



Dublin Institute of Technology

Students' Union

Student Council

Motions & Mandates

This document consists of all motions that have been passed by DITSU Student Council
From 26/01/17 to date

**Motions are valid for a period of two years from the date they were passed
i.e. 22nd April 2016 to 21st April 2018**


Pg.	Student Council Motion/Mandate	Falling	Due Date	Level of Progress		
1	DITSU CLG / Student Council Transitional Protocol	10/04/19	30/06/19			
2	DITSU Honorary Membership – Eamon Gilmore/Senan Turnbull					
3	Lack of Sufficient Milk Alternatives in TU Dublin Campuses	10/04/19	31/10/19			
4	Feasibility of Free STI Screenings	20/03/21	10/04/19			
5	Give us the Night	20/03/21	20/03/21			
6	Solidarity with Northern Ireland for Abortion Rights	20/03/21	20/03/21			
7	Feasibility of the Installation of Washing Facilities	28/02/21	20/03/19			
8	Justice and Human Rights for Palestine	28/02/21	30/06/20			
9	Technological University of Sanctuary	28/02/21	20/10/19			
10	Aramark off our Campuses	20/02/21	31/10/19			
11	Motion to Amend the Constitution	31/01/21	20/02/19			
12	Personal Circumstances Form Review	31/01/21	20/03/19			
13	Direct Action on TUDSU Constitution	18/10/20	12/12/18			
14	Removal of DITSU Policy Manual	18/10/20	13/11/18			
15	Availability of Marking Schemes	24/04/20	30/11/18			
16	Disability Information Campaign	24/04/20	31/10/18			
17	DIT Supply of Microwaves and Facilities for Student Use	24/04/20	26/10/18			
18	DITSU Honorary Membership – Ailbhe Smith	24/04/20	02/05/18			
19	Feasibility to Expand DIT Mentoring Programme	24/04/20	30/11/18			
20	National Council Report	24/04/20	24/04/20			
21	Officer Communication on DITSU.tv	24/04/20	24/04/20			
22	Plastic Free Campus	24/04/20	30/11/18			
23	TU Merging Process	24/04/20	31/12/18			
25	Access to Information – The Impeachment Process	22/03/20	31/10/18			
24	Award for School Rep	22/03/20	30/06/18			
26	Cessation of Support to Aramark	22/03/20	24/04/18			
27	Parity of Service for all Students	22/03/20	30/11/18			
28	Dental Dams in SU Offices	31/01/20	31/03/18			
29	Disruption to Student Services Staffing	31/01/20	22/02/18			
30	Consent Workshops	31/01/20	30/06/18			
31	DITSU Honorary Membership – Hugh O'Reilly	07/12/19	04/05/18			
32	DITSU Honorary Membership – Jarlath Molloy	07/12/19	04/05/18			
33	Plebiscite on DITSU's Stance on Repeal the 8 th	07/12/19	04/05/18			
34	Access to Organ Donor Cards	08/11/19	31/12/17			
35	Amendment to Student Council Standing Orders	08/11/19	08/11/17			
36	College Officer Crossover Document	08/11/19	25/04/17			
37	LGBTQ+ Safe Spaces and Workshops	08/11/19	30/06/18			
38	Nap Rooms on DIT Campuses	08/11/19	21/02/18			
39	Amendment of Docs to include Gender Neutral Language	26/04/19	20/10/17			

40	Collaborative Event with DITSU and Societies	26/04/19	28/04/18			
41	DITSU Collaboration with ESHTe Project	26/04/19	26/04/19			
42	Electronic Voting for DITSU Elections and Referenda	26/04/19	20/10/17			


Mandate Progress

Sabbatical	Not Started	In Progress	Completed	Total Mandates	Percent Completed
President	3	3	12	18	<u>67%</u>
VP Education	5	0	0	5	<u>0%</u>
VP Events	2	0	0	2	<u>0%</u>
VP Welfare	8	5	3	16	<u>19%</u>
<u>Overall</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>37%</u>

 = President


 = VP Events


 = VP Education

 = VP Welfare

Level of Progress Key

 = Not Complete

 = In Progress

 = Completed

DITSU CLG/Student Council Transitional Protocol – 10th April 2019

Student Council Notes:

The recent passing of the constitutional referendum which will abolish the Students' Unions of the former Institutes of Technology in Blanchardstown, DIT and Tallaght and establish a new Students' Union from the 1st July 2019 – TU Dublin Students' Union

Student Council further Notes:

DITSU CLG is currently the company which oversees certain services to the students of TU Dublin City Campus, including the employment of Union staff, record keeping and accounts administration as per statutory requirements. The newly adopted Constitution continues to recognise the company as an entity solely for the benefit of the students of TU Dublin City Campus from the 1st July 2019.

