



# AGENDA

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## COUNCIL 6

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**Date** 21/3/2023

**Chair** Emma Gallagher

**Location** Burke Theatre, Arts Block

**Secretary** Maggie Larson

**Time** 6.30pm

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### 1 Minutes

### 2 Matters arising

### 3 Sabbatical Officer Reports and Questions

### 4 Items for Noting

### 5 Motions

- Motion on PTO and Faculty Convenor Council Reports
- Motion on Fairness in the Workplace and Employer Training
- Motion on Provision of Period Products
- Motion to Amend International ASAP Fund Terms of Reference
- Motion on Election Expenses

### 6 Discussion Items

- TCDSU Report on Long-Term Postgraduate Representation - Julie Smirnova, Communications & Marketing Officer
- Discussion Item on StudentSurvey - Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

### 7 Questions

### 8 Any Other Business

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## 1. Minutes

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MiontuaircÍ

[Minutes of Council 5, 21/2/23](#)

## 2. Matters arising

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Pointí ag teacht ón gcruinniú deireanach

## 3. Sabbatical Officer Reports and Questions

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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](#)
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## 4. Items for Noting

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### Míreanna le tabhairt faoi deara

- Reports [All Reports](#)
  - [Oifigeach na Gaeilge](#)
  - [Ethnic Minorities Officer](#)
  - [Off Campus Officer](#)
  - [Officer for Students with Disabilities](#)

## 5. Motions

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### Rúin

#### A. 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

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Union Forum at the first meeting of Union Forum in the academic year.

**Proposed by** Union Forum

**Seconded by** Gabi Fullam, President

## **B. Motion on Fairness in the Workplace and Employer Training**

### **Council reaffirms**

that TCDSU is a united front of students, serving to represent the interests of its members to the College and other bodies.

However,

### **Council notes**

that beyond this, TCDSU has become a large organisation, with many full and part time employees.

### **Council further notes**

that due to the democratic nature of the union, the chief executive officer of the Union is, by necessity, a recent student, who may not be equipped to deal entirely with the intricacies of workplace relations.

### **Council strives**

for fairness in the workplace, financial transparency, and equality in all its pursuits.

### **Council therefore mandates**

the outgoing President to provide training to the incoming President, on current issues within TCDSU as a workplace, and organise basic employer training for the incoming President.

**Proposed by** Gabi Fullam, President

**Seconded by** Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

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## **C. Motion on Provision of Period Products**

### **Council notes**

That period poverty and period dignity are issues facing the student and staff population at Trinity.

### **Council further notes**

That there are many gender equality issues pertaining to menstruation and that provision of free period products is only a small part of the entire problem.

### **Council recognises**

That sourcing funding can be difficult, but lobbying is a core element of the sabbatical officers' jobs, and the provision of menstruation products is crucial.

### **Council therefore mandates**

The Welfare & Equality Officer to continue seeking funding for period products at Trinity, so that students can get free products at college.

### **Council further mandates**

The Welfare & Equality Officer to strive to have products available in a range of bathrooms including female, male, gender-neutral and accessible across the Trinity campuses.

**Proposed by** Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer

**Seconded by** Julie Smirnova, Communications Marketing Officer

## **D. Motion to Amend International ASAP Fund Terms of Reference**

### **Council appreciates**

The need for financial support for international students due to high tuition, increasing inflation and exchange rates and lack of access to supports that exist for

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domestic students.

### **Council notes**

That the pressing factors facing international students vary, and are often influenced by unexpected world events. The earthquake in Turkey and Syria has been a recent world event posing significant financial issues for many Trinity students.

### **Council notes**

That the International ASAP Fund is expected to undergo a review after its first and second year.

### **Council Resolves**

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

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

Logistics:

- 30,000 allocation from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) Fund to be spent over the course of three years.
  - 20,000 to be made available for the 2021/22 academic year with 5,000 available for the academic years of 2022/23 and 2023/24.
  - Any unused funds are to be redistributed in the following academic year.
  - Applications to be submitted to TCDSU's Welfare Equality Officer who will bring it to a panel for distribution.
  - The panel should consist of
    - TCDSU Welfare Equality Officer
    - TCDSU International Officer
    - TCDSU Ethnic Minorities Officer
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- Member of staff from Senior Tutor's Office
- Funding to be held and distributed by TCDSU's Administrative Officer.

#### Criteria:

- For the 2022/23 academic year the International ASAP Fund will primarily focus on students affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.
- Any student who is registered as an international student or who is a recipient of the ASAP scholarship and has been affected by the earthquake may submit an application to the fund.

#### Review:

- The fund shall be reviewed twice in May 2022 and May 2023 by the Welfare and Equality Officer, International Student Officer and the Ethnic Minorities Officer.
- Fund to be reviewed by:
  - The Welfare & Equality Officer
  - The International Part-Time Officer
  - The Ethnic Minority Officer

**Proposed by** Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer

**Seconded by** Zaid Albarghouthi, International Students Officer and Mihai Mesteru, Ethnic Minorities Officer

## **E. Motion on Election Expenses**

### **Council Notes**

That the cost of running for election can be prohibitive, and exclude high quality candidates from contesting elections on the basis of their financial circumstances.

### **Council Commends**

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The current election expenses system in place at TCDSU, whereby candidates' materials are purchased on their behalf by the union prior to the election period, and later repaid by the candidate in a mutually agreed upon system, which can include payment by instalments, or access to financial assistance.

### **Council Recognises**

That it is very rare that non sabbatical officers contest elections to the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Coiste Gnó (Executive Board). One such barrier to full-time students contesting these elections could be the costs associated with running.

### **Council Further Notes**

There is a spending limit of 350 for campaign materials used by candidates in USI elections, which is considerably higher than the spending limit for materials in TCDSU elections.

### **Council Mandates**

If a member of TCDSU contests a USI election, TCDSU will cover the cost of their election expenses, to be later repaid by the candidate in a mutually agreed upon way.

### **Council Further Mandates**

If the candidate receives the support of TCDSU in their election such that the TCDSU delegation to USI Congress is mandated to vote for them in their election, this repayment of elections expenses shall be waived.

**Proposed by** Bev Genockey, László Molnarfi, Kate Hyland, Conall O'Dwyer, Adam Hanlon, Sanjana Pradheep, Aoife Bennet, Erin Labuschagne, Isobel Duffy, Stephanie Foley

**Seconded by** Zaid Albarghouthi, International Students Officer

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## 6. Discussion Items

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Ábhair le plé

**A. TCDSU Report on Long-Term Postgraduate Representation - Julie Smirnova, Communications & Marketing Officer**

[Document link](#)

**B. Discussion Item on StudentSurvey - Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor**

[Document link](#)

## 7. Questions

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Ceisteanna

- [Submitted Questions](#)
- Any Other Questions

## 8. Any Other Business

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Aon Ghnó Eile

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