

TCD Student's Union 7th Constitution Review Working Group Meeting

12th March 2021

12.00pm

Online Zoom Meeting

Chair: Eoin Hand, President
Secretary: Cian Walsh
Minutes: Cian Walsh, Secretary to Council
Simon Evans, Administrative Officer

1. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of Meeting 6, held on 5 March 2021 was approved subject to typos being corrected.

2. **Matters Arising:**

Defer Chapter 7.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

None

3. **Non-Member Submissions:** None

4. **Member Submissions :** None

5. **Discussion Items:**

Chapter 9.

9.1.1c Leon Carroll and Daniel O Reilly both agreed that this required ratification by Council.

9.1.2 Constituencies. Daniel O Reilly felt that this was a very tricky area and we needed to clarify and expand the details in the Constitution as to who can stand and who can vote.

Cian Walsh noted it did not include the conveyors and Daniel O Reilly agreed that there was no record of a list of conveyors or on conveynor details.

Cian Walsh felt there should be a Schedule and Daniel O Reilly felt that separation of roles was also useful. Liam Kavanagh agreed with Dan.

9.2.2 Daniel O Reilly felt we should get rid of this.

Yanick Gloster noted that paid staff and elected staff are different. Legal contracts are useful and openness is important.

Isabel O Connor disagreed with Yanick, she felt that confidential personal details could not be published. General contract details could. Eoin Hand noted that contracts had been updated this year. Daniel O Reilly noted that all sabbatical contracts are the same and it was a good thing to publish general contract details for sabbatical officers. Liam Kavanagh agreed that we should publish a template contract. Yanick did not want to see signed contracts posted. He was happy to have generic details published. Daniel O Reilly noted that Ciaran McNulty's signed contract was on the internet. Cian Walsh agreed that we should publish a template contract separately. Daniel O Reilly disagreed, he wanted the published template posted in this Section. Liam Kavanagh felt this did not warrant a Schedule in the Constitution. Daniel O Reilly proposed that we should merge Sch 2 and Sch 6. Cian Walsh and Liam Kavanagh agreed with this.

9.3 Liam Kavanagh proposed that we leave Schedule 3 Election Regulations and Dates. Yanick Gloster agreed but felt we should discuss it now and he had substantially rewritten a proposed Sch. 3 in light of the recent elections. Daniel O Reilly noted that Sch. 3 is always rushed but it does need to be updated, he also noted that 9.3.2. Election Regulations only referred to sabbatical elections and not referenda or other elections. He also felt it was best to do this after the elections were over and a review could be sent to the 2nd last council of the year. Yanick agreed and he also felt this needs to be constantly reviewed to underpin the regulations. Cian Walsh noted there were a number of errors in this Sch and a draft needs to be done and that this Sch needs to be ratified by council. Daniel O Reilly agreed. This Sch should be codified and then ratified by Council. Only Council could change this. It could also be reviewed in November every year. Council should not be able to change regulations at an arbitrary point. Liam Kavanagh felt we should remove everything except campaign regulations. Council should be able to change regulations. We do need to schedule set dates where changes can be made. He also noted there was lots of scope for the EC to manage the elections process which was a good thing.

Leon Carroll felt there should be a time limit on amending the Constitution.

Daniel O Reilly clarified the situation. Schedule 3 is not fully written. What was required were details on sabbatical elections, class rep elections, school conveynor elections and referenda. In theory a conveynor can run assemblies or elections throughout the year and this schedule needs to cover all elections.

Yanick stated that faculty conveynors do run faculty elections not the EC and this is an issue. Schedule 3 has worked as it is flexible dealing with campaigns. Better definitions are important, and he gave the example of Ents events been accessible where flexibility is needed.

Liam Kavanagh agreed with Yanick. Schedule 3 is ok, it works for campaigns. We need a clear cut separation between campaigns which are dynamic and voting which is static.

Daniel O Reilly Terms of Structure. Voting is separate. Chp 7 needs better Sch 3.

9.3.2 can be broken down and expanded to cover all elections. Sch 3 is badly written, flexibility is needed. The EC are safe to trust and Council can always overrule. He also noted that there was a proud tradition in the SU for finding loop holes. He gave an example of Tinder in Sch 3. He also noted that loopholes were not such a bad thing as they contribute to interest and banter.

Liam Kavanagh. Chapter 5, Schedule 3 Counting Regulations. Procedures need to be fixed.

Megan O'Connor felt that some things needed to be moved from one point in the count to another. Chapter 7 needs to be expanded to include a lot more. Sch 3 does allow for changes and we must be able to amend errors. Daniel O Reilly noted that the online

election process has changed how counting is done. We may need to remove the recount procedure as manual counting is less accurate. Liam Kavanagh thought this was a fair point however electronic voting is not as transparent as the ballots. The counting system is built on open source voting. Daniel O Reilly proposed that we go in camera to discuss online voting. This was agreed.

9.4.1. Policy Manual.

9.4.1b Education officer is not needed. What is the role of the education officer in this section. Daniel O Reilly said clearing up this Sch. has three sections. Access in Irish language policy and no system for a policy without mandate. We should have a Section 3 for policies and this should not be a mandate.

Megan noted that Sch 4 is transparent and is welcome. It needed to be more accessible to everyone. Cian Walsh noted Sch 4 is fine and is accessible. Renewal of mandate is outside of Schedule 4. Liam Kavanagh noted that Sch 4 can be improved and expanded to include all motions, mandates, referenda including constitutional amendments etc.

Daniel O Reilly agreed opening up Sch 4 is a good idea. Showing progress of mandates can be done as a separate schedule. There was a role for the OC here. Megan said Council must be aware of what mandates are falling and need to be renewed. This role can be done by the Secretary to Council. Liam Kavanagh agreed. Daniel O Reilly noted that this is a layout thing and can be presented as motions by the year and motions falling due. He further noted that motions all fall on the same date.

6. AOB

It was agreed that there may be 2 meetings in reading week. Yanick thought this was a good idea however submissions should be made before the meeting which will improve the meeting and the outcomes. Eoin Hand wondered when would we deal with the Union Forum testimonies. It was agreed the next meeting would be Monday 15th 4.30 – 6.30pm.