Student Council Recognises:

The provision in the Constitution for membership of the company to be extended to students in Blanchardstown and Tallaght on request to the TU Dublin Student Council. The Company Constitution shall be amended to reflect any ancillary changes, extensions of membership and directors and/or changes to service agreements.

Student Council further Recognises:

The Operational Protocol previously adopted between DITSU CLG and DITSU Student Council and the clarity this Protocol provided, in relation to the role each of these bodies plays and how they recognise and work with each other.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The President to work with DITSU CLG, taking into consideration legal advice, and draft a new Operational Protocol between DITSU CLG and Student Council, which will include an Interpretative Protocol document that allows the two bodies to set out the post-transitional arrangements, which will be reflected in both the Company Constitution and the TU Dublin SU Constitution.

The Executive shall convene a meeting to discuss the technicalities of this Protocol and as per the Constitution shall exercise their limited powers and functions to determine whether to adopt this on behalf of Student Council. This shall be completed by the 30th June 2019 and be noted at the first Student Council meeting of the 2019/2020 academic year.

DITSU Honorary Membership – Eamon Gilmore and Senan Turnbull – 10th April 2019

Student Council Notes:

The appointment of Eamon Gilmore and Senan Turnbull to assist as facilitators for the TUDSU Working Group to support the drafting of the new Constitution for the TU Dublin Students' Union.

Student Council Recognises:

The challenge given to both Eamon and Senan to bring the TUDSU Working Group together; comprising of DITSU, IT Tallaght SU and IT Blanchardstown SU full time elected officers. They were given a very short timeframe to help the group draft the Constitution in time for it to pass via referendum. Thankfully, this was achieved, and the referendum received a resounding “yes” across the three campuses on 21st February 2019.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That under article 2.7 of the Constitution:

“The Student Council may award, as a token of honour, to such persons or organisations, as its sees fit, Honorary Membership of the Union. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights, privileges or obligations to an Honorary Member or on the Union to an Honorary Member. The Student Council shall regulate the award of such membership.”

And as such shall award honorary membership of the Union to Eamon Gilmore and Senan Turnbull.

Lack of Sufficient Milk Alternatives in TU Dublin Campuses – 10th April 2019

Student Council Notes:

Currently there is an insufficient amount of milk alternatives available in the various canteens across the TU Dublin City Campuses.

Student Council further Notes:

That the current sole milk alternative soya milk causes a large amount of allergic reactions to occur as well as causing environmental damage.

Student Council Supports:

The implementation of additional milk substitutes such as almond or oat options in the canteens in all TU Dublin City Campuses.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That the VP for Welfare investigate the feasibility of and ensure wherever possible the implementation of further milk substitutes across all TU Dublin City Campuses for the inclusivity of the entire student population and to report back to council at the first council of the following academic year with progress made.

Feasibility of Free STI Screenings – 20th March 2019

Student Council Notes:

STI screening currently costs €20 in the Medical Centre

Student Council Regrets:

Any financial barrier which reduces rates of testing amongst the student population

Student Council Mandates:

The VP for Welfare to investigate the feasibility of the Medical Centre providing STI screenings free of charge to students and report back to the final Student Council of the year.

Give Us the Night – 20th March 2019

Student Council Notes:

Give Us the Night is an independent volunteer group of professionals operating within the night-time industry, campaigning for positive changes to nightlife in Ireland, with particular regard to music venues. The campaign would like to see venues and clubs in Ireland benefit from later opening hours such as those in place in other European cities.

Student Council further Notes:

Other countries around the world are experiencing the benefits of thriving night-time economies, whereas Ireland has strict licensing laws which have had a damaging effect on Dublin's/Ireland's nightlife and night time industry.

Student Council Regrets:

The strict laws regarding nightlife in Ireland leads to anti-social behaviour on the streets once a venue closes, pressure to drink in the short space of time allowed in a nightlife venue and the rise of illegal events.

Student Council Supports:

Responsible drinking for students and hopes that the loosening of laws will improve late night access to transport, create a vibrant nightlife culture and create a beneficial gain for Ireland if later opening hours do occur.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The VP for Events, with the support of the Executive team, to support the Give Us the Night campaign wherever possible within the lifespan of this mandate as per the Constitution.

Solidarity with Northern Ireland for Abortion Rights – 20th March 2019

Student Council Notes:

The repeal of the 8th amendment from the Irish Constitution and the legislation created for access to free, safe and legal abortions.

Student Council further Notes:

This does not extend to Northern Ireland as abortion is still illegal there.

Student Council Supports:

Full access to free, safe and legal abortion services to all on the entire island of Ireland.

Student Council therefore mandates:

The VP for Welfare in conjunction with the Executive team to support the campaign for abortion rights in Northern Ireland in whatever way possible, within the lifespan of this mandate as per the Constitution.

Feasibility of the Installation of Washing Facilities – 28th February 2019

Student Council Recognises:

The importance of the environment and the damage done to the environment by use of single use cups.

Student Council Notes:

The benefits to the environment through the use of reusable cups (hereinafter referred to as “keep cups”).

Student Council further Notes:

The lack of facilities available to students on campus to clean keep cups on campus.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The VP for welfare examines the feasibility of the installation of washing facilities, in an effort to promote the use of keep cups to the student body and report back to Council on the 20th March 2019.

Justice and Human Rights for Palestine – 28th February 2019

Student Council Notes:

That the state of Israel is involved in a brutal military occupation of the Palestinian territories. The occupation is responsible for systematic, widespread and ongoing human rights abuses against the local Palestinian population, including destruction of homes, theft of land and water resources, imprisonment without trial, torture of prisoners, and construction of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land.

The State of Israel is in violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations. The settlements have also been declared illegal by the International Court of Justice and the UK government with Amnesty International stating that "Israel's settlement policy is inherently discriminatory and has resulted in grave human rights violations including destruction of homes, forced evictions, unlawful killings, arbitrary detentions and collective punishment".

Student Council Believes:

- That Israel should end its occupation of the Palestinian territories and allow the return of Palestinian refugees in accordance with international law.
- That the Palestinian people are entitled to the same human rights, dignity of person, self-determination, security and parity of esteem as all other peoples in the world today.
- That a boycott of Israel's entire regime of oppression, including all of the Israeli companies and institutions that are involved in its violations of international law, is a reasonable non-violent activity that can be taken to register opposition to such crimes.
- That the Palestinian led BDS campaign does not target anyone or anything based on identity, but rather based solely on complicity in denying Palestinian rights and that BDS is a strategy for effective solidarity, not a dogma or ideology and certainly not an attack upon Jewish communities or individuals.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The President with the Executive to inform students of the background to the situation in Israel/Palestine and to commemorate Palestine Solidarity Day, working with any relevant groups such as student societies and civil society organisations local to each of our campuses.

To lobby to divest from and terminate any contracts with companies that are complicit in the occupation of the Palestinian territories and violation of Palestinian human rights more widely. To join the global movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it ends the occupation and complies with international law.

This mandate must be complete by the end of the 2019/2010 academic year.

Technological University of Sanctuary – 28th February 2019

Student Council Notes:

Universities of sanctuary, by facilitating students living in direct provision, both greatly improve their lives of those students and enrich the college community

Student Council Regrets:

TU Dublin is not a university of sanctuary

Student Council Mandates:

The President of the Union to lobby TU Dublin to become a university of sanctuary. This to be reported back on by the 20th October 2019

Aramark off our Campuses – 20th February 2019

Student Council Notes:

The system of direct provision was intended to last 6 months, but it has been in place for 19 years

Student Council Believes:

The system of direct provision is not fit for purpose and represents infringement of human rights

Student Council Regrets:

The profiteering of companies like Aramark, taking advantage of a race to the bottom, worsens the situations of people living in direct provision

Student Council Mandates:

The president of the Union in conjunction with all applicable officers to lobby TU Dublin to end their contracts with Aramark. This shall be reported back to the 1st meeting of the 2019/2020 Academic Year.

Motion to Amend the Constitution – 31st January 2019

Student Council Notes:

The work of the Constitutional Review Committee established by Student Council.

Student Council further Notes:

The attached constitution establishing a new Students' Union encompassing the current Students' Unions in Dublin Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Institute of Technology Tallaght to service the students of the newly formed Technological University Dublin.

Following meetings with the respective Unions of ITB and ITTD and a review by the DITSU Constitutional Review Committee, the major changes under the new proposed Constitution of TU Dublin Students' Union are attached.

