



Trinity College Dublin Students Union

SCHEDULE 4

The Policy Manual

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Document Managed by
Secretary to Council

Introduction

Schedule 4 of the TCDSU Constitution (also known as The Policy Manual) contains all Long Term Policies and Mandates passed by Referendum of the Student Body and by Council, respectively. It is managed and interpreted by the members of the Oversight Commission, who also investigate any possible breaches of mandate and constitutional obligation.

Long Term Policy

Long Term Policy lasts until it is overturned and can be on any subject of interest to the student body. It can only be set and overturned by referendum. Long Term Policy set the direction of the union for years and even decades after passing, but still must not conflict with the constitution.

Council Mandate

Council has the power to mandate any policy on any subject relevant to the aims and principles of the Constitution or the administration of the Union. Council also has the power to give mandate to officers on any subject relevant to the aims and principles of the Constitution or the area of competency of the officer, so long as that mandate does not infringe on individual rights and freedoms of the officers being mandated. Mandates expire 2 years after the academic year the motion passed (ie, a motion passed in October 2016 and a motion passed March 2017 would have both expired in June 2019)

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SECTION 1

Long Term Policy

LTP 1: Abortion Information

Enacted: 1990

We mandate the Students' Union to:

- a) Provide full information on all pregnancy options, including the option of abortion, as this information is presently being censored in Ireland;
- b) Campaign to make professional non-directive pregnancy counselling available for Irish women
- c) Campaign for greater availability of comprehensive sex education and contraception, and promote the sale of condoms in the SU shop;
- d) Continue working for more and cheaper places in the College crèche for the children of students;
- e) Campaign against all discrimination against single parents, and work to ensure a living income and decent housing for them and their children.

LTP 2: Nestlé Products

Enacted: 2004

TCDSU votes to boycott (not to stock or sell) Nescafé or other Nestlé products in the Students' Union shops.

We encourage College to do the same. We take this action in the light of Nestlé's continuing contravention of the World Health Organisation/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of breast milk substitutes by promoting bottle feeding and undermining breast-feeding

LTP 3: Membership of USI

Enacted: 2013

We support the continued affiliation of TCDSU to the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and for the costs associated with affiliation to be met by an annual levy of no more than 8 Euro per student.

LTP 4: Sports Centre Levy

Enacted: 2015

TCDSU should support an increase in the existing Annual Sports Centre charge from €90 to €120 with the provision that;

- Students with financial hardship would be exempt from the charge, as moderated by the Senior Tutor's office.
- The levy would be overseen by the SU and the Treasurer's Office.

LTP 5: Semesterised Examinations Policy

Enacted: 2010

TCDSU shall campaign for the following:

The current annual examination structure should be replaced with a fully semesterised structure, where workload, assessment and examinations will be evenly distributed between the two teaching terms. Christmas examinations should be introduced in an effort to reduce the workload at the end of the academic year.

This will be applicable to all courses and modules unless it is determined, in discussions with College authorities, that the quality of the course would be negatively impacted upon (e.g. professional accreditation, placement, practical and final year project modules, etc.).

Any changes to the timing and structure of the Supplemental and Foundation Scholarship examinations as a result of replacing the current annual examination structure should preserve the idea of balanced workload.

LTP 6: Direct Provision

Enacted: 2014

TCDSU shall campaign:

To abolish the system of direct provision for asylum seekers.

For its replacement by self-catered accommodation and the right to work for asylum seekers who have not had their applications processed after six months.

For the government to sign up to the EU Receptions Conditions Directive setting down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers"

LTP 7: Pro-Choice Mandate

Enacted: 2014

TCDSU shall advocate for legislation for abortion to be upon request of the woman.

LTP 8: Palestine, and BDS of Israel

Enacted: 2018

TCDSU will adopt a long-term policy in support of Palestine and in favour of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).

As per the petition, the policy mandates TCDSU to:

- a) Support and endorse the Global Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement
- b) Comply with the principles of BDS in all Student Union shops, trade, business and other Union operations
- c) Establish a BDS implementation group open to all members of the union to ensure compliance with (b)
- d) Campaign and lobby College to adopt BDS; which should include a total boycott of the State of Israel (Cultural, Academic and Economic), divestment of college funds from Israeli companies and other companies listed on the BDS Divestment List.

Divestment should also involve termination of contracts with companies complicit in Israel's violation of International Law, the occupation of Palestinian Territories and/or violations of the human rights of Palestinians.

- e) Lobby government and relevant external organisations to support BDS and the Palestinian anti-apartheid cause.

LTP 9: LTP Proposal on Gambling Advertising Practice

Enacted: 2021

TCDSU shall not accept advertisements or sponsorship money from any company that promotes betting or gambling.

The President, Welfare and Equality Officer and Ents Officer shall lobby for the banning of gambling advertising and sponsorship in Ireland, in particular advertising that is targeted specifically at young people.

LTP 10: TCD divestment from arms and weaponry manufacturers

Enacted: 2021

TCDSU shall campaign in favour of Trinity College Dublin divesting from arms and weaponry manufacturers.

SECTION 2

Mandated Policy

Mandates on Officers of the Union

Below is a list of mandates on specific officers of the union. This list is for reference only, and the exact text of each motion establishing mandate is listed further in this document. Some motions mandate specific, one-time actions such as the updating of a Terms of Reference, creating a committee, the creation of a programme convenor, the creation of a PTO, motions of censure, motions of impeachment, or the release of funds for capital projects. These motions are not included in this Schedule unless there is also a mandate external to the action ie eligibility criteria for running for a particular PTO.

Committees and their expiry date are instead listed in Schedule 9, PTOs and their expiry date are similarly listed in Schedule 10, and Programme Convenors are listed in Schedule 1.

General Mandates

Non-EU students are included in the movement to reduce EU student fees for the 2021/22 year.	24
Any officer that chairs an ad hoc body to attach the minutes of that body since last Council to their Officer Report.	25
Adopt a formal stance in favour of lowering College fees for this year. . .	26
Take a formal stance against the 27th amendment and support the Irish Nationality and Citizenship(Citizenship for Children) Bill 2020 and other legislative reforms in pursuit of human rights and associated goals.	27
TCDSU delegates to USI National Council and USI Congress put forward a motion at those bodies to create a national USI-led campaign on GEM tuition fees.	28
Support the End Image-Based Sexual Abuse Ireland group in supporting the Dáil Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offenses Bill 2017 and its proposed amendments.	30
Lobby to make free, rapid HIV testing accessible to all, with the eventual aim to end HIV Transmission.	33

Campaign to not ratify the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.	35
Adopt a position of support for a full refund on the student contribution for all students for the 2020-21 academic year, and to lobby the college for same	39
Campaign & lobby for the prohibition of unpaid internships nationally . .	43
Advocate for Visa status for Burmese students residing in Ireland and reach out to other SUs seeking support for this movement	44
Adopt a formal stance in opposition of the proposed amendments to the Higher Education Authority Act	45
Implement the Strategic Plan to 2023 and to work toward the achievement of the goals described therein	47
Report to council and to the trustees as relevant on the achievement of the goals and actions of the strategic plan	47
collaborate with USI and other institutions across the country to ensure students are practically supported and exempt from any related financial burdens	49
contact the Department of Justice and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science outlining the concerns noted above and request for students to be able to complete their quarantine in college provided accommodation	49
Lobby for increased plant-based options for the catering service, which are lower-priced, healthy and ethically- and sustainably-sourced .	56
Lobby for the catering service to choose animal-based products with lower environmental impact	56
Lobby to lower the cost disparity between plant-based and non- plant-based offerings in the catering service. Council Further Mandates That TCDSU lobby to ensure that all foodstuff in the catering service is audited with a climate-first approach	56
Advertise plant-based options in the catering service	57
That 30,000 be allocated from the HEA Fund as has been outlined in the International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision Scholar Fund Proposal with 20,000 being used this year to support international students' recovery from COVID-19 shutdown and 5,000 being disbursed for the two following years	57

That 10,000 be released from the HEA Fund and allocated as per the logistics outlined in the '10K Have Your Say' proposal document to allow students to decide how student money is spent	58
TCDSU to oppose the erection of the Interim Exhibition on College Park and to lobby the College to explore alternative locations	59
lobby for full transparency and openness regarding College's investments	61
hold an official stance to #StopKillingDublin	63
TCDSU work together with graduate students, IFUT and lecturers to find a solution for handing over copyright of recorded lectures to lecturers, to create a policy of lectures being recorded, along with a hybrid approach to lectures, so that no student is disadvantaged for not being present on campus	64
Adopt the attached memorandum of agreement between TCDSU and the Trinity Hall JCR	68
Support the Non-EEA Ph.D. Students Society-Ireland's campaign to expand the Hosting Agreement Scheme eligibility criteria to include research scholarship contracts	69
Share the Non-EEA Ph.D. Students Society-Ireland's petition for the same issue	69
Adopt the living wage plus holiday pay as their rate of pay for all Union employees	70
Support the current petition seeking to rename the Berkeley Library established by Louie Lyons	71
adopt a committed stance in support of the Postgraduate Workers' Organization (PWO), their aims and objectives as outlined by their charter. This should include active participation in the PWO campaigns and collaboration on campus-based campaigns relevant to both the PWO and the TCDSU.	72
Collaboration with TCD Counselling Services to lobby for:the creation of more out-of-hours appointment slots and the formation of support groups for students on clinical placement.	75
Introduce a reformed tutor system, in conjunction with the senior tutor, which includes specific guidelines for tutors to organise welfare meetings with students during their clinical placement.	75

The provision of mental health guidelines to teaching staff who are the point of contact for students during their placement, in co-operation with the relevant heads of schools.	75
Continue to demand that increased funding be allocated to mental health services, from both the university and the Irish government.	76
lobby for the USI to change its electoral system to a universal suffrage mechanism so that national representatives are elected directly by students from all affiliated member organisations via universal suffrage.	79
That the Union support the demands of the trade unions within Trinity when it comes to trade union representation on Board and that this be part of its submission to Trinity’s ongoing consultation.	82
TCDSU to promote An Taisce’s 2 euro student membership to students.	83
that all members of the Union are automatically registered by the Students Union to vote in all Students Union elections in which they are eligible to vote in	87

Sabbatical Officer Board’s Mandates

Lobby college and local and national politicians for the improvement of the working conditions for students on placement.	33
Work with the college to design mitigative measures to protect the strength of the student voice in high level College decisions in the event of the current proposed amendments being passed without exemption	46
campaign for the implementation of the Universal Design for Learning across all platforms in Trinity by 2025	50
lobby for staff to engage with students and include them in the process	50
collaborate with trade unions to lobby for staff to be released from their duties for a period each semester to work on the renewal of their curriculum	51
Respond to unanswered questions by email no later than one week after receiving them from the Secretary of Council	54
Schedule at least 2 hours per week during term time, during which they will be available for students to drop in, and that these will be publicized by the Students’ Union in the weekly email	54

