



AGENDA

COUNCIL 7

Date 11/4/2023

Location Burke Theatre, Arts Block

Time 6.30pm

Chair Emma Gallagher

Secretary Maggie Larson

1 Minutes

2 Matters arising

3 Elections

- Electoral Commission
- Oversight Commission
- Faculty Convenors
- PTOs
- BDS Implementation Group

4 Sabbatical Officer Reports and Questions

5 Items for Noting

6 Motions

- Honorary Membership of Senator Alice Mary Higgins
 - Honorary Membership of Sean Binder
 - Honorary Membership of Bev Genockey
 - Nomination of Lynn Ruane to Board of Trustees
 - Motion on Provision of Period Products
 - Motion to Amend International & ASAP Fund Terms of Reference
 - Motion on Election Expenses
 - Motion to Extend Position of Off-Campus Officer
 - Motion on Union Engagement
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- Motion on the creation of a report considering TCDSU's stance on USI membership
- Motion on the Creation of the Volunteer Forum
- Motion to Update Diversity in STEM ToR
- Motion on mitigating measures to remove barriers to engagement of students who speak English as a Second Language (ESL)

7 Discussion Items

8 Questions

9 Any Other Business

1. Minutes

Miontuairscí

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

2. Matters arising

Pointí ag teacht ón gcruinniú deireanach

3. Elections

Toghcháin

A. Electoral Commission

- Chair of Council / Chair of the Electoral Commission
- Annual Member (4)
- Biennial Member (1)

B. Oversight Commission

- Secretary to Council / Chair of the Oversight Commission
- Ordinary Member (4)

C. Faculty Convenors

- AHSS Convenor
- STEM Convenor
- HS Convenor

D. PTOs

- Citizenship Officer
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- International Students Officer
- LGBT+R Officer
- Mature Students' Officer
- Officer for Students with Disabilities
- Oifigeach Na Gaeilge
- Gender Equality Officer
- Student Parent Officer
- Off-Campus Officer *
- Ethnic Minorities Officer
- Environmental Officer
- Access Officer
- Volunteer Forum Coordinator
- Engagement Officer **

* subject to ▪ Motion to Extend Position of Off-Campus Officer

** subject to ▪ Motion on Union Engagement

E. BDS Implementation Group

- Chair
 - Secretary
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4. 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](#)
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5. Items for Noting

Míreanna le tabhairt faoi deara

- Reports [All Reports](#)
 - [Oifigeach na Gaeilge](#)
 - [Citizenship Officer](#)
 - [International Students' Officer](#)
 - [LGBTRO](#)
 - [Volunteer Forum Coordinator](#)

6. Motions

Rúin

A. Honorary Membership of Senator Alice Mary Higgins

Council Notes:

That direct political engagement in lobbying and protesting the Government can often help TCDSU achieve its goals.

Council further notes:

That political allies on important issues affecting students can be invaluable towards the student movement.

Council applauds:

Senator Alice Mary Higgins' continuous communication with TCDSU, facilitation of student involvement. Further to this end, the work she did in calling on Minister Harris to amend the bill in many forms, in particular to include specifically student union representation, and to prevent the bill from being unnecessarily guillotined in the Seanad.

Council further applauds

Senator Alice Mary Higgins' fight for trade union representation in the HEA Bill.

Council therefore elects

Senator Alice Mary Higgins as an Honorary Member of TCDSU.

Proposed by Gabrielle Fullam, SU President

Seconded by TCDSU Sabbatical Board

B. Honorary Membership of Sean Binder

Council Notes

That we live in a time of mass demonisation and vilification of migrants. Migration has been a natural fact of our world since the beginning of humanity, and is often a result of social, economic, political, and climate-related upheaval. At the moment, we see the horrific practice of Direct Provision persist in Ireland, and we are dealing with the consequences of the removal of citizenship rights for children born in Ireland to parents without Irish citizenship.

Council Recognizes

That Seán Binder is a graduate in Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, and Sociology (PPES) at Trinity College. His studies informed his human rights' views, and during his time in Trinity he volunteered with the Vincent de Paul (VDP) Society and was a member of the Dublin University Swimming Club (DUSC). After graduation, Seán obtained a Masters' degree in International Relations at the London School of Economics. In 2018 he was arrested by Greek authorities for his efforts to rescue migrants on Lesbos island as part of his volunteer work with Emergency Response Centre International — since then, he has been a leading activist in the area of migrant rights.

Council Believes

That it is not a crime to help people — it is the most humane thing a person can do. Everyone has a right to lead a safe and dignified life.

