



# TU Dublin Students' Union Explainer

## New University, New Students' Union

On New Year's Day 2019, TU Dublin came into being and the DIT, IT Tallaght, and IT Blanchardstown were dissolved. This means that a new Students' Union must be created to represent all students of the University, whether they study in City Campus, Tallaght or in Blanchardstown.

We, the Sabbatical Officers of DITSU, ITTDSU and ITBSU, have been working on this for several months. A Constitution is simply the 'rule book' for a new Students' Union. We are delighted to present to you the proposed plan for a new TU Dublin Students' Union that will fully represent the members of what was all three of our Students' Unions.

This new constitution - The TU Dublin Students' Union (TUDSU) Constitution has been endorsed by the Student Councils (or their equivalent) in DITSU, ITTDSU and ITBSU. The next step is to hold a referendum. A referendum is simply where we ask YOU the members of the proposed new Students' Union to vote on its formation. You will be able to vote on **19th & 20th February**.

### Keeping the Best, Making it Better

This is what the new structure will look like:

#### **Student Council**

TU Dublin Students' Union will be governed by a 101-member Student Council representing students on all campuses presided over by an independent chairperson. The Student Council will comprise of:

- The Sabbatical and Part-Time Officers of the Union
- Student representatives from the Schools of the University
- Student Councillors elected by the Class Representatives in each campus

#### **President**

The President of the TU Dublin Students' Union will be elected by the students of the University in all campuses.

#### **Deputy Presidents**

There will be three Deputy Presidents, one from City Campus, one from Tallaght campus and one from Blanchardstown campus<sup>1</sup>, elected separately in each campus.

### **Vice Presidents**

There will be six Vice Presidents across TU Dublin Students' Union:

#### City Campus

- VP for Education
- VP for Welfare and Equality
- VP for Events and Engagement

#### Tallaght

- VP for Education
- VP for Welfare and Equality

#### Blanchardstown

- VP for Welfare and Equality

### **Postgraduate Officer**

Postgraduate students across all of TU Dublin will elect a part-time Postgraduate Officer to represent them. They will be a member of the Governing Body of the University (as provided for in the Technological Universities Act 2018).

### **Part-Time Officers**

The TU Dublin Students' Union will have part-time officers as per our current structures.

#### City Campus

- College Officer of Bolton Street
- College Officer of Grangegorman
- College Officer of Rathmines and BIMM
- College Officer of Cathal Brugha Street
- College Officer for Kevin Street
- College Officer of Aungier Street

#### Tallaght

- Clubs Officer
- Societies Officer
- Entertainments Officer
- Communications Officer

#### Blanchardstown

- Clubs and Societies Officer
- Entertainments Officer

### **Class Representatives**

---

<sup>1</sup> The education role in Blanchardstown will be held by the Deputy President of Blanchardstown, just as the President of ITBSU currently holds this role.

Each class will have at least one Class Representative. Class Representative Meetings in each campus will elect the Student Councillors and will discuss campus specific matters.

### **School Representatives**

The Class Representatives at each School will elect a School Representative who will represent students at school level.

### **The Company**

The Company which was set up by DITSU will remain but will only operate on the City Campus. However, Tallaght and Blanchardstown are free to join the Company at any time, and a procedure has been approved for this.

### **What the Union will Do**

The TU Dublin Students' Union will continue servicing the students of DITSU, ITTDSU and ITBSU. None of the campuses will lose any services or level of representation, but now the TU Dublin Students' Union will do more for the students! It will represent students at the highest levels of the University and will work on the integration and improvement of education, welfare and other services across all campuses.

The TU Dublin Students' Union will be the voice of students in the shaping of our new University. It is University wide, but solidly based on the requirements of the individual campuses. It will be student-based and independent of the University and outside influence; such as political parties.

### **Can the Union Change?**

All Union officers and representatives will be elected each year, and there are time limits on how long an officer can hold a position.

The Constitution of the Union can be changed and there are procedures for this. There is a special rule that says that there must be a review of the Constitution after the first year, as practical issues may arise and as structures are embedded within the Technological University.

The Student Council will be able to change the practice and policies of the Union, to account for changing circumstances.

### **Fairness and Democracy**

To make sure that elections and referenda are held fairly and transparently, there will be an independent Electoral Commission established. There will also be an independent Constitutional Tribunal to interpret the Constitution and resolve major disputes.