Student Council Mandates:

That the Clerk to Student Council, in conjunction with the President shall forward this motion to the Electoral Commission to be submitted to referendum for the decision of the membership, in accordance with terms as prescribed by the Electoral Commission. The Referendum shall take place on the 19th and 20th February 2019

Personal Circumstances Form Review – 31st January 2019

Student Council Notes:

That the Personal Circumstances (PC1) Form is there for students who have been affected by personal or other serious difficulties which were largely unforeseen and affected the student's performance in and assessment.

Student Council further Notes:

That the current PC1 form does not take into account long term and chronic illnesses. Conditions.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The VP for Welfare to investigate the possibility of amending the current PC1 form or creating a new form that takes into account long term or chronic illnesses/conditions by the 20th March 2019.

Direct Action on TUDSU Constitution – 18th October 2018

Student Council Notes:

The designation of DIT, IT Tallaght and IT Blanchardstown will take place on 1st January 2019 to form TU Dublin and therefore the three Institutes shall dissolve and cease to exist. Subsequently, an interim TU Governing Body will come into effect, with a TU President and the full Governing Body coming into place before end of the academic year.

Student Council further Notes:

The formation of TU Dublin has implications on the three existing Students' Unions of DITSU, ITTSU and ITBSU and the 28,000 students together that they represent. It has further implications on democracy, services, staffing and funding.

Student Council Regrets:

That up to this point it has not seen any progress being made in the drafting of a new TU Dublin Students' Union Constitution, and it is gravely concerned by the University Times article that stated that it could take 10 years to form TUDSU.

Student Council is Concerned:

If no progress is made in drafting a Constitution and presenting it for referendum in February, it will have a negative impact on the 20,000 DIT students who may have no Union to represent them in the TU and are at risk of losing the services it provides.

Student Council is additionally Concerned:

That efforts have been made through the TUDSU Working Group to put together a Constitution with ITTSU and ITBSU with no success; but rather have encountered issues and constant roadblocks which have slowed progress.

Student therefore Mandates:

The President to present this draft Constitution on or before the 12th December 2018 Council, irrespective of the level of support and engagement received from the TUDSU Working Group.

Student Council further Mandates:

The President to seek the assistance of the Board of DITSU CLG, the staff and all resources necessary to acquire any additional personnel, both professional and legal in assisting in drafting the Constitution.

Removal of DITSU Policy Manual – 18th October 2018

Student Council Recognises:

The importance of maintaining an accurate, up to date and relevant policy manual, which is student friendly and easy to read.

Student Council Notes:

The current policy manual is unwieldy, as several of the policies are obsolete and not fit for purpose.

Student Council Removes:

The current policy manual in its entirety

Student Council Mandates:

The President, in conjunction with the Vice Presidents to review and resubmit relevant policies, which are grouped under themes, to ensure the manual is easier to read and there is no duplication of policies. This is to be completed by the 2nd Council meeting of the year.

Availability of Marking Schemes – 24th April 2018

Student Council Notes:

That a lack of transparency around how examinations are marked can leave students unsure about how they were marked down and how to improve their grades.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP for Education to lobby schools and other appropriate authorities to make marking schemes for exams available to students. The VP for Education is to report back to council by the second council for the new year.

The motion went to a vote and was passed.

Disability Information Campaign – 24th April 2018

Student Council Notes:

That the majority of students do not know about the disability services.

Student Council further Notes:

That this could be the turning point for some students dropping out in the earliest part of their college experience due to not knowing of the supports available to them.

Student Council Mandates:

That information campaign on the disability be run by VP Welfare and VP Education to be completed by the 31st October of 2018.

DIT Supply of Microwave/Appliances and Facilities for Students Use – 24th April 2018

Student Council Notes:

Student feedback collected from the DITSU Class Representative Meetings, has consistently noted the necessity for students to access hot water, microwaves and fridge facilities within DIT.

Research from TSEP (2017), The Student Engagement Partnership in the UK Higher Sector identified that, many students who are commuting also bring their own food, for financial/other reasons; these students need access to microwaves. The recommendations from TSEP (2017), which have been adopted in many UK universities, now provide common areas within the college/s, where kettle/microwave and fridges are accessible for students to use.

Student Council Regrets:

Currently, DIT do not provide adequate space, or microwave facilities for students to heat and prepare their own food. While DITSU has addressed the student need to provide microwaves in DIT, there have been associated health and safety concerns which have been identified, such as cleaning, fire hazards and allergen control.