Report their expenses in the reports that they provide to Council	55
To liaise with DUCAC to ensure that the voices of the sports clubs are being represented at the College’s decision making bodies that they do not have a seat on	59
To take an official stance to #SaveScienceGallery and to protest its closure	60
Lobby College for more transparency by advocating for the publication of all College meeting minutes online and for better availability of annex documents online for College meetings	62
Lobby for the public availability of the agenda and annex documents before College meetings take place	62

President’s Individual Mandates

Lobby to ensure adequate provision of information for international students relating to planned teaching methods and student support services.	23
Lobby to ensure support is made readily available to students regarding international travel, finances and Government guidelines.	23
Organise an annual ethnic minority workshop	24
Establish a petition in favour of lowering College fees.	27
Support and platform the TCD Against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th Amendment.	28
Coordinate actions to support students on placement and their trade unions.	31
Organise awareness campaigns for a return to democracy and an end to human rights abuses in Myanmar with the Citizenship Officer	42
Lobby for the phasing out of all vehicular parking on campus within a reasonable timeframe, with appropriate exemptions	46
lobby the College for a feasibility study into making all levels of House Six accessible to all students	48
the Campaigns committee in conjunction with the President to work towards forming an action plan to face this issue	63

That the President and Education Officer campaign for College to cease outsourcing A/V support to FittingImage and for it to be provided by in-house IT Services, accompanied by the necessary expansion and/or pay rises for such staff.	65
raise this at the Information Systems Services User Committee	66
Brings to Council a non-binding, projected budget of the Union	68
Amend the contracts of Union staff to reflect this change by week beginning Monday 28th February 2022	70
Lobby the College for the renaming of the library in the interests of creating an inclusive and respectful learning environment	71
lobby Trinity College Dublin, the Irish government and Irish Immigration Services for improved and transparent communication from the Irish Immigration Services Delivery and for designated appointments for university students	74
to cooperate and work with An Taisce to accomplish its goals in relation to housing and climate justice through regular communication.	83
That the President, through liaison with the Welfare and Equality Officer, Union Forum, and Campaigns Committee, will strategically consult on how college accommodation can be made affordable and campaign for this to be achieved.	85
ensure that all clothing provided to members of the Union or sold in the SU shop are offered in an ample variety of sizes to accommodate people of all body types	86
That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.	86
That the President and the Welfare Equality Officer incorporate the principles of weight-bias education in campaign weeks where relevant.	88
lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college	89
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients	89

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients. . . .	90
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Education Officer's Individual Mandates

Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	31
Organise an Annual Academic Integrity Week	32
Work alongside the College to promote and campaign for the principles of Open Access	34
Hold a "convenor training" following the election of convenors at the end of each academic year	40
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	41
Host seven fora in each academic year	43
Bring the summary and a Report including actionables arisen and general insights gained from the open fora to Council, at least once per term in the form of a discussion item	45
Lobby the college for more non-traditional forms of assessment such as take home, open book exams, and to lobby against the immediate and full return to traditional 'sit down' closed book exams in the RDS.	45
Lobby the college to continue to implement and innovate best practices when it comes to accessible assessment, in consultation with the Officer for Students with Disabilities and external bodies as appropriate.	46
Advocate on behalf of students to support the earlier publication of timetables	53
That the President and Education Officer campaign for College to cease outsourcing A/V support to FittingImage and for it to be provided by in-house IT Services, accompanied by the necessary expansion and/or pay rises for such staff.	65
raise this at the Undergraduate Studies Committee	66

to campaign to the Senior Lecturer, Senior Tutor and any other relevant parties for improvement of the Fitness to Study letter of certification and to review and adapt the Off-Books application so that the questions are not as invasive.	78
That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.	80

Welfare & Equality Officer's Individual Mandates

Support and platform the TCD Against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th Amendment.	29
Continue to provide support to all victims of IBSA.	29
Record and collate data from the SU coursework log into an annual report, and present this report to the final Student Life Committee of the year and as at the first Council of the following academic year as a discussion item.	34
Work alongside the College to promote and campaign for the principles of Open Access	34
Raise awareness of this issue and lobby politicians in both jurisdictions to legislate for a complete ban on all forms of conversion therapy and to work with and coordinate their lobbying with groups campaigning on this issue	47
Aid USI in antispiking policy where possible and ensure that TCDSU follows the policy when it is completed	61
lobby Trinity College Dublin, the Irish government and Irish Immigration Services for improved and transparent communication from the Irish Immigration Services Delivery and for designated appointments for university students	74
That the President and the Welfare Equality Officer incorporate the principles of weight-bias education in campaign weeks where relevant.	88

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients	90
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients.	90

Communications & Marketing Officer's Individual Mandates

Formulate and maintain an Archival Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	36
Formulate and maintain a GDPR Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	37
Formulate and maintain a Communications Strategy Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	38
Refer to House 6 as Teach 6 and/or Teach Mandela in official TCDSU communications (email and social media), and actively encourages all other TCDSU officers to do the same	67
ensure that all clothing provided to members of the Union or sold in the SU shop are offered in an ample variety of sizes to accommodate people of all body types	86
The Comms Officer include information on harm reduction for transgender students seeking DIY Healthcare	90

Entertainments Officer's Individual Mandates

Aid USI in antispiking policy where possible and ensure that TCDSU follows the policy when it is completed	61
That events held by Trinity Ents must have a gender neutral bathroom available.	89

AHSS Convenor's Individual Mandates

Submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council	26
Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	31
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	42
That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.	81

STEM Convenor's Individual Mandates

Submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council	26
Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	30
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	41
That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.	82
That the STEM Convenor ensures, when safe and practical to do so, STEM Ball is run in some capacity, be that by the Convenor themselves or by a society in conjunction with the STEM Convenor. . . .	84
That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.	87

HS Convenor's Individual Mandates

Submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council	27
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Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	29
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	42
That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.	82
That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.	87

Citizenship Officer’s Individual Mandates

Support and platform the TCD Against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th Amendment.	28
Organise awareness campaigns for a return to democracy and an end to human rights abuses in Myanmar with the President	43

International Students Officer’s Individual Mandates

Lobby to ensure adequate provision of information for international students relating to planned teaching methods and student support services.	23
lobby Trinity College Dublin, the Irish government and Irish Immigration Services for improved and transparent communication from the Irish Immigration Services Delivery and for designated appointments for university students	74

LGBTRO’s Individual Mandates

Raise awareness of this issue and lobby politicians in both jurisdictions to legislate for a complete ban on all forms of conversion therapy and to work with and coordinate their lobbying with groups campaigning on this issue	48
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lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college	90
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients	90
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients. . .	90
to campaign for the improvement of trans healthcare.	90

Mature Students Officer’s Individual Mandates

Officer for Students with a Disability’s Individual Mandates

lobby the College for a feasibility study into making all levels of House Six accessible to all students	48
campaign for the implementation of the Universal Design for Learning across all platforms in Trinity by 2025	50
Create and circulate the accessibility request form in advance of any upcoming councils.	64
Take charge in reviewing any requirements and to work with the Electoral Commission and Secretary to the Council to fulfil any accessibility requests for Council attendance.	64

Oifigeach na Gaeilge’s Individual Mandates

Go ndéanann an tOifigeach Cumarsáide agus Margaíochta tagairt do House 6 mar Teach 6 agus/nó Teach Mandela i dteachtaireachtaí oifigiúil AMLCT (ríomhphost agus na meáin shóisialta), agus go spreagann siad na hOifigigh eile an rud céanna a dhéanamh	66
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Gender Equality Officer's Individual Mandates

lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college	90
to campaign for the improvement of trans healthcare.	90

Student Parents' Officer's Individual Mandates

Community Liaison Officer's Individual Mandates

Off Campus Officer's Individual Mandates

Coordinate actions to support students on placement and their trade unions.	33
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Ethnic Minorities Officer's Individual Mandates

Organise an annual ethnic minority workshop	24
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Environmental Officer's Individual Mandates

Formulate and maintain a GDPR Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	32
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Access Officer's Individual Mandates

Volunteer Forum Coordinator's Individual Mandates

Electoral Commission's Mandates

Produce a report on Class Rep Elections to second Council	25
That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.	80

Oversight Commission's Mandates

Conduct a review of Schedule 4 once per year and present recommendations to Council.	25
Note unanswered questions during Council and forwards them to the team no later than three days post-Council (Chair of OC)	54
That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.	80

Other Mandates

School Convenors to campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	32
TCDSU to hold a poll to determine the majority preference for the USI Executive team candidates, which the TCDSU delegation will then vote in line with at the USI NC	35
Run an information campaign and fundraiser for charities supplying much-needed medical supplies to the people of Myanmar, and reach out to the Trinity Development and Alumni (TDA) fund seeking to match funding	44
the Campaigns committee in conjunction with the President to work towards forming an action plan to face this issue	63
That School Convenors email the reports that they present to their Faculty Assemblies to students in their Schools.	81

That the curated mailing lists and a guide on how to obtain and update them should they change should be part of the crossover document of School Convenors. 81

2020/21

2020/21-1: Motion on Support for International Students

Council notes

That international students are a particularly vulnerable cohort which is now further exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic.

Council also notes

That international students pay significant fees and do not qualify for grants such as SUSI or the Student Assistance Fund.

Council regrets

That this fee is subject to a 3-5% annual increase in Trinity College student fees and this was not reexamined during the COVID19 crisis.

Council believes

That international students require more support from the college and believe that the current lines of communication are insufficient. Regardless of EU status, every student needs additional support during the global pandemic.

Council mandates

That the Student's Union lobbies against the annual 3-5% increase in student fees, including non-EU students.

Council further mandates

That the President and International Part Time Officer lobbies to ensure the adequate provision of information for international students by the college, including but not limited to the planned methods of teaching for the rest of the year and student support services available.

Council further mandates

That the President also lobbies to ensure that support is made readily available to students by the college on a case-by-case basis when in relation to difficulties

regarding travel status to other countries, finances and Government Health guidelines where appropriate. All information should be clearly accessible to students with reference to ever-changing situations and all information should be updated accordingly.

Council further mandates

Non-EU students are included in the movement to reduce EU student fees for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Proposed by Rucha Benare, Julia Bochenek, Emma Hurson, Boluwaduro Kareem, Aliya Syeda, Dylan Krug, Olivia Butler, Emily Tzu Ying Yu, Lauren Vrbanic, Jane Cook

Seconded by Patrick O'Mahony, International Officer

2020/21-2: Motion on Ethnic Minority Workshop

Council notes

The diversity of the student population at Trinity and the Union's commitment to inclusivity for all ethnicities.

Council mandates

That the Ethnic Minorities Officer & President organise an annual workshop introducing the various ethnicities in the student population of Trinity. The speakers in this workshop shall be primarily comprised of speakers sourced from Trinity's staff & student population.

