



AGENDA

COUNCIL 2

Date 1/11/2022

Chair Emma Gallagher

Location Stanley Quek Theatre, TBSI

Secretary Maggie Larson

Time 6.30pm

1 Minutes

2 Matters arising

3 USI VP for Dublin Region Update

4 Elections

- Welfare & Equality Committee

5 Sabbatical Officer Reports and Questions

6 Items for Noting

7 Motions

- Motion to Amend Terms of Reference for the BDS Implementation Group
 - Motion on Returning from Off-Books
 - Motion on Activist Training
 - Motion on USI Democracy
 - Motion on Cornelius McGrath
 - Motion to Explore Switching Voting System
 - LTP Motion to Mount Pressure on Sports Levy
 - Motion on School Convenor Report to Students
 - Motion on Trade Union Solidarity in Wake of HEA Act
 - Motion on Collaboration with An Taisce
 - Motion to Amend T Fund Proposal
 - Motion for a STEM Ball Mandate
-

8 Discussion Items

- Discussion Item on College Using Us - László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor
- TCD SU Referendum on Irish Unity - Brandon McGrane, TCDSU member

9 Questions

10 Any Other Business

1. Minutes

Miontuairscí

[Minutes of Council 1 18/10/22](#)

2. Matters arising

Pointí ag teacht ón gcruinniú deireanach

3. USI VP for Dublin Region Update

4. Elections

dToghcháin

A. Welfare & Equality Committee

- First Year Representative
- Ordinary Committee Members (3)

5. Sabbatical Officer Reports and Questions

Tuairiscí na n-Oifigeach agus Ceisteanna

[All Reports](#)

- **President** Gabrielle Fullam
[President's Report](#)
 - **Education** Zöe Cummins
[Education Report](#)
 - **Welfare & Equality** Chloe Staunton
[Welfare & Equality Report](#)
-

- **Comms** Julie Smirnova
[Comms Report](#)
- **Ents** Max Lynch
[Ents Report](#)

6. Items for Noting

Míreanna le tabhairt faoi deara

- [Class Rep Elections Report - Electoral Commission](#)
- [OC Report to Council 2 - Oversight Commission](#)
- Faculty Convenor Reports
 - [AHSS Convenor Report](#)

7. Motions

Rúin

A. Motion to Amend Terms of Reference for the BDS Implementation Group

Council notes

The BDS Implementation Group Terms of Reference should be updated to make the committee more efficient and goal-driven.

Council resolves

To amend the members of the committee and improve the Terms of Reference as proposed below.

[Proposed Terms of Reference](#)

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor / Secretary, TCD BDS

Seconded by Zaid Albarghouthi, International Students Officer / Chair, TCD BDS

B. 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/academic/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

C. 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 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

D. 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 one-member one-vote 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

E. Motion on Cornelius McGrath**Council recognises**

that the School of Medicine relies on the generosity of the public to obtain donated bodies to enable students in the learning of human anatomy.

Council further recognises

that the School of Medicine is currently in possession of many historical artefacts and specimens.

Council is aware

that some of these specimens may have been obtained historically by illicit means through the practice of grave robbing and that this practice was not uncommon among elite colleges.

Council acknowledges

that one such specimen is the body of Cornelius McGrath; an individual who had gigantism and who the TCD School of Medicine is still in possession of.

Council is aware

that while some specimens may be useful in learning; the remains in question are not used in lessons and that the continual possession of human remains obtained without consent raises weighty ethical concerns.

Council therefore calls

for the respectful burial of Cornelius McGrath's remains.

Council further calls

for other educational institutions to bury similar remains to respect the wishes or autonomy of the individuals who were stolen.

Proposed by Catherine Arnold, Deputy AHSS Convenor

Seconded by Iain MacLeod, Class Rep, SS SH Philosophy

F. 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 notes with concern

The need for pre-registration caused an issue with the situation of the de-recognition of the GSU, as it caused further delays when postgraduate student representatives had to be elected quickly.

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

G. LTP Motion to Mount Pressure on Sports Levy**Council notes**

Students are facing a housing crisis and ever-increasing fees, and are increasingly finding themselves in difficult financial situations.

Council further notes

In addition to the Students Levies and Charges (SLC), which includes the Sports Centre Development (SCD) charge of €70, we are paying shamefully and increasingly large booking fees in order to use those sports facilities, such as extra charges for badminton, rock climbing wall, the basketball and tennis courts, the classes, both in terms of booking fees and equipment charges.

Council notes

That these charges can add up quickly to become an extra financial burden on students who have to pay these sums in order to stay healthy.

Council finally notes

Students contribute to 88% of Trinity Sport's finances.

Council recognizes

It is not the TCDSU alone that distributes the SCD, but the Capitations Committee. There is no direct power to boycott. However, the TCDSU can mount pressure on College.

Council therefore puts to LTP referendum amendment of LTP motion "LTP 4: Sports Centre Levy" with the following amended wording:

TCDSU should support the continued collection of the Annual Sports Centre charge 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
- College ceases to charge any booking fees and equipment charges for all sports facilities, classes and equipment.

Proposed by Lórien MacEnulty, Sindre Brattegard, Arvind Venkatraman, Jack Dobbie, Julie Bekkevold, Jack O'Brien, Annie Nguyen, Sarah Stock, Brian Shortall, Eoghan Ross, Karina Einicke

Seconded by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

H. 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

I. 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 submis-

sion to Trinity's ongoing consultation.

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

Seconded by László Molnarfi, SSP School Convenor

J. 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

K. Motion to Amend T Fund Proposal

Council notes

That the Transition Fund was expected to undergo a review after its first year.

Council resolves

To amend the original proposal following the review with the attached terms of reference.

[Proposed Terms of Reference](#)

Proposed by Niko Singband, LGBT Rights Officer

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare Equality Officer

L. 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

8. Discussion Items

Ábhair le plé

A. Discussion Item on College Using Us - László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

[Statement link](#)

B. TCD SU Referendum on Irish Unity - Brandon McGrane, TCDSU member

[Statement link](#)

9. Questions

Ceisteanna

- [Submitted Questions](#)
-

- Any Other Questions

10. Any Other Business

Aon Ghnó Eile