Council further Regrets:

Due to the health and safety considerations, DITSU are no longer able to provide these appliances for student use. However, as previously noted, DITSU recognise that this is a very necessary appliance and student facility which DIT should supply.

Council Mandates:

The VP for Welfare and college officers to lobby the DIT to provide appropriate microwave/ appliances and facilities for student use, along with the maintenance, service and cleaning of these appliances and facilities. This is to be completed by the first council of 2019.

DITSU Honorary Membership – Ailbhe Smyth – 24th April 2018

Student Council Notes:

Ailbhe Smyth is currently a Co-Director of Together for Yes and Convener of the Coalition to Repeal the 8th Amendment.

Student Council Also Notes:

Ms. Smyth has campaigned consistently for decades for marriage equality and for the repeal of the eighth amendment to the Constitution of the Republic of Ireland. She is a former academic and head of Women's Studies in UCD and founder of the Women's Education, Research and Resource Centre. Through her multiple achievements, she has added so much for the fight for equality in Irish society, and her contribution deserves recognition.

Student Council Therefore Mandates:

That under article 2.7 of the constitution:

“The Student Council may award, as a token of honour, to such persons or organisations, as it sees fit, Honorary Membership of the Union. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights, privileges or obligations to an Honorary Member or on the Union to an Honorary Member. The Student Council shall regulate the award of such membership.”

And as such shall award honorary membership of the Union to Ailbhe Smyth.

Feasibility to Expand DIT Mentoring Programme – 24th April 2018

Student Council notes:

A peer mentoring programme is running in DIT at a limited capacity by the chaplaincy service.

Student Council Also Notes:

Peer mentoring can be a valuable asset for incoming first year students who may have difficulties integrating into DIT and college life. They can provide informal guidance, support and practical help, and can ease anxieties surrounding the transition to third level.

Student Council therefore mandates:

The VP for Education to examine the feasibility of expanding and improving the peer mentoring programme that currently exists within DIT in order to benefit more incoming first years. They are to report back on their findings for the second council of the first semester of 2018.

National Council Report – 24th April 2018

Student Council Notes:

That Sabbatical Officers and the Postgraduate Officer attend National Council every 6 weeks to meet with all the other officers that are members of the Union of Students in Ireland.

Student Council further Notes:

That these meetings involve working groups relating to the different briefs of officers as well as National Council itself which is the forum where policies of USI are debated and Officer-board are held accountable for their work.

Student Council Regrets:

The discussions held, or work undertaken in these working groups or National Council is not properly communicated to Student Council and therefore leads to lack of trust and value placed on being members of USI.

Student Council Mandates:

The President to provide a report after each National Council to Student Council of each working group and National Council and as well as ensure the minutes of National Council are easily accessible.

Officer Communication on DITSU.tv – 24th April 2018

Student Council Recognises:

The work that elected officers do for students on a daily basis, in particular those that often go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure student rights are protected, keep students informed through campaigns and representing students on several committees.

Student Council Regrets:

The work undertaken by officers and their achievements is not always captured fully at the monthly Student Council meeting where the work they've completed over the last month is scrutinized.

Student Council Notes:

This can be better captured on DITSU.tv through articles about campaigns, progress on their mandates and issues raised in committees that students should be aware of.

Student Council Mandates:

Through the President that all officers submit an article on DITSU.tv every fortnight, detailing work undertaken as seen in their officer reports and must include but not limited to campaigns, events, and democratic duties.

Plastic Free Campuses – 24th April 2018

Student Council Notes:

That excessive plastic waste is a growing issue which threatens the environment and human health.

Student Council further Notes:

The good work that has been done to create plastic free campuses in other third level institutions such as DCU.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP for Welfare to investigate the feasibility of plastic free campuses, and if feasible lobby DIT to create plastic free campuses. The VP for Welfare will report back by second Council of new year.

TU Merging Process – 24th April 2018

Student Council Notes:

That the passing of the Technological Universities Act 2018 will have a dramatic effect on DITSU's future existence.

Student Council Recognises:

That soon DITSU must merge with the IT Tallaght Students' Union and the IT Blanchardstown Students' Union to form one autonomous Technological University Students' Union.

Student Council Believes:

That it is important for this Union to begin the process of formally merging in preparation for the Technological Universities for Dublin merger.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That the President looks into the future democratic processes of TUDSU.