Proposed by Catherine Zhou, JF French JH Class Representative

Seconded by Philly Holmes, Communications & Marketing Officer

2020/21-3: Motion on Class Rep Elections Report

Council notes

The success of the recent online class rep elections.

Council however notes

That some administrative errors occurred, which should be rectified going forward.

Council mandates

That the EC produce a report on class rep elections annually with recommendations on improvements going forward if necessary, to be presented no later than the second Council of the academic year.

Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer

Seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

2020/21-4: Motion on OC Review of Schedule 4

Council notes

That it only has the power to set mandate on any subject relevant to the aims and principles of the Constitution or the administration of the Union.

Council regrets

That it has, in the past, passed motions which fell outside of its remit.

Council mandates

That the Oversight Commission, at least once per Academic Year, conduct a review of Schedule 4 and present this review to Council, with recommendations for council to strike from Schedule 4 any mandate which they feel is not relevant to Union administration or the aims and principles of the Union, or is otherwise outside of the remit of Council.

Proposed by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

Seconded by Eoin Hand, President

2020/21-5: Motion on Ad Hoc Body Minutes

Council notes

That there are a number of ad hoc Union bodies chaired by Officers which have

no formal reporting lines to Council.

Council believes

That for it to effectively oversee Union activity, it must first be able to see it.

Council also notes

That all Sabbatical and Part Time Officers are already mandated to submit a brief report to every meeting of Council.

Council mandates

That any officer who chairs an ad hoc Union body which does not already have a formal reporting line to council, attach the minutes of any and all meetings of that body approved since the previous meeting of Council to their Officer report.

Council further mandates

That Faculty Convenors submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council.

Proposed by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

Seconded by Eoin Hand, President

2020/21-6: Motion on Petition to Reduce College Fees

Council notes

That student access to campus and facilities is severely restricted due to the on-going pandemic.

Council regrets

That despite these restrictions, the College fees for the year have not decreased.

Council mandates

That the union adopt a formal stance in favour of lowering College fees for this year.

Council further mandates

That the President establish a petition in favour of lowering College fees.

Proposed by Dillon Broaders, SF Physical Sciences Class Representative

Seconded by Ruaidhrí Campion, SF Theoretical Physics Class Representative

2020/21-7: Motion on Migrant Rights

Council notes

Following the passage of the 27th Amendment in 2004 and subsequent legislation, those born on the island of Ireland on or after the 1st of January 2005 have not been automatically entitled to Irish citizenship.

Council recognises

That this legislation facilitates systemic inequality that deprives members of our community equal access to resources such as education and employment opportunities.

Council mandates

TCDSU to take a formal stance against the 27th amendment and support the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Citizenship for Children) Bill 2020 raised by Deputy Barry and other legislative reforms in pursuit of migrant rights and associated goals.

Council further mandates

The President, Welfare and Equality Officer and Citizenship Officer to support and platform the TCD against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th amendment.

Proposed by Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Officer

Seconded by Jodie Milne, Citizenship Officer

2020/21-8: Motion on Graduate Entry Medicine Tuition Fees

Council notes

That many TCD graduates pursue GEM programs in Irish universities.

Council regrets

The exorbitantly high tuition fees for these programs, not supported by SUSI or HEA Free Fees. These fees present a significant financial barrier to students from lower income backgrounds in accessing these programs.

Council recognises

The recent protest by UCD students wherein 70% of the GEM students have withheld their fees in protest to year on year GEM tuition fee increases.

Council mandates

The TCDSU delegates to USI National Council and USI Congress put forward a motion at the next meeting of those bodies to create a national USI led campaign on GEM tuition fees. The aims of the campaign shall be to lobby the Irish government to increase financial support for GEM students.

Proposed by Charles Sweeney, JS Physiology Class Representative

Seconded by Eoin Hand, President

2020/21-9: Mandate on Image-Based Sexual Abuse

Council notes

The recent events where thousands of people fell victim to one of the largest known examples of online image-based abuse in Ireland. This is a profound violation of these individuals and there is no current legal protection for those affected by this leak.

Council regards

The recent events as a flagrant violation of privacy and unequivocally non-consensual.

Council recognises

The work done by grassroots campaigns across the country, the Victims Alliance and the Gardaí in response to this event, and the continued efforts of the Consent Education programme.

Council regrets

The absence of legislation in this area, preventing victims from pursuing effective and adequate legal remedy.

Council mandates

The Welfare and Equality Officer to continue to provide support to all victims through the provision of relevant resources and information.

Council also mandates

The Union to support the 'End Image-Based Sexual Abuse Ireland' group in their call for the urgent criminalisation of IBSA by the passing of the 'Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Bill 2017' which is currently in its third stage in the Dáil and to campaign for the application of the proposed amendments.

Proposed by Rebecca Kelly, Law Convener

Seconded by Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Officer

2020/21-10: Motion on Continuous Assessment Rubrics

Council notes

That the guidelines for continuous assessment submissions are sometimes vague and unclear, with insufficient advice or help being offered to students to aid in bridging the gap between Leaving Cert, Fresh and Sophister standards of submission.

Council also notes

That for students to improve upon the quality and standards of their work, they must first know what is expected of them.

Council regrets

That students sometimes submit assignments having not received feedback on previous submissions.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer, Faculty Convenors and School Convenors campaign, where possible, for systemised rubrics for assessment and marking to be made available by module coordinators to students.

Proposed by Bev Genockey, Deputy STEM Convenor

Seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convenor

2020/21-11: Motion on Academic Integrity Week**Council notes**

That the National Academic Integrity Network defines Academic Integrity as “the commitment to, and demonstration of, honest and moral behaviour in an academic setting by the enrolled learner. It assumes that all interactions with their higher education institution and their staff are approached with honesty.”

Council also notes

The importance of Academic Integrity in Higher Education and the possible consequences for students who are caught plagiarising or using essay mills.

Council also notes

The importance of ensuring students are equipped with knowledge regarding this to be successful in their degree programme.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer organises a campaign week, in collaboration with the National Academic Integrity Network, dedicated to Academic Integrity in the first semester of each academic year.

Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer

Seconded by Jacqui Whelan, AHSS Convenor

2020/21-12: Motion on Support for Students on Placement.

Council notes

Students on clinical placements across the country such as Student Nurses and Midwives are working in unsafe conditions, are unpaid and undervalued.

Council also notes

The job prospects for student nurses upon graduation are extremely limited in Ireland, with low wages and harsh working-conditions. In an INMO survey in 2018, 71% of final year student nurses considered leaving Ireland. In a Trinity survey in 2015, it was found that 50% of student midwives experienced bullying.

Council mandates

That the President and Off Campus Officer coordinate actions to support these students and their trade union(s).

Council further mandates

That the Sabbatical Officer Board lobby the college and local and national politicians for the improvement of these students' working conditions.

Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer

Seconded by Jodie Milne, Citizenship Officer

2020/21-13: Motion on Welfare Annual Report

Council notes

The volume of varied casework the Welfare & Equality Officer receives each day.

Council also notes

The existence of the SU casework log that facilitates the anonymous reporting of

casework by category of concern and category of student in line with GDPR regulations.

Council mandates

The Welfare & Equality Officer to record this data, collate it, and formulate it into an annual report that highlights key issues that students are facing.

Council further mandates

The Welfare & Equality Officer to present this report at the final Student Life Committee of the year.

Council further mandates

The Welfare & Equality Officer-Elect to present this report to the first Council of the academic year as a discussion item.

Proposed by Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Convener

Seconded by Shauna Sutton, Nursing and Midwifery Convener

2020/21-14: Motion on Carbon Costing for Union Activities

Council notes

That the Union reports annual its financial expenditure, but does not currently make any effort to quantify the carbon cost of its activities.

Council also notes

That calculating the exact carbon cost of Union activities is prohibitively difficult, and a schedule of estimates is therefore required for the Union to make a reasonable estimate of its carbon footprint.

Council mandates

That the Environmental Officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on Carbon Costing and Reporting, including a schedule of carbon costs for typical Union activities.

Council further mandates

That the Environmental Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per academic year, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Environmental Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Proposed by Áine Hennessy, Environmental Officer

Seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

2020/21-15: Council Motion on Rapid HIV Testing

Council notes

That current Irish HIV transmission rates are approximately double the European average and higher than transmission rates during the height of the AIDs epidemic in Ireland.

Council also notes

That access to HIV related services in Ireland is currently insufficient and HIV Ireland continues to be underfunded. The closure of the Gay Men's Health Service (GMHS) during the COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the barriers present to accessing effective healthcare services. The unprecedented demand for STI screening kits during the launch of the HSE SH24 home testing pilot scheme in January 2021.

Council further notes

A mandate to lobby against the Irish MSM blood ban was passed by Council in 2019/20. As a result of this motion, the current SU President has been able to establish strong ties with HIV Ireland.

Council mandates

TCDSU lobby to make free, rapid HIV testing accessible to all, with the eventual aim to end HIV Transmission.

Council further mandates

In the short term, a provision of €6,000 to be drawn from the HEA Fund to purchase approximately 500 Rapid HIV Testing Kits as a pilot scheme with the aim of writing a collaborative report with HIV Ireland on the usage of the kits.

Alongside this, an Endowment Fund will be established using the HEA fund, with the purpose of providing free, rapid HIV testing kits for students in the long term. These kits will be provided via HIV Ireland who have an effective support structure in place for those diagnosed with HIV. These kits will be available to students via a form on tcdsu.org.

Proposed by Eoin Hand, President

Seconded by Philly Holmes, Communications and Marketing Officer

2020/21-16: Motion on Academic Open Access

Council notes

That as opposed to previous forms of distribution, the digitalisation of academia has meant that research can be increasingly cheaply published.

Council regrets

The ongoing prevalence of paywall academia, that is pay-for-view or subscription based access to academic literature, representing an access barrier for students and researchers alike, especially vis-a-vis socioeconomically disadvantaged persons.

Council welcomes

Trinity's Open Access Institutional Repository (TARA), which is designed to store, distribute, and preserve the digital materials of Trinity College Dublin following the principles of Open Access.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer and the Welfare & Equality Officer work alongside the College to promote and campaign for the principles of Open Access. Specifically,

in ensuring that the system for open access is advertised and used as effectively as possible by TCD researchers.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, JF PPES Class Representative

Seconded by Bev Genockey, Deputy STEM Convener

2020/21-17: Motion on USI Candidate Poll

Council notes

That TCDSU is an affiliated member organisation of The Union of Students of Ireland (USI). At National Congress (NC) each year TCDSU delegates vote for the USI Executive team. All students, both ordinary and voting members of TCDSU, are members of USI.

Council further notes

That currently USI candidates are voted on by members of Council, and all TCDSU delegates at NC are to vote in line with the majority preference from the Council vote.

