally, as always, I have someone else to thank. Someone who hates attention and cannot stand being the centre of it – thank you to **Mary Scally**. It feels like the end of an era, with both of us leaving (I have an incredibly egotistical imagination, if that hadn't already been established). We were a dynamic duo since the very beginning, and I am so, so privileged to have spent the last two years by your side. You've seen me at my best, and by god you've seen me at my absolute worst. We haven't always agreed (that's part of the fun!), but you helped my dreams come true. Without you, I don't want to even think of the messes I may have made. Without you, I probably wouldn't be writing this report you. You understood what the Union is really about, and you have always fought to defend that. It makes me sad to think that future President's will never get to know how special you are. I could go on, and on, and on, about how great you are, but I think I'll end with this – thank you for everything, Mary. Long live the Cerebral Cortex.

Meetings Attended (and Number) Tinrimh Choistí agus Cruinnithe (agus Lón)	Events/Activities Attended Tinrimh Imeachtaí / Gníomhaíochtaí
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<p>Design & Construct WG x 2 SHW Blanchardstown x 1 Community Liaison Committee x 1 Student Advisor Interviews [5] x 1 NTUTORR Funding [Sensory Rooms] x 1 Campus + Facilities x 3 TU Dublin SU CLG x 1 Vote No-No [TUDSU] Planning x 1 Trans Healthcare [TUDSU, USI, UCCSU] x 1 College Tribune [Leave USI] x 1 Student Council Agenda Preparation x 2 EUT+ Student Board x 1 Leadership Weekly x 2 U-Survey Oversight Committee x 1 Representation Weekly x 3 Weekly Executive Meeting [WEM] x 5 EUT+ Catch-Up x 1 Risk Management Training [Governing Body] x 1 Governing Body x 1 Governing Body [Emergency / Interim] x 1 NTUTORR Oversight Board x 1 Student / Officer Catch-Up [1:1] x 3 Tallaght Campus Masterplan Review x 1 Welfare & Equality Weekly x 1 Electoral Commission x 3 TU Dublin SU CLG [FARC] x 1 Democracy Weekly x 4 Learner Assembly Planning x 1 USI Governance Committee x 1 Trans Harm Reduction [TU Dublin] x 1 Academic Calendar Review x 1 Academic Council x 1 General Manager Onboarding x 1 Student Council x 2 Communications + Media Weekly x 1 EDIC [Sub-Committee of GB] x 1 Academic Affairs WG x 3 Risk Management Committee [TU Dublin] x 1</p>	<p>RAG Week x 1 Wonkhe Presentation x 1 DIGS Legislation Launch x 1 Societies Awards x 1 USI Annual Congress x 1 Dignity & Respect Training [Leadership] x 1 Election Count x 1</p>
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TUDSU Funding + Finance Meeting x 1 Green Paper Review [TU Dublin + TCDSU] x 1 Candidates Meeting x 1 Campaign Manager Training x 2 Chair Meeting [Governing Body] x 1 USC WG [Sustainability Accreditation] x 1 Student Accommodation Service [TU Dublin] x 1 Student Finance Committee x 1 Director of EDI Meeting x 1 Partnership Agreement Meeting x 1 UCC Palestine Discussion x 1 TUDSU Introduction / Promotional Campaign x 1 Media Outlet Proposal / TOR Review x 1 Electoral Commission Chair Selection 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>	



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In the words of one of my idols, I'll end my report with the following:

Hey, yeah, whoa-ho, I'm on a roll
Ridin' so high, achieving my goals
I'm stoked on ambition and verve
I'm gonna get what I deserve.