This may involve, but not limited to:

- A Constitution
- The Class rep system
- Overall SU elections
- Officer representation within the TU4D structures
- Officer membership within the Board of DITSU CLG

The President shall give an update at each Student Council meeting as to where the TUDSU merging process is at. This mandate shall be completed by December 2018.

Access to Information – The Impeachment Process – 22nd March 2018

Student Council Notes:

That it is Council's responsibility to hold the Executive to account over their actions and responsibilities.

Student Council Recognises:

That if an officer has acted outside of their role as prescribed by the Constitution, or if their level of productivity is called into question, that they can be suspended or impeached.

Student Council Further Notes:

That information regarding the Impeachment Process is not easily available to the Student Body.

Student Council Therefore Mandates:

That the President in conjunction with all relevant members of staff to prepare a document detailing any relevant information relating to the suspension and impeachment process; this document will be made available through an appropriate forum such as the DITSU Website. This will be completed by the first Student Council of the academic year 2018/2019.

Award for School Rep – 22nd March 2018

Student Council Notes:

The important role School Reps play in the overall running of the union, as a voluntary role the amount of effort they put in determines how beneficial they become to the union.

Student Council Further Notes:

Reward systems are a great way to motivate and recognise the school reps that make the most of the role and benefit the union through hard work.

Student Council Mandates:

The Vice President for Education to give an award to the best school rep of their choice, which meets criteria set out by the school rep role description as recognition of their hard work over the year. The award is to be given at the end of the year award ceremony. To be completed by the end of the college semester 2017/18.

Cessation of Support to Aramark – 22nd March 2018

Student Council Recognises:

That that Aramark enjoys substantial profits from its contract to provide food in direct provision centres

Student Council Regrets:

The standard of food provided leaves occupants of such direct provision centres malnourished

Student Council Acknowledges:

That DITSU supports Aramark by buying vouchers for the on-site canteens to distribute as lunch vouchers to Class Reps

Student Council Mandates:

That the Vice President for Education ceases to support Aramark through this system and seeks an alternative system to reward Class Rep attendance by date of the next Student Council.

Parity of Service for All Students – 22nd March 2018

Student Council Notes:

That there are various ways in which students are admitted to study on DIT programmes; e.g. from the CAO process via Advanced Entry, as directly recruited International students and through the various HEAR (Higher Education Access Routes).

Student Council Further Notes:

That all DIT students are entitled to a parity of service regardless of how they have been admitted.

Student Council Notes with Concern:

That in some programmes it appears that CAO students get preferential treatment over Advanced Entry Students in relation to certain opportunities, specifically the allocation of Erasmus programme choices.

Student Council Further Notes:

That this is completely unacceptable, and all DIT students should have a fair chance regardless of how they got into their Level 8 programme.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP for Education to lobby the relevant personnel to ensure fair procedure access to Erasmus opportunities for all DIT students and prevent students being disadvantaged by virtue of their mode of entry to their programme. This mandate should be completed by November Council 2018

Dental Dams in SU Offices – 31st January 2018

Student Council Notes:

Dental dams are sexual barriers, used during oral sex They prevent sexually transmitted infections (STI'S) and diseases. They're very difficult for students to get, due to price and availability. Many other Students' Unions' such as Dublin City University, Trinity College and Cork Institute of Technology provide these for free to all students.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP for Welfare to investigate the feasibility of providing dental dams in all Students' Union offices in DIT, by the end of March 2018 and to Lobby USI to provide dental dams to all affiliated colleges along with condoms by 1st July 2018.

Disruption to Student Services Staffing – 31st January 2018

Student Council Notes:

The DIT Medical Centres provide a critical service to our students. The present staffing crisis in the north side Health Centre in Linenhall has led to the closure of the service for 2.5 days per week due to the delay in appointing an administrative staff person.

Student Council further Notes:

This unfortunate situation was completely avoidable given that the vacancy was flagged to DIT Human Resources at least 4 months ago.

Student Council further Notes

That similar delays have occurred in the recruitment / appointment of staff in other critical student-facing services such as Counselling Service, teaching staff and Societies and that this has had a negative impact on the student experience.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The VP Welfare and the President, as student reps on the Governing Body to lobby for an investigation into what caused the delay in filling the Health Centre vacancy and also for an immediate review of DIT HR recruitment processes, timelines etc, undertaken to ensure that delays of this nature are avoided in future. The Officers will update Student Council at the next meeting.