Council believes

All members of TCDSU should vote for their preferred national representatives.

Council mandates

TCDSU to hold a poll to determine the majority preference for the USI Executive team candidates, which the TCDSU delegation will then vote in line with at the USI NC.

Proposed by Megan O' Connor, Education Officer

Seconded by Bev Genockey, Deputy STEM Convener

2020/21-18: Motion Against the Ratification of CETA

Council notes

That Section 1.4.a of the TCDSU Constitution states that “[t]he primary objective of the Union shall be to provide for and promote and defend the interests of its members.”

Council also notes

That the proposed EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) contains an Investor Court System (ICS), where multinational corporations can bypass domestic courts and seek financial compensation from the State for perceived breaches in investment protection standards.

Council also notes

That this threat of litigation is likely to create a ‘regulatory chill effect’, where the State will resist the introduction of public policy measures which could damage investors’ profits, e.g. an increase in the minimum wage, rent controls, and strengthened environmental standards.

Council believes

That the State should not prioritise the interests of corporations over the public interest, i.e. the interests of TCDSU members.

Council therefore mandates

That the TCDSU campaign to not ratify the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement.

Proposed by Morgan Hildula, JS PPES Class Representative

Seconded by Áine Hennessy, TCDSU Environmental Officer

2020/21-19: Motion on Archival Executive Policy

Council notes

That the Communications & Marketing Officer is responsible for maintaining an archive of documentation for all Union meetings.

Council also notes

That there is a lack of established protocol regarding document archiving and retrieval.

Council mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on archival protocol.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per term, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Communication & Marketing Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Proposed by Philly Homes - Communications & Marketing Officer

Seconded by Evan Rork - History & Humanities Convener

2020/21-20: Motion on GDPR Executive Policy

Council notes

That the Communications and Marketing is the de facto data controller for the Union.

Council also notes

For the purposes of data protection, TCDSU is accountable to the College Data Protection office with regards to data processing and internal data control.

Council also notes

The increase in the number of data-protection related enquiries from students and

the increase in data sharing agreements signed between the Union and external bodies.

Council mandates

That the Communications & Marketing officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on GDPR as it pertains to the Union and student data protection, including but not limited to information about Union GDPR best practice, information regarding how a student can report a data breach and protocol for data gathering and data sharing agreements.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer consult with the College Data Protection Office while compiling and reviewing this Policy.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per term, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Communication & Marketing Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Proposed by Philly Holmes - Communications & Marketing Officer

Seconded by Eoin Hand - President

2020/21-21: Motion on Communications Strategy Executive Policy

Council notes

That the coronavirus pandemic has illustrated the vital need for clear and effective communication from TCDSU both externally and internally.

Council also notes

The existence of various separate documents relating to Communications strategy, including the style guide and various parts of crossover documents.

Council recognises

The need for a single, up-to-date reference document for Union Communications strategy and protocols.

Council mandates

That the Communications & Marketing officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on Union Communications Strategy, including but not limited to information and procedures regarding public relations, the Union styleguide, brand guideline documentation, and details on Union publications and media channels.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per term, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Communication & Marketing Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Proposed by Philly Holmes - Communications & Marketing Officer

Seconded by Evan Rork - History & Humanities Convener

2020/21-22: Motion on Student Contribution Refunds

Council notes

The pressure, financial and otherwise, faced by students and staff in higher education, which has been exacerbated in recent years by increases to the student contribution, rental prices, and other costs related to higher education.

Council also notes

These existing issues have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Students have had reduced access to educational facilities and support services in the college, and the costs of study (e.g. electricity) have reverted to students as a result of studying from home.

Council also notes

There is a need for a higher education system which is free at the point of delivery for all students, including international students, and is publicly funded through general taxation. The Covid-19 pandemic has presented an opportunity for students to demand this.

Council mandates

The SU to adopt a position of support for a full refund on the student contribution for all students for the current academic year (2020-21), and to lobby the college for same.

Proposed by Jodie Milne - Citizenship Officer

Seconded by Charlotte Bull - JS Geography and Politics Rep

2020/21-23: Motion on Convenor Training

Council notes

The importance of school, programme and faculty convenors in representing class reps and students of their constituencies at school and faculty executive meetings.

Council welcomes

Existing TCDSU policy which ensures that upon election, convenors are provided with a crossover manual prepared by their predecessor.

Council recognises

The importance of leadership and lobbying skills required by faculty, school and programme convenors to best represent students on these committees.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer holds a "convenor training" following the election of convenors at the end of each academic year, and that this training takes place no later than by the close of nominations for class representative elections at the beginning of the next academic year.

Proposed by Bev Genockey - Deputy STEM Convener

Seconded by Jacqui Whelan - AHSS Convener

2020/21-24: Motion on Unpaid Internships

Council notes

A number of courses within the college require and/or allow students to undertake an industry work placement for credit.

Council acknowledges

The incredible networking and skill development benefit that comes from these internship opportunities.

Council however notes

That due to the large non-monetary benefit to these internships, students can feel forced to take unpaid internships for credit.

Council also notes

That industry work placement often involve full-time hours, leaving little to no time for part-time work.

Council believes

Students are being forced into precarious financial situations where they are in effect working two jobs by these unpaid internships, if they are able to maintain their second job at all.

Council asserts

Interns carry out productive work for companies, generating value and as such should be fairly compensated.

Council mandates

The Education Officer and Faculty Convenors to lobby for the introduction of a college policy, requiring all credit-bearing internships to have financial remuneration, with appropriate exemptions where professional accreditation is involved

Council further mandates

The Union campaign & lobby for the prohibition of unpaid internships nationally.

Proposed by Daniel O'Reilly - STEM Convener

Seconded by Matthew Henry - SCSS Convener

2020/21-25: Motion on Supporting Students in Myanmar

Council notes

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in the state of Myanmar.

Council regrets

The loss of life and detainment of protesters as a result of this crisis.

Council mandates

The TCDSU President and Citizenship Officer organise awareness campaigns for a return to democracy and an end to human rights abuses in Myanmar.

Council further mandates

TCDSU to advocate for Visa status for Burmese students residing in Ireland and reach out to other SUs seeking support for this movement.

Council further mandates

That TCDSU, in solidarity with student protestors, run an information campaign and fundraiser for charities supplying much-needed medical supplies to the people of Myanmar.

Council finally mandates

That TCDSU reach out to the Trinity Development and Alumni (TDA) fund seeking to match funding for the above-described fundraiser.

Proposed by Su Ydn, Ellen Mckimm, Roman Cabay, Jane Morris, Jack Palmer, Anna Clarke, James Crowe, Orna O'Donovan, Isabelle Healey, Oisín Browne

Seconded by László Molnárfi - JF PPES Class Representative

2020/21-26: Motion on Open Fora

Council notes

The Students Union can sometimes be inaccessible to students not directly involved and existing fora are not conducive to free flowing discussion where students can raise concerns.

Council acknowledges

The importance of fostering a welcoming environment for students and the promotion of participation in the SU.

Council mandates

The Education officer to host a town-hall style open forum.

- There shall be seven fora in each academic year.
- The Education Officer shall open every forum with a report on any actionables from previous fora.
- Where possible, the Fora shall be advertised no less than one week in advance.

Council further mandates

The Education Officer to bring a summary of each fora and a report including actionables and general insights given from the fora to Council at least once per term in the form of a discussion item.

Proposed by Megan O' Connor - Education Officer

Seconded by Bev Genockey - Deputy STEM Convenor

2020/21-27: Motion on Assessments and Online Proctoring

Council notes

With the sudden move to online exams in the past year, many assessments have

been held online without the usual invigilation procedures and instead with live online proctoring.

Council also notes

Academic integrity must be upheld to ensure fairness for students and quality assurance in higher education.

Council also notes

There have been serious concerns raised in relation to the online proctoring of live exams including students' privacy, mental health and wellbeing and the appropriateness of the accessibility of the software.

Council welcomes

The work of the National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN), AHEAD and the USI on proctoring.

Council recognises

A survey run by the STEM Convener last year which established that many students found take-home open book exams more beneficial for their learning.

Council mandates

The education officer to lobby the college for more non-traditional forms of assessment such as take home, open book exams, and to lobby against the immediate and full return to traditional 'sit down' closed book exams in the RDS.

Council further mandates

The Education Officer to lobby the college to continue to implement and innovate best practices when it comes to accessible assessment, in consultation with the Officer for Students with Disabilities and external bodies as appropriate.

Proposed by Megan O' Connor - Education Officer

Seconded by Julia Piaskowy - Natural Sciences Convenor

2020/21-28: Motion on the Higher Education Bill

Council notes

The Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science is actively in the process of drafting amendments to the Higher Education Authority Act, 1971, and published a consultation report on same in the second half of February.

Council also notes

That one of the more prominent tenets of the proposals in the report is more state control over third level education.

Council further notes

That one of the specific proposals would result in a reduction in the number of TCDSU representatives on Trinity College Board, both in actual numbers and proportional to the size of the board.

Council believes

That the proposals in this report constitute a significant overreach of the Government in the administration of Third level education.

Council also believes

that if the proposals as-is were to be implemented, they would significantly impact the Union in fulfilling its Aims and Principles, and would overall negatively impact the student experience.

Council supports

The effort of College Board to seek an exemption for Trinity, in line with the University's exemption to the Universities Act 1997.

Council therefore mandates

The Union adopt a formal stance in opposition of the proposed amendments to the Higher Education Authority Act 1971, in general, and its specific application

to Trinity College Dublin by forming and submitting a written consultation document to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, and to the Provost.

Council further mandates

The sabbatical officer board to work with the college to design mitigative measures to protect the strength of the student voice in high level College decisions in the event of the current proposed amendments being passed without exemption.

Proposed by The Union Forum

Seconded by Eoin Hand - President

2020/21-29: Motion on Reducing Trinity's Carbon Footprint

Council regrets

Vehicles being parked on campus are contributing to Trinity's greenhouse emissions.

Council further regrets

There has been much rhetoric, many committees but very few specific and effective solutions proposed to reduce Trinity's carbon footprint.

Council however notes

Trinity's Sustainability Policy, approved by the college board, which commits to continuous environmental improvement, including pollution prevention throughout its activities and compliance with all relevant legislation in the area.

Council further notes

All provost candidates have made commitments to substantially reduce Trinity's carbon footprint and to make Trinity a green campus.

Council mandates

The President and the Environmental Officer lobby for the phasing out of all vehicular parking on campus within a reasonable timeframe, with an exception made for staff and students that require on campus parking due to disabilities and other access issues, and for non-ICE campus service vehicles.