### **What's Next?**

Over the next couple of weeks, the draft Constitution of the TU Dublin Students' Union will be discussed and voted on by the Executives and Student Councils of DITSU, ITTDSU, and ITBSU. It will then be put before all TU Dublin students in a referendum which will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of February.

To be adopted, the draft Constitution of the TU Dublin Students' Union must be passed by each of the referenda held by DITSU, ITTDSU and ITBSU. If the Referendum is not passed by any of the three existing SU's, the TU Dublin SU cannot come into being.

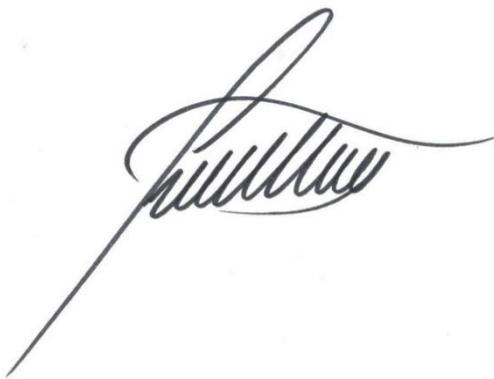
If the Referendum is passed, elections for the TU Dublin Students' Union will be held before the last week of March. All registered students can vote in the election of the President and all postgraduate students can vote in the election of the Postgraduate Officer. Voting of the Deputy Presidents, Vice Presidents and Part-Time Officers is limited to students of the campus to which the office relates.

DITSU, ITTDSU and ITBSU will continue until the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and will become the TU Dublin SU on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

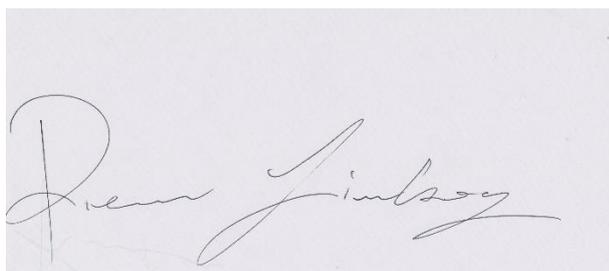
**More Information**

The Constitution of the TU Dublin Student' Union is available on [tudsu.com??](http://tudsu.com??)

***Signed:***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Sulkowski', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

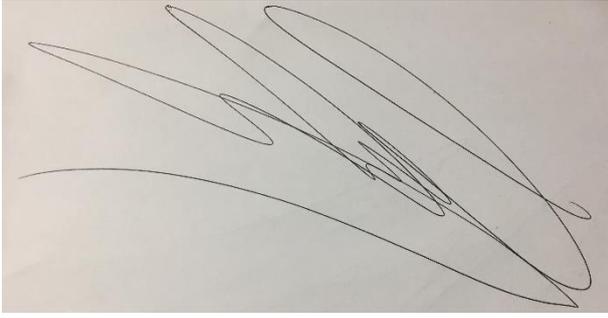
**Kris Sulkowski: President ITBSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pierre Yimbog', written in a cursive style.

**Pierre Yimbog, President DITSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Keatinge', written in a cursive style.

**Amy Keatinge: President ITTSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Luke Daly', written in a cursive style.

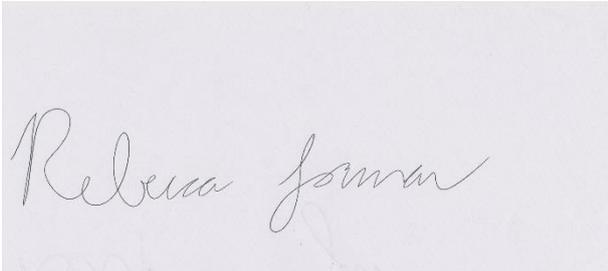
**Luke Daly: Vice President for Welfare ITBSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jess Morris', written in a cursive style.

**Jess Morris, Vice President for Events DITSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Róisín O'Donovan', written in a cursive style.

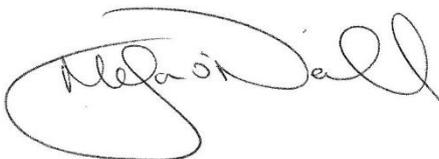
**Roisin O'Donovan, Vice President for Welfare DITSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rebecca Gorman', written in a cursive style.

**Rebecca Gorman, Vice President for Education DITSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee Bennett', written in a cursive style.

**Lee Bennett: VP for Education ITTSU**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Megan O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

**Megan O'Neill: VP Welfare & Equality ITTSU**