



# MINUTES

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## COUNCIL

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**Date** 24.11.20

**Location** Virtual

**Time** 7pm

**Chair** Yannick Gloster

**Secretary** Cian Walsh

**Additional minutes by**

Lydia MacBride, Secretary to the OC

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## 1. Approval of Minutes

Miontuairscí

The minutes were approved.

## 2. Matters Arising from Last Council

Pointí ag teacht ón gcuimhniú deireanach

### A. Motion on Reduction of the Student Contribution

**Dillon Broaders, SF Physical Sciences Rep** Proposed the motion. Many TCD students find themselves in worsening financial situations due to the coronavirus and it is immoral for college to continue to charge the same fees considering the long lasting damage to students. Although USI has similar campaign many students want to see the SU locally take action. COVID is no excuse to exploit students. International students had a similar motion passed last Council and Irish students should be taken care of too.

**Shore Oluborode, BESS Convenor** Additionally, because of pandemic, services are not as they would be in college, so it is unjust to expect students to pay for reduced services

**Eoin Hand, President** Urge to vote in favour. Thanked proposer for motion. Good motion with specified and close to home issues that also addresses national issues.

*The motion passed.*

## 3. Items for Noting

Míreanna le tabhairt faoi deara

The items were taken as noted. No questions were asked.

**Procedural Motion A:** Proposed by Eoin Hand, President. Seconded by Daniel

O'Reilly, STEM Convenor.

Proposed to move Motions A-D forward ahead of Elections.

*The procedural motion passed.*

## 4. Suspended Orders

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### A. Motion on Community Liaison PTO

**Eoin Hand, President** Motion will bring back Community Liaison PTO. Fantastic role that gives students opportunity to engage with the union, also reaches out to Dublin suburbs to get students interested involved in small locality things to make new friends.

*The motion passed.*

### B. Motion on Campaigns Committee

**Eoin Hand, President** Campaigns committee is an advisory body for President. Large workload for the President means that there is not much time for campaigns. This campaign will help the President keep the campaigns moving forward.

*The motion passed.*

### C. Motion on TJH Committee

**Megan O'Connor, Education Officer** TJH Convenor has heavy workload, and will increase with TJH plans to expand. Will work in collaboration with College to streamline programme issues right to the top of the programme office.

**Aine Heary** Echoed Education Officer. Will enable more student voices from the programmes to be heard and more issues resolved.

*The motion passed.*

## D. Motion on Communications Committee

**Philly Holmes, Comms & Marketing Officer** Motion to restructure Comms Committee to include Ents, JCR and new members to give purpose to the committee and allow close bodies to work in an advisory role.

*The motion passed.*

## 5. Return to Orders: Elections

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dToghcháin

### A. Community Liaison Officer

Elvita Rimonyte nominated, seconded by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer.

*Elvita Rimonyte was elected without contest.*

### B. Oversight Commission

**Point of Clarification from Cian Walsh, Secretary:** Outlined the role and duties.

2 Ordinary Members

Ewan Viktor Tushkanov was nominated by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer, seconded by Eoin Hand, President.

*Ewan Viktor Tushkanov was elected without contest.*

### C. Electoral Commission

2 Biennial Members

Adam Balchin was nominated, seconded by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer.

*Adam Balchin was elected without contest.*

### D. Constitutional Review Working Group

3 Ordinary Members Liam Kavanagh was nominated, seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convenor.

Daniel O'Reilly was nominated, seconded by Eoin Hand, President.

Mia Brzakovic was nominated, seconded by Eoin Hand, President.

*Liam Kavanagh, Daniel O'Reilly and Mia Brzakovic were elected without contest.*

## E. Communications Committee

*Sponsorship Officer*

Zara Finn was nominated by Philly Holmes, Comms Officer, seconded by Brian Hastings, LGBTRO.

*Zara Finn was elected without contest.*

*Photography and Videography Officer*

Sky Calkins was nominated, seconded by Eoin Hand, President.

*Sky Calkins was elected without contest.*

*Ordinary Member*

Orla O'Regan was nominated, seconded by Philly Holmes, Comms & Marketing Officer.

*Orla O'Regan was elected without contest.*

**Procedural Motion A:** Proposed by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convenor. Seconded by Eoin Hand, President.

Proposed to Discussion Items ahead of Elections.

*The procedural motion passed.*

## 6. Suspended Orders: Discussion Items

### A. National Forum of Teaching and Learning: Teaching Hero Awards

Presented by Courtney McGrath, SS BESS Class Representative

**Courtney McGrath** Teaching Hero Awards are Ireland's only national student-led higher education teaching award, organised by National Forum and USI, and other SUs nationwide. Provides opportunity to recognise outstanding teaching. Students submit pieces on their Teaching Hero, and the nominees receive national recognition. Deadline is 22nd December. Encouraged class reps to send on nom-

ination link.