Council Commends

Seán Binder for acting with integrity, and putting his beliefs into practice in the most meaningful way possible.

Council Elects

Seán Binder as an Honorary Member of TCDSU Council

Proposed by Gabrielle Fullam, SU President

Seconded by TCDSU Sabbatical Board

C. Honorary Membership of Bev Genockey

Council Recognises:

That Students' Unions cannot exist, and thrive without the voluntary commitment of students to uphold the mission of the Union.

Council Notes:

Article 1.2 of the TCDSU Constitution providing:

“Council may award, as a token of honour or service, to such persons or organisations, as it sees fit, Honorary Membership of the Union. Honorary Membership shall confer no rights, privileges, or obligations to an Honorary Member or on the Union to an Honorary Member”

Council Also Notes:

The many contributions of Bev Genockey over the past four years with the Union; as Class Rep, Programme Convenor, Deputy STEM Convenor, Chair of Diversity in STEM, Education Officer, and all round hack.

Council Also Notes:

That Bev continuously contributed to the betterment of our Union both during her time in the aforementioned roles and as a member of the Union, continuously providing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the student body at all times.

Council Also Notes:

That Bev's time with TCDSU has been marked by numerous positive contributions to TCDSU. She has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the lives of students, advocating for their rights and has worked tirelessly to create a more welcoming and supportive campus environment. Bev's legacy in TCDSU, and the national student movement will continue to be felt for years to come.

Council Therefore Awards:

Honorary Membership of TCDSU upon Bev Genockey in recognition of her service to students and to the mission of the student movement in Trinity and nationally.

Proposed by Caoimhe Molloy - Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Eoghan Gilroy - AHSS Faculty Convenor, Zaid Al-Barghouthi - International Students Officer, Connor Dempsey - Citizenship Officer, Roisin Rafferty - School of Natural Sciences Convenor, László Molnarfi - SSP Convenor, Stephanie Foley, Kate Hyland, Adam Hanlon, Conall O'Dwyer, Sanjana Pradheep, Ethan Hutchinson, Jenny Maguire - Gender Equality Officer, Emily O'Mahony - SS Zoology Class Representative, Eve Fitzgerald, and Leesha Curtis - Law Convenor

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

D. Nomination of Lynn Ruane to Board of Trustees**Council notes**

that the TCDSU Board of Trustees is a central element of our governance structure. Much of the work that the union does would not be possible without the support of the Board of Trustees and the trust and guidance the Board provides on key and important issues.

Council notes

that Lynn Ruane, currently serving as an independent Senator for the Dublin University constituency of Seanad Eireann. She has been a strong voice for the Student Movement there, being an advocate for funding and autonomy for third level

institutions. Beyond that she has deep knowledge of TCD and TCDSU, having previously served as TCDSU President herself.

Council further notes

that Senator Lynn Ruane has shown a commitment to justice in campaigning and supporting, equity of access to well-funded, accessible and inclusive education, progressive approaches to criminal justice, harm-reduction, gender equality and reproductive rights, and empowerment for working-class, migrant and Traveller communities.

Council believes

that the expertise of Lynn Ruane would be incredibly valuable to TCDSU.

Council therefore nominates

Lynn Ruane to membership of the Board of Trustees, until such time as she resigns or is removed in accordance with the Constitution.

Proposed by Gabrielle Fullam, SU President

Seconded by László Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

E. 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

F. 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 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
 - 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

G. 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

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

H. Motion to Extend Position of Off-Campus Officer

Council Notes

The valuable work of the Off-Campus PTO and the importance of representation for off-campus students.

Council Mandates

The renewal of the Off-Campus PTO position so that the work of the PTO may be carried on and ensure that students are not left without representation.

Proposed by Hannah McAuley, Off Campus Officer

Seconded by Ailish Smith, Mature Students Officer

I. Motion on Union Engagement

Council regrets

The disengagement that many members of the Union feel with its institutions.

Council acknowledges

That the institutions of the Union can still be inaccessible or unclear to many members despite the hard work put into improving visibility and transparency in recent years.

Council accepts

That there is more work to be done in improving how the Union engages with, and represents, its members.

Council notes

That such work to improve engagement should be done collaboratively, thoroughly and with priority.