Consent Workshops – 31st January 2018

Student Council Notes:

In Irish Law sex without consent is rape. The Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2017 introduced a legal definition of sexual consent which states that: “a person consents to a sexual act if he or she freely and voluntarily agrees to engage in that act”

The legal age of Consent in Ireland is 17 years. The Irish Study of Sexual Health and Relationships 2006 showed that the median age for first sex among women was 19 and among men 18.

Student Council Further Notes:

Sexual Education classes in secondary schools do not address the issue of sexual consent therefore students entering third level have no formal guidance on how to give and ask for consent when engaging in sexual acts.

It is the DIT Students’ Unions responsibility to promote good sex practices and consent is a crucial part of that.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP Welfare to organise a voluntary consent workshop for DIT Students before the end of the academic year 2017/2018 to help DIT students to broaden their knowledge on the legal requirements for giving and obtaining sexual consent and to open a conversation on the issue.

DITSU Honorary Membership - Hugh O'Reilly – 7th December 2017

Student Council Notes:

Hugh O'Reilly was previously a President of DIT Students' Union and a Chairperson of its Student Council.

Student Council Further Notes:

Following a period of great change in the make-up of the Union and how it operated he played a pivotal role in ensuring this transition was seen through in full. The Students' Union we are proud to be a part of today was made a reality in part due to the great effort put forth by him.

Student Council Also Notes:

The elected officers who sat during his time as Chairperson of Student Council greatly appreciate his contribution to Council.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That under Article 2.7 of the Constitution:

"The Student Council may award, as a token of honour, to such persons or organisations, as its sees fit, Honorary Membership of the Union. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights, privileges or obligations to an Honorary Member or on the Union to an Honorary Member. The Student Council shall regulate the award of such membership."

And as such shall award honorary membership of the Union to Hugh O'Reilly.

DITSU Honorary Membership - Jarlath Molloy – 7th December 2017

Student Council Notes:

Jarlath Molloy was previously a President of DIT Students' Union.

Student Council further Notes:

He was responsible for bringing forth a motion for a Constitutional Review of DITSU to take place after recognising major issues affecting the performance of the Union. Even following backlash from students who wanted to maintain the status quo he pushed on to ensure the review was seen through.

Student Council also Notes:

As President of the Union he played a pivotal role in ensuring changes from the Constitutional Review were put in place. The Students' Union we are proud to be a part of today was made a reality, in part due to the great effort put in by him.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

That under Article 2.7 of the Constitution:

“The Student Council may award, as a token of honour, to such persons or organisations, as it sees fit, Honorary Membership of the Union. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights, privileges or obligations to an Honorary Member or on the Union to an Honorary Member. The Student Council shall regulate the award of such membership.”

And as such shall award honorary membership of the Union to Jarlath Molloy.

Plebiscite on DITSU's Stance on Repeal the 8th – 7th December 2017

Student Council Notes:

It is the current policy of the DIT Students' Union to support the campaign to Repeal the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution (as approved by the Student Council on 23rd February 2016).

The 8th amendment deals with a woman's right under Irish law to access appropriate family planning, including termination of pregnancies.

Student Council further Notes:

The attached petition, which has been signed by 25% of DITSU Student Council Members and 7% of all registered DIT students, calls on DITSU to hold a plebiscite to determine whether DITSU shall continue with the stance 'to support the campaign to repeal the 8th amendment.'

Student Council mandates:

The Chairperson to Student Council to inform the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of the petition, to run the plebiscite alongside the DITSU annual elections.

Access to Organ Donor Cards – 8th November 2017

Student Council Notes:

Organ and tissue donation is a service that saves lives, improves the quality of life, and has cost benefits for the health service.

Student Council Further Notes:

Signing a donor card and keeping it on your person signals your willingness to allow your organs and tissues to be transplanted. Your “next-of-kin” will have the final decision on donation.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP Welfare and College Officers to ensure Organ Donor cards/leaflets are made available in their respective Student Union Office by the end of 1st semester 2017

Amendment to Student Council Standing Orders - 8th November 2017

Student Council Notes:

The need to keep up to date standing orders

Student Council therefore adds:

“Societies Update” and “Clubs Update” under Item 4 of the Agenda; Standing Agenda Item Updates.

Student Council further amends:

The Standing Agenda Item Update know as ‘Grangegorman’ to now read as “Grangegorman/ Broombridge”

College Officer Crossover Document - 8th November 2017

Student Council Notes:

College officers elected can have a wide range of experiences, but the job itself can present new challenges unseen from the outside. The crossover is used to help incoming officers to gain experience from the previous officer, however some of the tips passed on could be forgotten.

