

Memorandum of Agreement between Trinity College Dublin Students' Union (TCDSU) and the Trinity Hall Junior Common Room (JCR)

Purpose

This Agreement reinforces the joint commitment of the Trinity College Dublin Students' Union (hereinafter referred to as TCDSU) and the Trinity Hall Junior Common Room (hereinafter referred to as the JCR) in developing and supporting effective student engagement and representation within both organisations, and Trinity College Dublin (hereinafter referred to as TCD).

This Agreement does not intend to replace other strategic documents, and respects the provisions of the respective constitutions of TCDSU and the JCR; but rather it is intended as a concise user-friendly document aimed at elucidating areas of shared interest between the two organisations, with a view to improving and enhancing cooperation between members.

Background

As it stands, TCDSU is the only representative body for all students in the College. It has the dual and complementary functions of representing students' interests both inside and outside College and of providing student services.

The JCR acts to create a vibrant atmosphere within the Trinity Hall Campus through event organisation and the provision of student-directed services as well as representing Trinity Hall residents' needs within College, Halls & the Rathmines area.

Responsibilities

In order that the two organisations might avoid discord, and work together to promote the interests of the students of TCD, the two organisations formally agree to cooperate in areas of student interest, and in particular agree to the following:

1. Representation

1.1 Representation on College Committees:

All student representatives on a committee of the College or University shall be appointed by TCDSU, save where that committee's constitution calls for representatives from postgraduate students whereupon the representatives shall be appointed by the GSU. Where appropriate, the JCR may seek the support of the Students' Union in representing the interests of Trinity Hall residents by proxy.

1.2 Representation of the Student Body:

TCDSU is the principal representative body of the undergraduate students of TCD and represents all students. If representation is to be made on an issue that affects all students, the SU shall take action, representing the student body as a whole, with support from the JCR where appropriate.

If representation is to be made on an issue that affects primarily the residents of Trinity Hall, the JCR shall, where appropriate, consult with TCDSU in order to develop a plan to take action, with the appropriate support from TCDSU. This arrangement shall apply to issues that arise both within TCD and externally.

This section is without prejudice to either organisation.

2. Elections

2.1 Representation of the Student Constituencies:

TCDSU shall arrange for the election of representatives from the undergraduate student constituencies as specified in the TCDSU Constitution. These representatives shall be appointed by TCDSU to the TCDSU Council and its associated committees, and to Department, School and Faculty Committees as appropriate.

The JCR shall arrange for the election of representatives from the Trinity Hall student constituencies as specified in the JCR Constitution. These representatives shall be appointed by the JCR to the JCR subcommittees as appropriate.

2.2 Overseeing of Elections:

As per the provisions of the JCR Constitution, the TCDSU Electoral Commission shall oversee the voting process for the annual JCR Committee Elections.

Where appropriate, and with reasonable notice given, the JCR may request the assistance of the TCDSU Electoral Commission in running and/or overseeing any other election.

3. Financial Provision

The TCDSU Administrative Officer shall act as the *de-facto* accountant for the JCR, keeping detailed records of all transactions on behalf of the JCR. For mutual convenience, these records shall be maintained through the TCDSU accounts.

4. Partnership

The JCR Executive and the TCDSU Sabbatical Officer Board shall endeavour to meet once per semester to match prospective participants to identified projects; determine funding required; and to conduct an annual review of the Agreement, where appropriate.

In order to effectively represent the interests of the residents of Trinity Hall, the JCR and TCDSU shall seek to appoint officers of the JCR executive to *ex-officio* positions on both standing and ad-hoc committees of TCDSU Council, where appropriate. Similarly, the JCR shall strive to extend the invitation to their biannual open forums to members of the TCDSU Sabbatical Officer Board, and the TCDSU Union Forum.

5. Communication & Visibility

The TCDSU Communications & Marketing Officer shall invite the JCR President, or their appointed deputy, to submit content of relevance to members of both organisations to the TCDSU Weekly Email.

The Communications Officer of each organisation shall, where appropriate, promote the other's content on their relevant social media pages.

Similarly, the JCR shall, where possible, extend its invitation for participation in the JCR Trinity Hall 'Freshers' Fair' to the TCDSU Sabbatical Officer Board, and the TCDSU Union Forum.

In consultation with the TCDSU Electoral Commission, the JCR shall each year endeavour to host a hustings event during the TCDSU sabbatical election period.

Points of Contact

The Presidents of both TCDSU and the JCR are the primary sponsors of this Agreement. The document will also be signed by the Education Officer of TCDSU and the Vice-President of the JCR, who will endorse it.

Mediation

In the event of conflict between the SU and the JCR, either organisation shall request the Dean of Students to mediate a meeting as a neutral third party. Should such a meeting be convened, the Dean of Students shall hold the casting vote.

Duration of Agreement

This Memorandum of Agreement will be in effect for five years from the date of last signature. Approximately six months before expiration, both parties will discuss expiration or renewal, based on an assessment of the continuing value of the Agreement to both parties.

Following annual review, should both parties agree on any changes to the Agreement, it must be brought forward for noting at the next meeting of TCDSU Council and the JCR Open Forum. The Agreement may be terminated at any time upon written notification by one party to the other.

Signatories: