AGENDA

COUNCIL 4

Date 31/1/2023
Location Burke Theatre, Arts Block
Time 6.30pm

Chair Emma Gallagher
Secretary Maggie Larson

1   Minutes

2   Matters arising

3   Sabbatical Officer Reports and Questions

4   Items for Noting

5   Motions
- Affordable Accommodation
- Amendment to 2021/22-15: Motion on Recorded Lectures & Hybrid Learning
- Amendment to 2021/22-23: Motion to support the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance (NEW NAME: 2021/22-23: Motion to Support PhD Groups)
- Motion on Establishment of BAME Advisory Group
- Motion on Fatphobia in College
- Motion on Students Union Voter Registration Requirements
- Motion on the Students Union Running Voter Registration Drives
- LTP Motion on Irish Unity
- Motion on Gender Neutral Bathrooms
- Motion on Transgender Healthcare
- Motion on PTO and Faculty Convenor Council Reports

6   Discussion Items

- Report on Open-Book Examinations in SSP - Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

7   Questions

8   Any Other Business

AGENDA

1. Minutes

Miontuairscí

Minutes of Council 2, 1/11/22

Council 3 / Town Hall, 22/11/22

Minutes of Extraordinary Council, 1/11/22

2. Matters arising

Pointí ag teacht ón gcruinniú deireanach

3. 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

4. Items for Noting

Míreanna le tabhairt faoi deara

- EC Report:

- Minutes

    -

5. Motions

Rúin

A. Affordable Accommodation

Council notes
There is a cost of living crisis, with accommodation being a major subset of it.

Council further notes
TCDSU runs an Accommodation Advisory Service (AAS) to provide advice to students on their accommodation search. As part of this service AAS maintains a DIGs portal, in which rooms in owner-occupied homes are advertised.

Council regrets
That DIGs accommodation is not the most ideal accommodation type, but is often a cheaper alternative for students.

Council further regrets
That many landlords seek to exploit students through charging high rents for their DIGs rooms.

Council notes
That rent caps were introduced this year to help protect students looking for DIGs accommodation via the AAS portal. These rent caps acted as maximum rents that could be advertised on the portal. Any rooms advertised in excess of these rent caps were refused advertisement on the AAS portal.

Council mandates

The Welfare Equality Officer to create and enforce rent caps on the DIGs portal to help limit exploitation of rents for students.

Council further mandates

The Welfare Equality Officer to review the rent caps at the start of their sabbatical term through consultation with relevant interest bodies.

Council further notes

That as per the Housing For All Plan, 20% of all publicly-funded housing projects must be designated as affordable or social housing.

Council regrets

That Trinity College, through its provision of Purpose-Built Student Housing, seeks to monetarily benefit from the housing crisis by charging students high rents.

Council further mandates

That the President, through liaison with the Welfare and Equality Officer, Union Forum, and Campaigns Committee, will strategically campaign for 20% of all new building developments within Trinity to be designated as affordable housing, and for 20% of all rooms on campus to meet affordability requirements.

Proposed by Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer
Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

B. Amendment to 2021/22-15: Motion on Recorded Lectures & Hybrid Learning

Amend 2021/22-15: Motion on Recorded Lectures & Hybrid Learning to append the following to the end of the motion:

Council further notes

According to the IT Services Satisfaction Survey 2022 published, staff identified the outsourcing of A/V support as a barrier to implementing lecture recording. One lecturer is quoted as proposing for improvement: "More dedicated TCD staff

on AV team for teaching - the outsourcing yields people who don't know about teaching in my experience: e.g. Someone from FittingImage trying to tell me that wanting to record Powerpoint plus the document camera in a large lecture theatre in Panopto was not something that was ""normal"". Core business should have core staff dedicated."

Council therefore further mandates
That the President and Education Officer campaign for College to cease outsourcing A/V support to FittingImage and for it to be provided by in-house IT Services, accompanied by the necessary expansion and/or pay rises for such staff.
That the President raise this at the Information Systems Services User Committee and the Education Officer at the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Proposed by Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor
Seconded by Eoin Connolly, JF PPES Rep

C. **Amendment to 2021/22-23: Motion to support the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance (NEW NAME: 2021/22-23: Motion to Support PhD Groups)**

Amend title "Motion to support the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance" to "Motion to Support PhD Groups"

Amend 2021/22-23: Motion to support the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance to remove:

Council therefore mandates
The TCD-SU will adopt a committed stance in support of the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance (TCD PGWA), their aims and objectives as outlined by their charter. This should include active participation in the PGWA campaign and collaboration on campus-based campaigns relevant to both parties.