Proposed by Dillon Broaders - SF Physical Sciences Class Representative

Seconded by Áine Hennessy - Environmental Officer

2020/21-30: *Motion on Strategic Plan

Council notes

- 1) The expiry of the TCDSU 2015 – 2018 Strategic Plan
- 2) That during the 2018/19 Academic year, TCDSU redeveloped its strategic plan through:
 - a. Consultation
 - b. Review of the achievement of the previous strategic plan
 - c. Consideration of the outcome of that strategy and the need for a suite of longer objectives for the Union

Council adopts

The accompanying Strategic Plan to 2023

Council mandates

- 1) The Officers of TCDSU to implement the Strategic Plan to 2023 and to work toward the achievement of the goals described therein
- 2) The Officers of TCDSU to report to council and to the trustees as relevant on the achievement of the goals and actions of the strategic plan

Originally Proposed by Shane de Rís, TCDSU President

Originally Seconded by Laura Beston, TCDSU President-elect

Originally passed 18/19, Renewed 20/21

Most recent proposal to renew by Eoin Hand, President

2020/21-31: Motion Against Conversion Therapy

Council notes

That conversion therapy is the harmful practice of attempting to erase, repress, 'cure' or change someone's sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Council also notes

That conversion therapy is currently legal and is practiced in both jurisdictions on this island.

Council regrets

The immense suffering experienced by, and lives lost within, the LGBT+ community due to this harmful practice.

Council welcomes

The current efforts by public representatives in both Stormont and the Oireachtas to ban conversion therapy as well as the recent renewed public interest.

Council mandates

That the Welfare & Equality Officer and LGBT Rights Officer raise awareness of this issue and lobby politicians in both jurisdictions to legislate for a complete ban on all forms of conversion therapy.

Council further mandates

That the Welfare & Equality Officer and LGBT Rights Officer seeks to work with and coordinate their lobbying with groups campaigning on this issue.

Proposed by Thomas O'Neill - Chemistry Convener

Seconded by Brian Hastings - LGBT Rights Officer

2020/21-32: Motion on House 6 Accessibility

Council notes

Any floor above the ground floor in House Six is not accessible to wheelchair users

and those with other disabilities. House Six is home to the Students' Union, the Central Societies Committee, Trinity Publications and The University Times offices, as well as several society spaces.

Council also notes

According to the Disability Service annual report 2019/2020, the number of Trinity Students registered with a disability reached its highest ever total at 1777 students.

Council believes

That students with any kind of disabilities should not be alienated from any aspect of university life.

Council mandates

The President and Officer for Students with Disabilities to lobby the College for a feasibility study into making all levels of House Six accessible to all students.

Proposed by Niamh Herbert - Officer for Students with Disabilities

Seconded by Bev Genocky - Deputy STEM Convener

2020/21-33: Motion on Hotel Quarantine for Returning Students

Council notes

That due to the COVID19 pandemic the government has imposed mandatory 12-day hotel self-quarantines. As of March 26th 2021, "all passengers arriving into Ireland from designated states are now required to pre-book accommodation in a designated quarantine facility, and to pre-pay for their stay. It is a criminal offence if you do not fulfil the legal requirement to present for mandatory hotel quarantine".

Council also notes

That there are a number of International and EU students as well and exchange students who will return to Ireland in the late summer and fall for the new semester who will likely be forced to complete this mandatory quarantine at a minimum cost of 1,875, which places many students under significant financial pressure.

Council mandates

TCDSU to collaborate with USI and other institutions across the country to ensure students are practically supported and exempt from any related financial burdens.

Council further mandates

TCDSU to contact the Department of Justice and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science outlining the concerns noted above and request for students to be able to complete their quarantine in college provided accommodation.

Council finally mandates

TCDSU to lobby the college for the provision of free college accommodation to complete the required quarantine and COVID tests on return to Ireland.

Proposed by Janina Knörzer - JS Single Honors History Class Rep

Seconded by Rebecca Kelly - Law School Convenor

2020/21-34: Motion on Universal Design for Learning

Council notes

That the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an inclusive educational practice framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning. It ensures equal opportunity, flexibility in the learning environment and lowers the barrier to engagement with content.

Council however notes

That UDL does not equal a fully inclusive curriculum, and further changes are required.

Council welcomes

The position of Vice Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the work of the Disability Service to date.

Council recognises

A high workload can make changing the way one teaches difficult or a stressful experience, especially when working to accommodate situations not personally experienced.

Council mandates

The Sabbatical Board and Officer for Students with Disabilities to campaign for the implementation of the Universal Design for Learning across all platforms in Trinity by 2025.

Council further mandates

The Sabbatical Officer Board to lobby for staff to engage with students and include them in the process.

Council finally mandates

The Sabbatical Officer Board to collaborate with trade unions to lobby for staff to be released from their duties for a period each semester to work on the renewal of their curriculum.

Proposed by Megan O' Connor - Education Officer

Seconded by Leah Keogh - Welfare & Equality Officer

2021/22

2021/22-1: Motion on Issues Concerning Timetable Publication Scheduling at Trinity College Dublin

Council Notes

Academic timetables have this year and in previous years been published at best only one week in advance of the commencement of modules and classes (both in person and online) of their corresponding academic year. This has negatively impacted both students and teaching staff of all departments; restricting the individual's ability to organise their scheduling of activities external to Trinity College Dublin.

Council Also Notes

The issue of delayed timetabling results primarily and worryingly in the restriction of staff and students' abilities to schedule working hours for jobs or occupations that in many cases fund said students' or teaching staff's livelihood or even students' ability to work or study at Trinity College Dublin through the payment of annual fees. This specifically has already been aggravated by the Coronavirus pandemic and the increase of housing costs in Dublin, especially for students, thereby compounding the negative effects of the late release of timetables. Additionally, the late publication of module timetables at Trinity College Dublin particularly stands out against those of rival universities with institutions such as University College Dublin publishing their timetables months before the beginning of their corresponding academic terms.

Council Asserts

That current scheduling of the publication of academic and module timetables is performed too closely to the commencement of their corresponding academic years and that such a practice holds and executes the potential to negatively impact the livelihood of students and teaching staff across all departments.

Council Mandates

That the TCDSU Education Officer advocates on behalf of students to support the earlier publication of timetables.

Proposed by Daniel Vives-Lynch, Senior Sophister Music Class Representative
Seconded by David Boylan, Junior Sophister Music Class Representative

2021/22-2: *Motion on Unanswered Questions at Council

Council Notes

That Council is the body that allows students to interact with the Sabbatical Team the most.

Council Also Notes

During officer reports, discussion items, motions, and other council proceedings, questions are asked to the Sabbatical Team which may go unanswered due to the officer(s) not knowing the answer.

Council Understands

That Sabbatical Officers don't always have the answers to all questions asked to them at council.

Council Mandates

That the Secretary of Council notes unanswered questions during Council and forwards them to the team no later than three days post-Council.

Council Also Mandates

That the Sabbatical Team responds to these questions by email no later than one week after receiving them from the Secretary of Council.

Originally Proposed by Paraic McLean, Communications and Marketing Officer
Originally Seconded by Aimee Connolly, Education Officer

Originally passed 18/19, Renewed 21/22

*Most recent proposal to renew by Bev Genockey, Education Officer, Rían Errity, SCSS Con-
venor*

2021/22-3: *Motion on Sabbatical Officer Office Hours

Council Notes

Sabbatical Officers are frequently busy, either with meetings in their office or meetings and events out of their office.

Council Also Notes

That the accessibility of Sabbatical Officers to the students they represent is essential to the pursuit of openness, inclusiveness and student engagement with the Students' Union.

Council Mandates

That Sabbatical Officers schedule at least 2 hours per week during term time, during which they will be available for students to drop in, and that these will be publicized by the Students' Union in the weekly email.

Originally Proposed by Shane De Rís, President

Originally Seconded by Paraic McLean, Communications and Marketing Officer

Originally passed 18/19, Renewed 21/22

Most recent proposal to renew by Bev Genockey, Education Officer, Hannah Leen, Social Sciences and Philosophy Convenor

2021/22-4: *Motion on Reporting of Sabbatical Officer Expenses

Council Notes

Sabbatical officers sometimes require expenses as part of their job.

Council Also Notes

That sabbatical officers use these expenses with good intention, and with the students in mind.

Council Acknowledges

Transparency of expenditure in the Students' Union is appreciated by its members.

Council Mandates

That sabbatical officers report their expenses in the reports that they provide to Council.

Originally Proposed by Shane De Rís, President

Originally Seconded by Paraic McLean, Communications and Marketing Officer

Originally passed 18/19, Renewed 21/22

Most recent proposal to renew by Bev Genockey, Education Officer, Chloe Staunton, Officer for Students With Disabilities

2021/22-5: Motion for Plant-Based Catering

Council Regards With Concern

The 2021 report from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which yet again calls for immediate and systemic action against the cataclysmic threat of climate change.

Council Welcomes

Ireland signing the Paris Agreement in 2015, a treaty to which parties agreed to limit average global temperatures to 2° C above pre-industrial levels.

Council Also Welcomes

The recent Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021, which lays out government plans to ensure that the country transitions to a biodiversity-rich, net zero economy by 2050.

Council Notes

That according to the Environmental Protection Agency, farming is responsible for 36% of all greenhouse gases emissions, and that much of the food served by Trinity College is derived from animals.

Council Further Notes

That as Ireland's leading university, we should provide leadership and raise our profile as a sustainability-oriented university prepared to play its part in ameliorating catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss.

Council Mandates

That TCDSU lobby for increased plant-based options for the catering service, which are lower-priced, healthy and ethically- and sustainably-sourced.

Council Also Mandates

That TCDSU lobby for the catering service to choose animal-based products with lower environmental impact.

Council Further Mandates

That TCDSU lobby to lower the cost disparity between plant-based and non-plant-based offerings in the catering service. Council Further Mandates That TCDSU lobby to ensure that all foodstuff in the catering service is audited with a climate-first approach.

Council Further Mandates

That TCDSU advertise plant-based options in the catering service.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SF PPES rep

Seconded by Sam Foley, Environmental Officer

2021/22-6: Motion on International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision (ASAP) Scholar Fund

Council Regrets

That International students pay more than twice as much for the same education as those who can avail of the free fees initiative, non-EU international students have seen their fees increase by 3% most years during Patrick Prendergast's provostship, that COVID-19 impacted international students in unique ways and that non-EU international students never received 250 from Minister Harris' re-fund scheme.

Council Also Regrets

International students and ASAP scholars face many challenges that make focusing on education difficult.

Council Notes

International students and ASAP scholars face unique costs to education like visa costs, medical insurance and expensive travel costs.

Council Also Notes

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) Fund has been established to fund projects that benefit students and has proven effective by doing so in the past.

Council Mandates

That 30,000 be allocated from the HEA Fund as has been outlined in the International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision Scholar Fund Proposal with 20,000 being used this year to support international students' recovery from COVID-19 shutdown and 5,000 being disbursed for the two following years.