## B. TCD Against the 27th

*Presented by Gabrielle Fullam, Megan Ní Mhathúna and Eoghan Quinn*

**Procedural Motion A:** Proposed by Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Officer. Seconded by Eoin Hand, President.

Move next item ahead of this one due to technical difficulties.

*The procedural motion passed.*

## C. Continuous Assessment Common Submission Deadline

*Presented by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener*

STEM Convener spoken in regards to the discussion item. Education Officer spoke with concerns in regards to midnight deadlines affecting students sleep. Welfare Equality officer spoke in support of the discussion item, noting that the midnight deadline sets a bad precedent for students work ethics. President spoke in support of the discussion item, in agreement with the previous speakers. STEM Convener notes that there will be a variance of opinion amongst students on the basis of what they are currently used to, advocating for school specific common times as opposed to a college wide one. Communications and Marketing Officer spoke in favour of department specific common deadlines. International Students Officer notes that the deadline differs for students in different time zones and notes that many assignments are expected at the time they would have been had they been hand in assignments as expected. STEM Convener notes the difference of grade value for assignments between departments, suggests a threshold minimum grade for assignments to be considered for the common deadline. Education Officer agrees with previous statements and notes that in regards to International Students that this would be in regards to the long term as opposed to the current system in regards to COVID-19.

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## D. Return to Orders: Discussion Item B

**Gabrielle Fullam** Introduced the topic. Founder and Outreach Officer of TCD Against the 27th. Grassroots movement mobilising in support of migrant rights and citizenship. Specifically looking at bill to reverse effects of the 27th Amendment currently going through the Dail at second stage, as well as another one in the Seanad. Asking for Union mandate and support for movement. 27th amendment was introduced to reverse the effects of Article 19 of the Constitution which guarantees birthright citizenship to anyone born in Ireland. Subsequent legislation was passed to regulate this area. Amendment basically means anyone born on the island of Ireland before 2005 guaranteed citizenship, anyone after is not. the effects are that Irish-born children face legal uncertainties and deportation from their home country. Citizenship is important for work, education and voting rights, and the amendment was brought in under the false assumption that people were coming in to obtain citizenship illegally, which isn't the case. Important relation with Direct Provision - was brought in to deal with legal ramifications of children born in Direct Provision. Student issue as people who were born under this problem will soon be entering third level. Work to raise visibility and encourage involvement.

**Catherine Arnold, SF Philosophy and Sociology Rep** Thanked Ms. Fullam for contribution, reform must be done. Asked for remembrance of Cormac O Braonain. He was passionate about this issue and pushed Labour Youth to campaign for this. Called for moment of silence in his memory.

**Chat** - Is this a motion to abolish or replace?

**Gabi Fullam** - Not abolishing 27th Amendment as such as there are legal means to change it through the Dail. Many people have raised concerns that public referendum can be a platform for racism. Not calling to repeal amendment, just extend citizenship.

**Procedural Motion C:** Proposed by Leah Keogh, Welfare & Education Officer, seconded by Philly Holmes, Communications & Marketing Officer.

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**Leah Keogh** Read out motion for Council.

**Point of Clarification:** Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convenor: Are we voting on motion itself or procedural motion C?

**Yannick Gloster, Chair** Voting on procedural motion.

*The procedural motion passed.*

**Jack Nolan, JF History and Political Sciences Rep** Spoke for motion. Echoed previous speakers, knew Cormac personally and he would have been honoured. Very important stance to take as students and progressive activists. Born Here Belong Here campaign is important and should be recognised by Council.

**Point of Order:** Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convenor: Questioned Chair as to whether motion is strictly constitutional. perhaps better suited as LTP due to the political ideology.

**Yannick Gloster, Chair** Is an interpretation so has to be dealt with by full EC.

**Leah Keogh** Will respect EC opinion. Has done research, LTP would be redundant as motion is specific and it would make no sense to review this in 7 years and would have to go to referendum.

**Daniel O'Reilly** 7 years is not correct, LTP is forever.

**Leah Keogh** That furthers her point, motion is specific. Better use of Council's time to review it again in 2 years, amendment may well be reformed in two years. Awaits EC's ruling.

**Yannick Gloster** EC needs to meet to decide, motion should be postponed.

**Daniel O'Reilly** Sounds like your provisional interpretation is fine, can be ratified later.

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**Yannick Gloster** Chair accepts this.

**Leah Keogh** Need to act now.

**Megan O'Connor, Education Officer** Could we change wording to "support" instead of "formal stance" to get around issue?

**Cian Walsh, Secretary** New wording is no difference. Should move ahead with accepting provisional interpretation.

*The motion passed.*

A break was taken for 7 minutes.

