



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>	John Benedict Ocampo Divinagracia	Email Address: <i>Seoladh Riomhphoist</i>	Ethnic.diversity@tudublins u.ie
Officer Position: <i>Seasamh an Oifigigh</i>	Ethnic Diversity Officer	Period of Work: <i>Treimhse Oibre</i>	February 14 2024- April 9 2024

Key Points of work warried out since last meeting
Príomhphointí ón gcruinniú deireanach

Holi Celebration

I attended the Holi celebration in Blanchardstown campus. Holi is known as the Festival of Colors, the most vibrant and widely celebrated holiday in India. It marks the start of the spring season and the triumph of good over evil. This celebration is based on the Hindu calendar. Holi is also a time of indulging on traditional sweets. I had a discussion with both the attendees and the organizers. I found that there is no South Asian/Indian society in the Blanchardstown Campus. Apparently, the students and got together independently and planned the event. They stated their frustrations about the lack of support from the council; they asked the students union to help them advertise the event, but they received no reply. I explained that they should reach out to the Ethnic Diversity Officer next time before reaching out to the other officers. To recap what happened during the event: we started with icebreakers, most of the students were people of colour but it was pleasing to see that European students were in support of the even and what it stood for. The next part of the event was dancing, which is a big part of Indian culture. The attendees danced around a circle and shared their regional dance steps.

Higher Education Authority Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Conference Panelist and Union of the Students of Ireland representative

I was invited by the Higher Education Authority to speak as a panellist in their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Conference as a representative of the Union of the Students of Ireland, Technological University Dublin Student's Union and most importantly, as a student from an ethnic minority background. I specifically spoke in the Advancing Race Equality in Higher Education Institutions Session of the Conference. Our very own Mr. Philip Owende delivered a speech on Anti-racism principles in Higher Education Institutions.

I specifically commented on the Race Equality report highlighted data and OECD. I suggested that the statistical data provided could be broken down into smaller groups as minorities can't merged into one group as each demographic have unique experiences and are perceived differently by society. I highlighted that on top of difference between demographics, gender has implications on the matter as well as it is in the western society. I prepared a brief speech/panel input about EDI but they were more interested in my experience in as a minority during the Dublin riots. I described the whole 2 and a half hours of being stranded in between the rioters with their broken glass, metal bars, and eery black masks, and the police shields and batons. I also discussed how the riot, in my opinion, was not about the color of the skin of people, but instead their background and how they are not "local" to Ireland. I finally expressed the need for additional safety and precautions that should be in place to support ethnic minorities, should an event like that were to happen again by giving examples of Universities that did their part during the riots, opening their gates to the victims and providing shelter and safety. There was not enough time for me to deliver my prepared contribution. I would have discussed the following:

Equality, Diversity, Inclusion

Equality: I believe that it should be Equity instead. Equity in the sense that we are at a point where students of different backgrounds are bottlenecked by the western society and also their culture that we have to put MORE



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effort not just equal efforts to support students. One application would be putting more facilitation to assessing students from different backgrounds for learning disabilities. There is a stigma when it comes to learning disabilities. I have ADHD and my folks still have yet to understand and even just accept that I have characteristics that lags me compared to my neurotypical peers. So, Equity not Equality, in assessment of diverse background students for learning disabilities.

Diversity and Inclusion.

Decolonizing of the Curriculum is probably not a new concept but it is important to note that having to look up to as an inspiration is very important for education. People from different backgrounds just don't have that. And the sad thing is many of the modern education's forefathers were not from different backgrounds. For example, the mother of Radiation, Marie Currie, I don't believe it was emphasized that she was of eastern European descent. 2 centuries before Isaac Newton and Leibniz laid out the foundation of calculus, Indian astronomers produced the same findings that can be attributed to calculus. These are just a few examples of how academics from ethnic minority backgrounds are not credited enough.



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Meetings Attended (and Number) <i>Tinrimh Choistí agus Cruinnithe (agus Líon)</i>	Events/Activities Attended <i>Tinrimh Imeachtaí / Gníomhaíochtaí</i>
Higher Education Authority's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Conference.	Holi celebration
Gifts Received <i>Bronntanais a Fuarthas</i>	Personal Expenses <i>Costaisí phearsanta</i>



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Additional notes
Aon nithe eile

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be able to speak on behalf of students of Ireland who are of ethnic minority background, on a national level. It was an honor to be a panel member of an institution that not only aims to improve the quality of education of students in this country but also allow EVERYONE, no matter the background, to have access to higher education.