International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision Scholar Fund Proposal

Proposed by Sierra Müller-Owens, Welfare and Equality Officer

Seconded by Dylan Krug, International Student Officer

2021/22-7: Motion on '10K Have Your Say' Project

Council Recognises

That the participatory budgeting model, where members of a community decide how a portion of their budget is spent, as an empowering, civic-minded, transparent and inclusive model of budgeting that is designed to serve that community.

Council Regrets

That currently, students don't have direct input into how their money is spent. Council Notes The Higher Education Authority (HEA) Fund that came about as a fine imposed on College by the HEA in 2012. Criteria for spending includes 'student services' and it can be accessed by a majority vote at Council. Previously the

Fund has funded an S2S intern, wheelchair fencing, a placement bursary, refurbishment of the mature student's space, a laptop rental scheme and much more.

Council Mandates

That 10,000 be released from the HEA Fund and allocated as per the logistics outlined in the '10K Have Your Say' proposal document to allow students to decide how student money is spent.

Proposed by Leah Keogh, President

Seconded by Julie Smirnova, Citizenship Officers

2021/22-8: Motion on Interim Exhibition of the Book of Kells on College Park

Council Notes

College's plan to erect an Interim Exhibition of the Book of Kells on College Park for three years, whilst the Old Library Redevelopment Project is ongoing to generate revenue.

Council Recognises

The importance of the Old Library Redevelopment Project. Regrets The potential impact that this Exhibition could have for users of College park, especially sports clubs and users of the usher library.

Council Further Notes

That Trinity currently has the worst outdoor sporting facilities in the country, and to chip away at them seems completely counter-intuitive.

Council Mandates

TCDSU to oppose the erection of the Interim Exhibition on College Park and to lobby the College to explore alternative locations.

Council Further Mandates

TCDSU Sabbatical Officers to liaise with DUCAC to ensure that the voices of the sports clubs are being represented at the College's decision making bodies that

they do not have a seat on.

Proposed by Union Forum

Seconded by Zoe Cummins, STEM Convener

2021/22-9: Motion to Protest the Closure of the Science Gallery

Council Regrets

The announcement of the closure of the Science Gallery on the 28th February 2022, as announced by Emmet Ryan in the Business Post. Council Notes This announcement came from an anonymous source, which was backed up by "Trinity authorities" despite the fact that the sabbatical officers were not informed of the closure, let alone consulted.

Council Notes

The Science Gallery is an important part of the Trinity College campus and of the larger culture of Dublin. It provides a free recreational space to be visited by all. The Science Gallery is also an area on campus that employs students, and more students have been recently hired to work there.

Council Further Notes

At the time of writing of this motion, a petition to save the Science Gallery has reached over 3,600 signatures. Signers provided numerous reasons for protesting the closure of the gallery: "Working with teens in school, I saw what a terrific resource it offered to students, including those with special needs. Accessibility to the sciences is and should be seen to be crucial." "Everything is not about profit. This is an educational space" "It's more important than ever that public have access to Science knowledge on issues of our time #ClimateChange, pandemics, food, biodiversity. I've been a member, taken my children here and taken part in workshops, from coding hacks to poetry and activism. #SaveScienceGallery"

Council Mandates

The Sabbatical Officers to take an official stance to #SaveScienceGallery and to protest its closure.

Proposed by Cúnla Morris, Class Rep (SS Modern Irish)

Seconded by Leah Keogh; Zöe Cummins, President; STEM Convenor

2021/22-10: Motion on TCD Divestment from Arms and Weaponry Manufacturers

Council Notes

As of 2020, Trinity College Dublin invests 2,6 million euros into Arms and Weaponry manufacturers, such as BAE systems, Lockheed Martin and the Boeing Company through its endowment fund. Council Celebrates Trinity being awarded 'University of Sanctuary Status', fostering a welcome and inclusive environment for asylum seekers and refugees.

Council Regrets

That these arms and weaponry manufacturers undeniably view the migration of refugees and subsequent border security as an opportunity to make money.

Council Mandates

That TCDSU lobby for full transparency and openness regarding College's investments.

Proposed by László Molnárfi - SF PPES Class Representative

Seconded by Jodie Milne - SS Nursing Class Representative

2021/22-11: Anti-Spiking Policy

Council Regrets:

The increase in spiking that has been reported in nightclubs post lockdown.

Council Welcomes:

The many hours of research, communication and advocacy that have been done by the Union of Students' in Ireland's Welfare Officer to create a Dublin-wide agreement between SUs and private establishments.

Council Mandates:

The Welfare Equality Officer and the Entertainment Officer to aid USI in anti-spiking policy where possible and ensure that TCDSU follows the policy when it is completed

Proposed by Seán Lysaght, JS CSL Class Rep, Education Committee OCM

Seconded by Sierra Müller-Owens, Welfare and Equality Officer

2021/22-12: Motion on College Transparency

Council Welcomes

Sabbatical Officers' work and their written reports to Council.

Council Notes

That the Sabbatical Officers' attend a lot of College and other meetings as part of their duties to the Union, the names of which are listed in their written reports to Council.

Council Regrets

That for some meetings, there are no publicly available minutes, especially for ad-hoc meetings.

Council Also Regrets

That oftentimes, as such, it is unclear from the written report what the Sabbatical Officers' said at meetings, if anything, and what the reaction to these interventions were. As such, Sabbatical Officers' can not be held to account in some cases, and there is a lack of transparency.

Council Mandates

The Sabbatical Officers' lobby College for more transparency by advocating for the publication of all College meeting minutes online and for better availability of annex documents online for College meetings.

That Sabbatical Officers' to lobby for the public availability of the agenda and annex documents before College meetings take place.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SF PPES rep

Seconded by Leah Keogh, SU President

2021/22-13: Motion to Oppose the Cultural Death of Dublin

Council Regrets

The recent announcement of the closure of the Science Gallery, of Chapters Bookstore, and countless other cultural resources in Ireland.

Council Notes

Resources for students as well as the public are being torn down in favour of building more hotels, despite the fact that we are in a housing crisis as well as a cultural crisis. These resources include libraries, museums, bars, nightclubs, and more.

Council Recognises

Accommodation is the number one priority in the rent crisis that Ireland is facing and that the protection of cultural heritage is also worth fighting for.

Council Mandates

to hold an official stance to #StopKillingDublin.

Council Further Mandates

For the Campaigns committee in conjunction with the President to work towards forming an action plan to face this issue.

Proposed by Cúnla Morris, Class Rep (SS Modern Irish)

Seconded by Zöe Cummins, STEM Convenor

2021/22-14: Motion on Management of Accessibility Requests for SU Council

Council notes

The need for an accessibility request form for council, so accessibility needs are

met and council is accessible to everyone.

Council also notes

That the creation and management of an accessibility request form is taxing for the Electoral Commission and Secretary to the Council to maintain due to the workload of council submissions during the lead-up to council.

Council further notes

That the Officer for Students with Disabilities is integral to helping the Students' Union maintain accessibility needs.

Council mandates

The Officer for Students with Disabilities to create and circulate the accessibility request form in advance of any upcoming councils.

Council further mandates

The Officer for Students with Disabilities to take charge in reviewing any requirements and to work with the Electoral Commission and Secretary to the Council to fulfil any accessibility requests for Council attendance.

Proposed by Chloe Staunton, OSD

Seconded by Sierra Müller-Owens, Welfare and Equality Officer

2021/22-15: Motion on Recorded Lectures & Hybrid Learning

Council notes:

During the pandemic, students with disabilities faced increased barriers with regards to their education. One of these barriers was not-recorded, online live events which posed challenges for students with, for example, hearing difficulties. also notes: Despite the return to face-to-face lectures, some students may be hesitant or anxious to come back in a full time capacity, either due to general anxiety around the ongoing pandemic, or due to them having vulnerable family members that means that they cannot take the risk, however small, of catching covid when in college.

Council also notes:

The rapid rise in case numbers since October 2021 has shown that there is a need to consider and implement a hybrid learning model so that students are not disadvantaged in their education for not coming into college, in line with Trinity's commitment that no student shall be disadvantaged by having to stay home.

Council observes:

That since not all courses were recorded during the Covid-19 pandemic, some students had less access to education than others, and as such, it was not a level playing field. It should be changed so that this situation does not happen again.

Council further notes:

The existence and success of hybrid-learning technologies and approaches in other Irish Universities.

Council remarks:

The recording of lectures has been traditionally opposed by trade unions, due to the College having copyright over such material, and the possibility that College will fire staff and use these materials to teach.

Council therefore mandates:

That TCDSU work together with graduate students, IFUT and lecturers to find a solution for handing over copyright of recorded lectures to lecturers, to create a policy of lectures being recorded, along with a hybrid approach to lectures, so that no student is disadvantaged for not being present on campus.

Council further notes

According to the IT Services Satisfaction Survey 2022 published, staff identified the outsourcing of A/V support as a barrier to implementing lecture recording. One lecturer is quoted as proposing for improvement: "More dedicated TCD staff on AV team for teaching - the outsourcing yields people who don't know about teaching in my experience: e.g. Someone from FittingImage trying to tell me that wanting to record Powerpoint plus the document camera in a large lecture theatre in Panopto was not something that was ""normal"". Core business should have core staff dedicated."

Council therefore further mandates

That the President and Education Officer campaign for College to cease outsourcing A/V support to FittingImage and for it to be provided by in-house IT Services, accompanied by the necessary expansion and/or pay rises for such staff.

That the President raise this at the Information Systems Services User Committee and the Education Officer at the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Amended 2022/23

Proposed by Oisín Fullam-Smith, class rep

Seconded by László Molnárfi, SF PPES rep

2021/22-16: Motion on House 6 (Mandela House)/Rún ar Teach 6 (Teach Mandela)**Council Notes:**

That currently the TCDSU sabbatical offices and TCDSU services are predominantly based in House 6 (Mandela House), Front Square.

Council Welcomes:

The 2000 renaming of House 6 to Mandela House, in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Council Appreciates:

The ongoing efforts by the TCDSU Oifigeach, in collaboration with other officers and members of the union to promote the use of the Irish language.

Council therefore mandates:

That the communications and marketing officer refers to House 6 as Teach 6 and/or Teach Mandela in official TCDSU communications (email and social media), and actively encourages all other TCDSU officers to do the same.

Tugann Comhairle faoi deara:

Go bhfuil oifigí agus seirbhísí AMLCT lonnaithe den chuid is mó i dTeach 6 (Teach Mandela), An Chearnóg Tosaigh.

Cuireann Comhairle fáilte roimh:

Athainmniú Teach 6 go Teach Mandela i 2000, in onóir Nelson Mandela.

Tuigeann Comhairle:

Iarrachtaí leanúnacha Oifigeach na Gaeilge, in éineacht le na hoifigigh eile agus baill comhairle, an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Mar sin, tugann Comhairle údarás:

Go ndéanann an tOifigeach Cumarsáide agus Margaíochta tagairt do House 6 mar Teach 6 agus/nó Teach Mandela i dteachtaireachtaí oifigiúil AMLCT (ríomhphost agus na meáin shóisialta), agus go spreagann siad na hOifigigh eile an rud céanna a dhéanamh.