Amend 2021/22-23: Motion to support the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance to append to the end:

Council therefore mandates

The TCD-SU will adopt a committed stance in support of the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance (TCD PGWA) and the PhD's Collective Action Union (PCAU), their aims and objectives as outlined by their charter. This should include active participation in the PGWA and PCAU campaigns and collaboration on campus-based campaigns relevant to both the PhD Groups and the TCDSU.

Council further mandates
TCDSU support the idea of postgraduate researchers being represented by a workers union at Trinity College Dublin.

Proposed by Jeffrey Seathrún Sardina, PhD at TCD; Eleanor Q. Neil, PhD at TCD; Claudia Peroni, PhD at TCD; Samantha L. Sink PhD at TCD; Claire Poynton-Smith, Phd at TCD; Almudena Moreno Borrallo, PhD at TCD; Natnicha Boonyananth, PhD at TCD; Bruna Chagas de Melo, PhD at TCD; Matt Murtagh-White, PhD at TCD; Maria Ferreira Monteiro, PhD at TCD
Seconded by Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

D. Motion on Establishment of BAME Advisory Group

Council regrets
that minority ethnicities within College, Ireland, and the wider world, are often faced with structural disadvantage and oppression.

Council regrets
that it is often unclear where students of colour and minority ethnicities can go in times of racial injustice.

Council recognises
the importance of oppressed groups being able to organise, collaborate and share ideas together in order to combat oppression.

Council therefore mandates

the establishment of the Black and Minority Ethnicities Advisory Group with the attached terms of reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership Membership of this group will be open access for any TCD Student or Staff member identifying as a minority ethnicity to join.

It shall also consist of: President (ex-officio) Welfare Equality Officer (ex-officio) Ethnic Minorities Officer (ex-officio, Chair) Citizenship Officer (ex-officio, Secretary) Community Liaison Officer (ex-officio) International Officer (ex-officio)

The committee shall elect further positions in subsequent meetings by those in attendance.

The purpose of this committee is for students of colour and minority ethnicities to be able to come together in a shared space, enabling community engagement, and community planning, to inform campaigning carried out by the Union, such as Campaign weeks or relevant motions from council.

The membership of the meetings will be open-access to all minority-ethnicity students. The meetings of the Advisory Group will be published in the weekly newsletter, and its timing and location will be determined by the President and Ethnic Minority Officer and communicated to the Communications Officer.

The BAME Advisory Group will meet at least once every three weeks during term time.

Proposed by Gabi Fullam, President
Seconded by Mihai Mesteru, Ethnic Minority Officer

E. Motion on Fatphobia in College

Council notes
The discrimination and social stigma that fat people face in education, healthcare

and the media.

Council regrets

That facilities, institutions and other programmes in College are not equally accessible to people of all body types, and are often specifically inaccessible for fat people.

Council acknowledges

That the Union has not yet done enough to advocate against fatphobia and has work to do in ensuring its own services are equally accessible to people of all body types.

Council mandates

That the President and the Communications Marketing Officer ensure that all clothing provided to members of the Union or sold in the SU shop are offered in an ample variety of sizes to accommodate people of all body types.

Council further mandates

That the President and Health Sciences Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for medicine and nursing students and for the curriculum of such courses to approach body weight holistically.

Council further mandates

That the President and the Welfare Equality Officer incorporate the principles of weight-bias education in campaign weeks where relevant.

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Citizenship Officer
Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

F. Motion on Students Union Voter Registration Requirements

Council Notes

that students need to pre register to vote in Students Union elections such as Class Representative elections

Council Notes

that some students were unable to vote in Class Representative elections because they didn't register to vote in time

Council Notes

that some students were unaware they had to pre register to vote in Class Representative Elections

Council Mandates

that the need to pre register to vote in Students Union elections such as Class Representative elections is removed

Council Further Mandates

that all members of the Union are automatically registered by the Students Union to vote in all Students Union elections in which they are eligible to vote in.