## 7. Return to Orders: Elections

### A. Education Committee

TJH Convener

**Aine Heary was nominated.**

*Aine Heary was elected without contest. Joint Courses Convener*

**Ruaidhri Saulnier was nominated.**

*Ruaidhri Saulnier was elected without contest.*

*Student Representative participating in a professional placement or internship for credit*

**Sophie Cadwell and Aisling Burns were nominated.**

*Sophie Cadwell was elected.*

*Student Representative who has wet lab-based learning*

**Rose Ann, Hannah Heskin, Mia Brzakovic were nominated.**

*Hannah Heskin was elected.*

*Student Representative who is registered with the Disability Service*

**Chloe Staunton was nominated.**

*Chloe Staunton was elected.*

*Student Representative who has gone on or is currently on Erasmus or similar exchange*

Kate Collins was nominated.

*Kate Collins was elected.*

4 Ordinary Members

Claire McNamee - Rían Errity - Iain MacLeod - Lia Spencer - Connor Carp - Aisling Gallagher - Hannah Heskin - Aisling Burns were nominated. *Rían Errity, Connor Carp, Aisling Gallagher and Claire McNamee were elected.*

## 8. Sabbatical Officer Reports

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Tuairisci na n-Oifigeach

- **President** Eoin Hand

President spoke about the need for more breakout spaces on campus. Spoke with FF TD John Lahart. Worked on a campaign encouraging students to wear masks. Working to increase HIV awareness on campus and increased accessibility to rapid testing. Met with Academic Registry in regards to training surrounding dealing with Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Non-Conforming students. Worked on getting a coffee cart added to front square.

- **Education** Megan O'Connor

Education Officer takes report as read. Notes that they are behind on emails. Notes that plans for Semester 2 is still on going.

- **Welfare & Equality** Leah Keogh

Welfare Equality Officer notes the current national issues with image based sexual abuse, noting the support services available to affected students. Notes increased support of Transgender, Non-Binary and Gender Non-Conforming students on both a psychological, financial and legal basis.

- **Communications & Marketing** Philly Holmes

Communications Marketing Officer takes report as read. Currently looking into publishing the SU's finances whilst maintaining GDPR compliance. Notes the SU's relationship with KBC. Notes the upcoming Christmas Give-away. Notes their full social media breakdown report of the various SU social media profiles. Notes their temporary inability to respond to all enquiries on

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social media. Notes that the SU is now able to deliver student leapcards to students. Thanks Oifigeach na Gaeilge for pushing them to increase the inclusion of the Irish language in SU related documents. Notes that they are currently on track to fulfilling their manifesto.

- **Ents** Ents officer discuss the Movember event. Notes Trinity Talants were "a lot of fun". Wrote and edited a number of videos. Notes the upcoming 'Clash of Comics' event.

## 9. Motions

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Rúin

### A. Motion on Graduate Entry Medicine Tuition Fees

Charles Sweeney, JS Physiology Class Representative JS Physiology Class Rep spoke in favour of the motion. Chair reads an email they got in support of the motion from a mature student, who notes that the financial difficulties of mature students. JS Molecular Medicine Class Rep noting the long repayment time of a number of loans available for students. Evan Lawler notes the financial strain on those in financially disprivileged areas. Deputy STEM Convener notes that the tuition fees are "extortionately high". President spoke in favour of the motion.

*The motion passed.*

### B. Mandate on Image-Based Sexual Abuse

Rebecca Kelly, Law Convener Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Officer Proposer of the motion was unable to speak at council. Education Officer spoke on behalf of the initial proposer. SF JH Philosophy/Sociology spoke in support of the motion. Communications Marketing Officer notes the resources available to victims through the SU.

**Procedural Motion E:** Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer. Seconded by Philly Holmes, Comms and Marketing Officer.

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Proposed to change wording to make it gender-neutral as women are not the only ones affected.

*The procedural motion passed.*

*The motion passed.*

## C. Removal of Motion 3 2019/20

Environmental Officer spoke in support of the motion, noting that the Green Campus Committee fulfills the role of the previously mandated Environmental Committee thus making it obsolete.

*The motion passed.*

## D. Motion on Ents Committee

Ents Officer spoke in support of the motion, noting that a number of people held positions on the Ents Committee were not recognised by the constitution. Communications Marketing Officer spoke in favour of the motion.

*The motion passed.*

## 10. Questions

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Ceisteanna

## 11. Any Other Business

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Aon Ghnó Eile

Council voted in favour of allowing the USI Dublin Representative to speak.

USI Dublin Representative notes the current advisory panels. Further notes a number of upcoming events. Notes the Nursing and Midwifery support campaigns progress, the Image Based Sexual Assault support and petition and the Migrant Minds matter launched by MASL and USI. Education Officer notes their praise for

the USI. Welfare Equality Officer gives information on where to find the Migrants' Minds Matter petition. JS Physiology gives thanks to the USI.

Communications Officer announces the winner of the yupcouncil tweets.

No Further Business.

*Council Adjourned at 22:23.*