

TCD Student's Union 5th Council Minutes 2022/23

21 February 2023

Ed Burke Theatre

Chair: Emma Gallagher
Secretary: Maggie Larson
Minutes: Maggie Larson, Secretary to Council
Simon Evans, Administrative Officer

Emma Gallagher welcomed everyone to the 5th Council of 2022/23.

Niko Singband, LGBTRO, proposed a Motion A to suspend standing orders to allow Council to discuss the two Motions on Gender Neutral Bathrooms and Transgender Healthcare. **The Motion was carried.**

5. Motions

(A) Gender Neutral Bathrooms Motion

This Motion was proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO, who urged everyone to support this Motion.

Jenny Maguire, Gender Equality Officer, proposed a motion E to amend the wording to “events held by Trinity Ents must have a gender neutral bathroom available”, to replace “work with college” with “lobby college” and “available in every building” with “widely publicised in every building”. **All amendments were accepted by the proposer.**

The motion was carried.

(B) Transgender Healthcare Motion

This Motion was proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO, who spoke about how important the motion is to them. Niko argued for the importance of trans healthcare, saying Ireland has the worst trans healthcare in the EU.

Jenny Maguire, Gender Equality Officer, proposed a motion to E to amend the motion to insert two additional further mandates. **The proposer accepted the amendment.**

El Flynn suggested that the specific reference to Loughlinstown be removed to make the motion more general.

POI: Jenny Maguire noted that it was specific to Loughlinstown as this is the only public service, so the motion was focused on the government.

Niko accepted the suggestion and changed the wording to “national gender services”.

The motion was carried.

Council voted to admit and give speaking rights to Sierra Muller Owens USI VP for Dublin Region and Clodagh McGivern VP for Academic Affairs to address and make a presentation to Council.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 4th Council meeting held on 31 January 2023 were approved.

2. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

Sierra Muller Owens USI VP for Dublin Region and Clodagh McGivern VP for Academic Affairs addressed Council. Sierra briefed Council on the various roles and structures in USI and areas of USI policy and mandate. Sierra explained how students could bring a new motion or an amendment to a motion, and advised anyone interested in policy to go to USI Comhdhail (Congress), which is a 4-day event in Sligo where sabbatical officers and students make policy. There would be more information about this from the sabbatical officers closer to the time.

Gabi thanked Sierra and Clodagh for their input and urged Trinity students to get involved in USI.

3. Sabbatical Officer Reports

(A) President, Gabi Fullam. Gabi gave a verbal summary of the report, saying she had been working on internal HR matters, looking into non-profit status for the union, overseeing a possible change of voting system and ongoing campaigns.

Questions: Ruadhri Saulnier asked when office hours are. Gabi responded that they are different every week, and can be found in the weekly email.

(B) Education Officers Report. As the Education Officer was on annual leave, the report was taken as read.

(C) Welfare Officer, Chloe Staunton. Chloe asked for her report to be taken as read. She noted that period products would be distributed soon as part of the free period products initiative. There were no questions.

(D) Comms, Julie Smirnova. Julie asked for her report to be taken as read and advised Council that online voter registration would close the following week.

Questions: Ruadhri Saulnier asked if the #yupcouncil hashtag could be brought back. Emma and Julie agreed.

(E) Ents, Max Lynch. As the Ents Officer was not present, the report was taken as read.

4. Items for Noting

EC Report

Emma Gallagher (Chair), presenting the report, explained that as the Education Officer was a candidate in the SU elections it would be a significant conflict of interest for her to continue to hold the role of Secretary to the EC during the election period, and so the EC had taken the decision that a member of the OC would attend EC meetings to take minutes during the election period. So far, this role has been filled by Maggie Larson, the Secretary to Council & OC Chair.

5. Motions

(a) Motion on the Establishment of Off Campus & Clinical Placement Committee

Hannah McAuley, Off Campus Officer, proposed the motion. She urged Council to support the motion, saying that many students in the room wouldn't be affected by it but many of those who are affected are not in the room as they have to work long hours, and that supporting this motion would be a move towards supporting all students.

The motion was carried.

(b) Motion on PTO and Faculty Convenor Reports

The President presented the motion, which was proposed by Union Forum, saying that it would contribute towards Council being more informed and transparency around work done. Ruadhri Saulnier asked how many people actually read the reports to Council. Gabi, in response, said that although we don't know how many people actually read the reports attached to the Council agenda it is an important transparency mechanism as it would not be feasible for every PTO to give a verbal report.

Bev Genockey suggested an amendment to include a mandate to give a verbal report once per term. Gabi responded that an amendment would have to be discussed by Union Forum as a whole.

Yannick Gloster proposed a motion K to refer the item to the following council. Jenny Maguire seconded the motion. Gabi spoke against the motion K, saying that a decision could be made now and then amended if necessary.

The motion K passed, having reached a two-thirds majority of those present.

6. Discussion Items

(A) Report of Open Book Examinations in SSP (updated).

Laszlo Molnarfi presented this discussion item on Open Book Examinations. He briefed Council on the background and reason behind the discussion item, saying that it would be helpful in lobbying for more open book exams.

A quorum count was then called for. Quorum was not met.

7. Questions

There were no questions.

8. Any Other Business

None

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.