Student Council Mandates:

College Officers, through the President, to create a crossover document detailing tips and tricks they have learnt over their year as College Officer for reference to future College Officers, that can be edited and added by the future college officers at the end of their respective term to relay knowledge gained through the years. To be completed before the last Student Council meeting in April.

LGBTQ+ Safe Spaces and Workshops - 8th November 2017

Student Council Notes:

DIT has a diverse and complex student body. Roughly 10-15% of DIT students are members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP for Welfare to run an event where possible in conjunction with the LGBTQ+ Society for non-LGBTQ+ students once a semester.

Nap Rooms on DIT Campuses – 8th November 2017

Student Council Notes:

From time to time students might feel overwhelmed by the pressures of their academic life and become anxious and stressed as a result. This in turn can have negative effect on their concentration and ability to focus on their studies.

Student Council also Notes:

Having short Naps can provide significant benefit for improved concentration and 20 minutes naps are specifically recommended for short term alertness.

Student Council further notes:

At present there are no spaces for students to be able to take time out in a safe environment on each campus to have a short nap to recharge their batteries.

Student Council Mandates:

The VP for Welfare to investigate at appropriate DIT levels, the feasibility of incorporating Nap Rooms for students on each DIT Campuses that might provide a safe area for students to recharge, especially for those with medical conditions such as anxiety and insomnia and to report back to student council by the second council of the second semester.

Amendment of DITSU Documents to Include Gender Neutral Language – 26th April 2017

Student Council Notes:

The previous constitutional amendment, to replace unnecessarily gendered language in the DITSU constitution with gender neutral language to be more inclusive of non-binary, and other gender non-conforming DIT students, was well received by LGBT, and ally students, especially those who don't use male or female pronouns.

Student Council Further Notes:

Many other DITSU documents include unnecessarily gendered language ('he/she' instead of simply 'they'), and not only does this make them clunky and awkward to read, but it also excludes students who are neither male or female.

Student Council Mandates:

That the President form a working group to amend these documents by the first student council of the 2017/2018 academic year.

Collaborative Event with DITSU and Societies – 26th April 2017

Student Council Understands:

A strong relationship between societies and DITSU is beneficial for the entire student body.

Student Council Further Understands:

Fundraising for charities is a common goal that both DIT Societies and DITSU share.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The DIT Students' Union shall run an annual event with DIT societies, that will raise money for charity and promote further collaboration between DITSU and societies.

The VP for Events to run an event with DIT Societies in the second semester of the academic year. A plan for the event including details of the type of event, date, and members of the committee running the event is to be agreed mutually between DITSU and societies. This is to be completed by the second Student Council of the academic year, where these details will be presented to Council.

Expenditure for the event and funds raised at the event are to be shared equally between DITSU and Societies. The charities that will benefit from the event are to be the DITSU nominated RAG charity and a charity nominated by Societies.

DITSU Collaboration with ESHTe Project – 26th April 2017

Student Council Notes with Concern:

Sexual violence and harassment (SVH) in third level education is a prominent issue. Violence has the highest prevalence among women aged 18-29, according to the Fundamental Rights Agency survey on Violence against Women in 2014.

Student Council also Notes:

The majority of incidents can go unreported, due to feelings of shame or guilt, therefore decreasing rates of disclosure amongst students.

Student Council further Notes:

DITSU's involvement in the ESHTe project will highlight the importance of talking about (SVH) and work towards changing attitudes amongst the student body within DIT.

ESHTe Background:

The ESHTe project aims to prevent and combat sexual violence and harassment (SVH) and build a culture of zero tolerance in universities and third level institutions (UTLIs) throughout Europe.

Student Council Mandates:

The Vice President for Welfare to actively participate in the ESHTe project until the project's completion. This will include but is not limited to the following:

- Gathering baseline
- Toolkit Development Communication & Engagement
- Embedding the work-supporting sustainability of impacts
- Development & Dissemination of toolkit
- Dissemination of key messages

Electronic Voting for DITSU Elections and Referenda – 26th April 2017

Student Council Notes:

The number of DIT students who vote in DITSU elections is very low, considering the large size of DIT's population.

Student Council Further Notes:

Other college student unions, such as TCDSU, and IADTSU, use a simple form of electronic voting with much success.

Student Council Mandates:

That the President investigate the feasibility of introducing electronic voting for DITSU elections and referenda, and return with these findings by first student council of next semester.