Proposed by Patrick Keegan, JF BESS Class Rep
Seconded by Melis Asiyo, JF BESS Class Rep

G. Motion on the Students Union Running Voter Registration Drives

Council Notes

that to vote in Irish elections, people must register to vote,

Council Notes

that people's voter registration applications must be received 15 days before an election or referendum to be eligible to vote,

Council Notes

that people must be at least 18 and ordinarily resident in Ireland to vote

Council Notes

that people aged 16 and 17 can add their names to the pending electors list, allow-

ing them to preregister to vote

Council Notes

that Ireland has a population of 5.1 million in 2022, yet only 3.5 million people in Ireland were registered to vote as of April 13, 2020,

Council Mandates

that the Students Union hosts voter registration drives on campus at least once every academic term

Council Further Mandates

that these voter registration drives are advertised on the TCD SU Instagram account and are also advertised on campus, allowing as many students as possible to be aware of them

Sources

- https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/government_in_ireland/elections_and_referen
- https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpr/censusofpopulation2022-preliminaryresults/
- https://www.electionguide.org/countries/id/105/

Proposed by Patrick Keegan, JF BESS Class Rep
Seconded by Melis Asiyo, JF BESS Class Rep

H. LTP Motion on Irish Unity

Council celebrates

The tremendous role of the Good Friday Agreement in achieving peace on the island of Ireland in the twenty-five years since its signing.

Council notes

That partition has a deeply negative effect on students and society both North and

South by stifling social and economic progress and imposing educational barriers.

Council recognises
That the reunification of Ireland will allow for better access to Trinity for Northern students, and will open up new opportunities for all the people of this island.

Council therefore resolves to put forward the following for Long Term Policy referendum:
TCDSU expresses its support for the reunification of Ireland, and will actively and inclusively campaign for Irish unity with recognition for all communities on this island.

Proposed by Liam Kiernan, Megan Tynan, Brandon McGrane, Sionainn Nic Cána, Kennedy Fiorella, Lillian McCarthy, Yusuf Murray, Donal Cronin, Michael Keogh, Saul Sweeney, Eva Carroll, Tiffany Walsh, Patrick Roche, Danny O'Neill, Patrick Keegan, Eleanor McDaid, Cara Nic Giolla Chomhaill, Christine Graves, David Flanagan, Padraic Shaw
Seconded by Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

I. Motion on Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Council notes
Gender neutral bathrooms are important in providing a safe and comfortable college environment for all students.

Council further notes
That several venues which Trinity Ents may use do not have gender-neutral bathroom facilities and it would be unfeasible to find alternatives.

Council therefore mandates
That gender neutral bathrooms be available at all SU events, where possible.

Council further mandates

The Gender Equality Officer, LGBT Rights Officer, and the President to work with college to ensure that fully accessible gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, are available in every building in college.

Proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO
Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

J. Motion on Transgender Healthcare

Council regrets

The current unreasonably long wait times for care and treatment methods at the Loughlinstown national gender service at St. Columcille's Hospital which are massively harmful to the mental health of the transgender patients that the gender clinic is supposed to help.

Council further notes

1) The national gender service only serves 150 patients per year (3 patients per week) due to understaffing while over 300 patients are referred per year. 2) Care that is provided to cisgender patients with minimal medical intervention (like HRT for cisgender women experiencing menopause) requires psychological evaluation and intrusive questioning to be prescribed to transgender patients.

Council mandates

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at Loughlinstown and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients

Council further mandates

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients.

Proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO
Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

K. Motion on PTO and Faculty Convenor Council Reports

Council notes
The important work that Part Time Officers and Faculty Convenors carry out for and on behalf of the union, and the value of student feedback in the carrying out of that work.

Council also notes
That one of the most effective ways for officers of the union to gather feedback on their work is through reports to Council.

Council regrets
That given the large number of Part Time Officers and Faculty Convenors, it would not be feasible for them to give verbal reports at Council

Council therefore mandates
Part Time Officers and Faculty Convenors to submit a written report for noting to each Ordinary sitting of Council, the format of these reports shall be decided by Union Forum at the first meeting of Union Forum in the academic year.

Proposed by Union Forum
Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

6. Discussion Items
Ábhair le plé

A. Report on Open-Book Examinations in SSP - Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

Document link

7. Questions

- Submitted Questions

- Any Other Questions

8. Any Other Business

Aon Ghnó Eile