Proposed by Aislinn Ní Dhomhnaill, Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Seconded by Áine Heary, English Convenor

2021/22-17: Motion on Financial Transparency

Council recognizes:

That as per the Constitution, Council oversees the management of the Union by considering the minutes of the Union Forum and standing committees of Council.

Council notes:

That the financial aspects of the Union are part of the management of the Union.

Council regrets:

That Council currently has no way to oversee the financial management of the Union, as there is a lack of financial transparency.

Council therefore mandates:

That once per semester, the President of the Union brings to Council a non-binding, projected budget of the Union.

Proposed by Laszlo Molnarfi, class rep

Seconded by Yannick Gloster, USC Rep

2021/22-18: Motion on TCDSU - Trinity Hall JCR Memorandum of Agreement

Council Notes:

The work done by the Trinity Hall JCR to create a vibrant atmosphere within the Trinity Hall Campus through event organisation and the provision of student-directed services.

Council Recognises:

The joint commitment of TCDSU and the JCR in developing and supporting effective student engagement and representation within both organisations.

Council Therefore Mandates:

That TCDSU adopts the attached memorandum of agreement between TCDSU and the Trinity Hall JCR.

Proposed by Bev Genockey, Education Officer

Seconded by Leah Keogh, President

2021/22-19: Motion on Non-EU Hosting Agreement

Council notes:

Currently, Non-EU/EEA PhD research students require a research contract of employment to be eligible for the Hosting Agreement Scheme. It is typical for most Irish universities to hire Non-EU/EEA PhD research students on scholarship contracts rather than employment contracts—this produces a barrier to access.

Council is concerned:

That unequal access to the Hosting Agreement Scheme adversely impacts non-eligible Non-EU/EEA PhD research students due to the precarity of their immigration status relative to those issued with a Hosting Agreement. Further, while eligible researchers' immediate families can reside or work in Ireland, non-eligible researchers are faced with family separation or the financial insecurity of a partner's inability to gain employment.

Council believes:

That the contributions of all Non-EU/EEA PhD research students to Irish research projects should be equally recognized, valued, and rewarded irrespective of their contractual terms.

Council therefore mandates:

That TCDSU supports the Non-EEA Ph.D. Students Society-Ireland's campaign to expand the Hosting Agreement Scheme eligibility criteria to include research scholarship contracts.

Council further mandates:

Proposed by Laszlo Molnarfi, Class Rep

Seconded by Julie Smirnova, Citizenship Officer

2021/22-20: Motion on Students' Union adoption of the Living Wage

Council notes

The rising cost of College: Trinity students currently pay the highest fees in the European Union, with Dublin being one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in (Irish Examiner, 2021).

Council regrets

The financial strain these costs place on students and its impact on student mental health and academic performance in many cases (Welfare & Equality Annual Report 2021).

Council notes

That the living wage is intended to establish an hourly wage rate that should provide employees with sufficient income to achieve an agreed acceptable minimum standard of living.

Council further notes

The Students' Union as an annual employer of students who deliver valuable student services and its responsibility to lead by example.

Council therefore mandates

TCDSU to adopt the living wage plus holiday pay as their rate of pay for all Union employees.

Council further mandates

The President to amend the contracts of Union staff to reflect this change by week beginning Monday 28th February 2022.

Proposed by Leah Keogh, TCDSU President

Seconded by Zoe Cummins, STEM Convenor

2021/22-21: Motion for the establishment of a Gender Equality Working Group

Council Recognises:

That there has been a surge in incidents of violence against women generally - with spiking, SA and gender/sexuality specific hate-crimes of particular concern.

Council Notes:

The need for more practical and tangible resources to help keep students safe on campus and at Union events.

Council Also Notes:

The value of each student's unique contribution and ideas and the need for a unified approach informed with all diverse perspectives to tackling gender-rooted issues locally.

Council Therefore Mandates:

The establishment of a Gender Equality Working Group to assist the Gender Equality Officer in progressing gender equality in College, through meeting at least twice per semester (with open membership for ordinary members of the Union) to discuss focus areas and solutions to ongoing problems/ identify and tackle areas with scope for improvement.

Proposed by Rebecca Kelly, Gender Equality Officer

Seconded by Zoe Cummins, STEM Convenor

2021/22-22: Motion to Rename the Berkeley Library

Council notes:

That the findings of much research conclude that the philosopher and bishop, George Berkeley had a problematic and controversial relationship with enslavement during his time in the United States. Between the years 1728 and 1731, Berkeley purchased a number of enslaved people to work on his plantation in Rhode

Island and gave sermons, and thus moral countenance, to defending the general practice of enslavement.

Council further notes:

That the number of buildings/rooms named after women or people of colour is particularly low.

Council praises:

Trinity College Dublin's acknowledgment of its historical links to colonialism and the benefits accruing to College of said links. This can be seen in the Colonial Legacies Project, a research project aiming to unveil the ways in which Trinity and its alumni contributed to colonialist practices throughout history.

Council regrets:

That the Colonial Legacies Project is a research project and is not responsible for acting on its findings. Consequently, despite being aware of the problematic elements associated with Berkeley, Trinity College Dublin is yet to act on the issue of Berkeley's continued glorification and amplification as a worthy symbol of a 21st century University.

Council believes:

That Berkeley is an inappropriate namesake for the library due to his pro-enslavement beliefs and actions, and that the library ought to be renamed.

Council therefore mandates:

The TCDSU President to lobby the College for the renaming of the library in the interests of creating an inclusive and respectful learning environment and that great importance be given to potential female or people of colour replacement candidates for the new name of the library which will present a more inclusive vision of College going forth.

Council further mandates:

That the TCDSU support the current petition seeking to rename the Berkeley Library established by Louie Lyons.

Proposed by Louie Lyone, Class Rep

Seconded by Leah Keogh, President

2021/22-23: Motion to Support PhD Groups

Council notes with concern

That postgraduate researchers are not recognised as workers by the university or state. Without this recognition, they are without working rights and are not entitled to a salary based on the living wage, employment contracts, minimum notice periods, leave from work (personal, parental or sick), social and pension contributions, safety in the workplace, equal treatment, or privacy and data protection. This lack of working rights has a significant impact on postgraduate researchers' welfare and financial stability. Doctoral stipends are not fixed, ranging from € 0 - € 21,000 pa. In all cases, this results in the candidate earning less than minimum wage for the work performed. Additionally, several departments at TCD require PhD researchers to complete unpaid tutorial and demonstrating hours to compensate for fee contributions. In light of the ever-increasing costs of living, the burden of these conditions is growing rapidly, resulting in a detrimental impact on the health and well being of postgraduate researchers.

Council further notes

That Ireland ranks at the very bottom among EU/EEA countries when it comes to average PhD stipend to cost-of-living, with 8 EU/EEA already implementing working rights for PhD candidates.

Council therefore mandates

The TCD-SU will adopt a committed stance in support of the Postgraduate Workers' Organization (PWO) (a merger of the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance (TCD PGWA) and the PhD's Collective Action Union (PCAU)), their aims and objectives as outlined by their charter. This should include active participation in the PWO campaigns and collaboration on campus-based campaigns relevant to both the PWO and the TCDSU.

Council further mandates

TCDSU support the idea of postgraduate researchers being represented by a workers union at Trinity College Dublin.

additional proposers: Conor Reddy, Shaakya Vembar, Shauna Donohoe, DJ Ringis, Mark Anderson, Tenaya Jorgensen, Serena Foo, Thomas Dinneen, Karina Einicke

Amended 2022/23

Proposed by Eoghan Ross, Non-member of council

Seconded by Leah Keogh, President

2021/22-24: Motion on the Necessary Improvement of the Irish Immigration Services

Council notes:

That International students have continually struggled to obtain appointments with Irish Immigration Services Delivery to secure their residency permits in a timely manner.

Council further notes:

That the inability to secure appointments within the 90 day window causes extreme stress for students who are worried about fines, legal consequences and their freedom of movement between countries. This stress in turn undermines their studies and their participation in college life as well as excluding them from part-time work.

Council further notes:

That the lack of communication from Irish Immigration Services Delivery as well as their treatment of students as “customers” is incompatible with their ability to deliver their services in a considerate and timely manner.

Council mandates:

That the President, Welfare Officer and International Student’s Officer lobby Trinity College Dublin, the Irish government and Irish Immigration Services for improved and transparent communication from the Irish Immigration Services Delivery and for designated appointments for university students.”

Proposed by Julia Bochenek, AHSS Faculty Convenor (she/her); Mihai Mesteru, JS Electronic Engineering Class Representative (he/him); Jade Schanen, JS Environmental Science Class Representative (she/her); Alice Payne, Volunteer Forum

Coordinator (she/her)

Seconded by Dylan Krug, International Students Officer

2021/22-25: Motion to Improve Support for Students on Clinical and Social Work Placement

Council notes:

That there are many students on clinical and social work placement who can become disconnected and isolated from the college community.

Council is concerned:

That multiple suicides have taken place within the past four years, particularly within the medical student cohort, with a lack of implemented change.

Council regrets:

That there are inadequate structures in place to safeguard the mental health of these students.

Council praises:

The ongoing efforts within the Health Sciences Faculty to improve mental health supports for students. This includes a mental health review committee within the School of Medicine.

Council also praises:

The work of TCD Counselling Services in both suicide prevention and student support.

Council also praises:

The work of Student Union members to lobby for better supports (including financial assistance) for students on clinical placement.

Council believes:

That there must be increased structured supports made available to students on clinical placement. These supports must be proactive in reaching out to all students.

Council mandates:

Collaboration with TCD Counselling Services to lobby for:

- the creation of more out-of-hours appointment slots.
- the formation of support groups for students on clinical placement.

Council also mandates:

The introduction of a reformed tutor system, in conjunction with the senior tutor, which includes specific guidelines for tutors to organise welfare meetings with students during their clinical placement.

Council further mandates:

The provision of mental health guidelines to teaching staff who are the point of contact for students during their placement, in co-operation with the relevant heads of schools.

Council further mandates:

That the Student Union continues to demand that increased funding be allocated to mental health services, from both the university and the Irish government.

Proposed by William Reynolds, Medicine Convenor

Seconded by Conor Nolan, JS Medicine, Aisling Dillon, JF Social Work and Sierra Mueller-Owens Welfare and Equality Officer

2022/23

2022/23-1: Motion on Returning from Off-Books

Council notes

That students may need to go off-books for medical reasons during the academic year.

Council further notes

In order to return to studies after going off-books for medical reasons, students and their medical GP, consultant or specialist are required to complete and return to the Senior Lecturer a Fitness to Study Letter of Certification (<https://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/student-cases/assets/world/fitnesstostudy.pdf>).

Council regrets

That the off-books procedure can feel invasive to students and create undue stress due to its comprehensive and overly prescriptive questions.

Council mandates

The Education Officer to campaign to the Senior Lecturer, Senior Tutor and any other relevant parties for improvement of the Fitness to Study letter of certification and to review and adapt the Off-Books application so that the questions are not as invasive.

Proposed by Ruaidhrí Campion, School of Maths Convenor

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer

2022/23-2: Motion on Activist Training

Council notes

That TCDSU is a students' union—its campaigns should empower as many students as possible to participate in actions and decision-making.

Council commends

The hard work of student activists and grassroots groups throughout the year.

Council therefore mandates

That the TCDSU Citizenship Officer, with the support of the President, run an annual training series—that is open to all students—on activist well-being, organising strategy, and horizontal group structures.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Connor Dempsey, Citizenship Officer

2022/23-3: Motion on USI Democracy

Council notes

That TCDSU is an affiliated member organisation of The Union of Students of Ireland (USI). At National Congress (NC) each year TCDSU delegates vote for the USI Executive team. All students, both ordinary and voting members of TCDSU, are members of USI.

Council praises

That with regards to the TCDSU, USI candidates are voted on by a referendum to the student body, and all delegates at NC are to vote in line with the majority preference from this vote.

Council notes

That not all student unions follow a similar structure. Some student unions delegates have a free vote, while some vote as per the preference of their Council equivalent, and some follow the same structure as the TCDSU.

Council therefore regrets

The USI electoral system in its current form does not directly elect its national representatives via universal suffrage in some cases.

Council believes

In the interests of democracy, the national representatives should be voted on by the student body in all affiliated member organisations of the USI.

Council therefore mandates

That TCDSU lobby for the USI to change its electoral system to a universal suffrage mechanism so that national representatives are elected directly by students from

all affiliated member organisations via universal suffrage.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, TCDSU President

2022/23-4: Motion to Explore Switching Voting System

Council notes

Currently, the TCDSU uses a voting system called Eviabi to conduct elections.

Council notes with concern

That College has so far not entered into a data-agreement with the TCDSU, meaning that we have to pre-register students to vote, taking up a sizable amount of administrative time and ensuing costs.

Council further notes

The need for pre-registration may drive student engagement to be low, as it presents a barrier.

Council further notes

In 2020, student representatives at the February 9th Council called for barriers to engagement to be lowered.

Council further notes

The fact that the system is a company started by two students from Trinity in 2019, has only a few clients and is not a well-established and well-known company may contribute to College's reluctance to enter into a data-sharing agreement with us.

Council recognizes

Switching to another voting system may increase the chances of a data-sharing agreement with College.

Council further notes

While the current system has worked, there may be better alternatives out there, both from a ease-of-use and cost perspective.

Council finally notes

The TCDSU is a democratic body.

Council therefore mandates

That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Kiaya Doyle, School of Chemistry Convenor

2022/23-5: Motion on School Convenor Report to Students

Council notes

That engagement with students on the ground, and garnering their feedback and ensuring accountability, should be one of the primary aims of the Union.

Council also notes

School Convenors are in an apt position to be the link between students and the Union.

Council regrets

That according to a survey that the Union ran in 2020-2021, only 25% of students knew who their School Convenor was.

Council further notes

School Convenors have access to the course mailing lists and the ability to email students in their Schools.

Council regrets

That sometimes, due to issues with IT Services, it may not be possible to reach all students in a given School.

Council nevertheless notes

It is possible to curate all the course mailing lists for a given School and aim to email as many students as possible.

Council therefore mandates

That School Convenors email the reports that they present to their Faculty Assemblies to students in their Schools.

Council further mandates

That the curated mailing lists and a guide on how to obtain and update them should they change should be part of the crossover document of School Convenors.

Council finally mandates

That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Patrick Flynn, SF Biological and Biomedical Sciences Class Rep

2022/23-6: Motion on Trade Union Solidarity in Wake of HEA Act

Council notes

The HEA Act 2022 was signed in to law by the President of Ireland on 12 October 2022. As part of the Act, the composition of governing bodies of third-level institutions will change, and trade union representation is at risk.

Council also notes

Some specifics, such as the composition of the 5 internal members on governing bodies, remains up to individual institutions. Trinity, at the moment, has opened up a consultation on this and other aspects of the Act that are left up to each institution.

Council recognises

The rich history of student-staff solidarity when it comes to challenging senior management and government decisions unfavourable to our communities.

Council appreciates

That trade union representatives at Board have traditionally supported students' demands for a fair, equitable and public education system.

Council therefore mandates

That the Union support the demands of the trade unions within Trinity when it comes to trade union representation on Board and that this be part of its submission to Trinity's ongoing consultation.

Proposed by Patrick Flynn, SF Biological and Biomedical Sciences Class Rep

Seconded by László Molnarfi, SSP School Convenor

2022/23-7: Motion on Collaboration with An Taisce

Council recognises

that An Taisce, Ireland's National Trust, advocates for publicly owned, heavily subsidized, carbon neutral public transport and active travel infrastructure. Council further recognises that An Taisce practises far-reaching climate advocacy, particularly in protecting natural habitats.

Council notes

that An Taisce are at the forefront of legal objections to speculative housing developments, (including build to rent and co-living developments) which harm students and the rental market.

Council recognises

that the work of An Taisce has a strong overlap with the work of TCDSU.

Council recognises

that TCDSU require allies within the sector to collaborate and work towards their aims of affordable housing and climate action.

Council further recognizes

that An Taisce has strong links to Transport For Ireland, and Dublin City Council, and as a prescribed body under the planning regulations act, they have lobbying power in this area.

Council also notes

that An Taisce are stronger with a larger membership base, and that the quality of their work is strengthened with wider student engagement, allowing it to be more student-focused.

Council therefore mandates

TCDSU to promote An Taisce's 2 euro student membership to students.

Council also mandates

the President to cooperate and work with An Taisce to accomplish its goals in relation to housing and climate justice through regular communication.

Proposed by Gabrielle Fullam, TCDSU President

Seconded by Jenny Maguire, Gender Equality Officer

2022/23-8: Motion for a STEM Ball Mandate**Council welcomes**

The return to in-person events due to the relaxation of covid restrictions.

Council regrets

The lack of events for students over the last few years and the absence of a STEM Ball in 2021.

Council notes

The success of the return of STEM Ball last year and the will of the students for the event to be continued. also Notes The possibility of future unforeseen events, similar to the covid pandemic, that would render the hosting of a ball unsafe or impractical.

Council mandates

That the STEM Convenor ensures, when safe and practical to do so, STEM Ball is run in some capacity, be that by the Convenor themselves or by a society in conjunction with the STEM Convenor.

Proposed by Seán Lysaght, STEM Convenor

Seconded by Faye Murphy, Deputy STEM Convenor

2022/23-9: Affordable Accommodation

Council notes

There is a cost of living crisis, with accommodation being a major subset of it.

Council further notes

TCDSU runs an Accommodation Advisory Service (AAS) to provide advice to students on their accommodation search. As part of this service AAS maintains a DIGs portal, in which rooms in owner-occupied homes are advertised.

Council regrets

That DIGs accommodation is not the most ideal accommodation type, but is often a cheaper alternative for students.

Council further regrets

That many landlords seek to exploit students through charging high rents for their DIGs rooms.

Council notes

That rent caps were introduced this year to help protect students looking for DIGs accommodation via the AAS portal. These rent caps acted as maximum rents that could be advertised on the portal. Any rooms advertised in excess of these rent caps were refused advertisement on the AAS portal.

Council mandates

The Welfare & Equality Officer to create and enforce rent caps on the DIGs portal to help limit exploitation of rents for students.

Council further mandates

The Welfare Equality Officer to review the rent caps at the start of their sabbatical term through consultation with relevant interest bodies.

Council regrets

That Trinity College, through its provision of Purpose-Built Student Housing, seeks to monetarily benefit from the housing crisis by charging students high rents.

Council further mandates

That the President, through liaison with the Welfare and Equality Officer, Union Forum, and Campaigns Committee, will strategically consult on how college accommodation can be made affordable and campaign for this to be achieved.

Proposed by Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

2022/23-10: Motion on Fatphobia in College

Council notes

The discrimination and social stigma that fat people face in education, healthcare and the media.

Council regrets

That facilities, institutions and other programmes in College are not equally accessible to people of all body types, and are often specifically inaccessible for fat people.

Council acknowledges

That the Union has not yet done enough to advocate against fatphobia and has work to do in ensuring its own services are equally accessible to people of all body types.

Council mandates

That the President and the Communications Marketing Officer ensure that all clothing provided to members of the Union or sold in the SU shop are offered in an ample variety of sizes to accommodate people of all body types.

Council further mandates

That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.

Council further mandates

That the President and the Welfare Equality Officer incorporate the principles of weight-bias education in campaign weeks where relevant.

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Citizenship Officer

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

2022/23-11: Motion on Students Union Voter Registration Requirements

Council Notes

that students need to pre register to vote in Students Union elections such as Class Representative elections

Council Notes

that some students were unable to vote in Class Representative elections because they didn't register to vote in time

Council Notes

that some students were unaware they had to pre register to vote in Class Representative Elections

Council Mandates

that all members of the Union are automatically registered by the Students Union to vote in all Students Union elections in which they are eligible to vote in, effective from after the 2022/23 sabbatical election period

Proposed by Patrick Keegan, JF BESS Class Rep

Seconded by Melis Asiyu, JF BESS Class Rep

2022/23-12: Motion on Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Council notes

Gender neutral bathrooms are important in providing a safe and comfortable college environment for all students.

Council further notes

That several venues which Trinity Ents may use do not have gender-neutral bathroom facilities and it would be unfeasible to find alternatives.

Council therefore mandates

That events held by Trinity Ents must have a gender neutral bathroom available.

Council further mandates

The Gender Equality Officer, LGBT Rights Officer, and the President lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college.

Proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

2022/23-13: Motion on Transgender Healthcare

Council regrets

The current unreasonably long wait times for care and treatment methods at the Loughlinstown national gender service at St. Columcille's Hospital which are massively harmful to the mental health of the transgender patients that the gender clinic is supposed to help.

Council further notes

1) The national gender service only serves 150 patients per year (3 patients per week) due to understaffing while over 300 patients are referred per year. 2) Care that is provided to cisgender patients with minimal medical intervention (like HRT for cisgender women experiencing menopause) requires psychological evaluation and intrusive questioning to be prescribed to transgender patients.

Council mandates

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients

Council further mandates

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients.

Council further mandates

The Comms Officer include information on harm reduction for transgender students seeking DIY Healthcare

Council further mandates

The LGBTRO and Gender Equality Officer to campaign for the improvement of trans healthcare.

Proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