Council therefore mandates

That there shall be an Engagement Officer, who shall have the following responsibilities:

- To chair the Engagement Working Group and, according to its Terms of Reference, organise its business.
 - To produce a report to Council once per term, in collaboration with the Engagement Working Group, with recommendations and suggestions for improving engagement within the Union and the running of Council.
 - To organise events and communications during Freshers' Week educating members about the Union's institutions, campaigns, initiatives and history.
 - To, in collaboration with other officers and the Electoral Commission, work on recruitment for PTO, Class Rep and Committee elections when they oc-
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cur, and to encourage unsuccessful candidates to remain involved in Union activity.

- To liaise with student-led campaign groups on campus and, where relevant, assist in establishing new groups in collaboration with the Citizenship Officer.

Council further mandates

That there shall be an Engagement Working Group, with the following Terms of Reference:

The membership of the Engagement Working Group shall consist of:

- Engagement Officer (Chair, ex-officio)
- President (ex-officio)
- Education Officer (ex-officio)
- Communications Marketing Officer (ex-officio)
- Chair of Council (ex-officio)
- Secretary to Council (ex-officio)
- Two representatives of Union Forum, selected by anonymous application, to serve from selection until the end of the current sabbatical officer term.
- Three ordinary members, elected at First Council, to serve from election until the end of the current sabbatical officer term.
- One ordinary member, selected by the Chair, who previously served on the Electoral Commission or the Oversight Commission, to serve from appointment until the end of the current sabbatical officer term.

The duties of the Engagement Working Group shall be:

- To explore the issues of engagement within the Union, and in doing so, collect data, invite testimonies and produce recommended reforms.
 - To assist the Engagement Officer in conducting outreach to members of the
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Union and student-led campaign groups, particularly with respect to ensuring these mandates are carried out most effectively.

The meetings of the Engagement Working Group shall:

- occur on an ad hoc basis.
- follow the format of:
 - Approval of Minutes;
 - Matters Arising;
 - Submissions from Committee Members;
 - Any Other Business.
- take place not less than two times in a term.
- include other members invited by the Chair for specific meetings or agenda points, such that it has the approval of the Committee.

To hold the Engagement Working Group accountable, the following measures will be required:

- To produce a report to Council once per term with recommendations and suggestions for improving engagement within the Union and the running of Council.
- To submit all approved minutes to Council as an Item for Noting.
- To review its own performance and these Terms of Reference and submit a report of its conclusions and recommendations to Council on or before January 31st, 2024.

[Engagement Officer & Engagement Working Group TOR](#)

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Citizenship Officer

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer

J. Motion on the creation of a report considering TCDSU's stance on USI membership

Council notes

That Trinity College Dublin Students Union (TCDSU) sends a delegation of representatives to Union of Students Ireland (USI) congress annually.

Council recognises

That there has been a general lack of engagement from the student body with USI and a lack of understanding of what USI does for our students inside and outside of TCDSU.

Council notes

USI has benefits (e.g., lobbying on the national level) and negatives (e.g., paying dues) and that the student population deserves to understand these benefits and negatives to a greater extent.

Council further notes

TCDSU is arguably the most well-established student unions while also being one of the largest with advanced communication and engagement strategies. As a result, there is the possibility that USI can learn from TCDSU in some respects.

Council acknowledges

A lack of understanding of the benefits and negatives the USI provides can cause confusion and frustration among the student population and that an assessment of these benefits and negatives would clarify the situation for students.

Council therefore mandates

The incoming Education Officer to publish a report exploring the implications of USI membership in communication with relevant USI representatives and that the results of this report be publicised to council during the incoming year.

Council further mandates

This issue is revisited once the report is published and communicated effectively to the student body in an effort to accurately evaluate membership and engagement with USI going forward.

Proposed by Harry Hannon, JF Biology & Biomed Class Rep

Seconded by Catherine Arnold, Deputy AHSS Convenor

K. Motion on the Creation of the Volunteer Forum

Council Notes:

That the work undertaken by volunteers on Trinity campus is meaningful and positively impactful.

Council further notes:

That there are no longer any official channels for stakeholders in student volunteering to promote and enhance this work on campus.

Council recognises:

That the systems currently in place to document and student volunteering have not been adequately promoted and are thus neglected.

Council therefore regrets:

That the diligent efforts of students to foster a better community often fails to get the recognition that it deserves.

Council resolves:

To establish the Volunteer Forum with the attached terms of reference.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership

- Volunteer Forum Coordinator (Chairperson, ex-officio)
- Ents Officer (Secretary, ex-officio)
- First Year Representative, elected at first council
- Two Ordinary Committee Members, elected at first council

Duties:

- The purpose of this committee is for student volunteers to be able to come together in a shared space to organise RAG week and any other campaigns and to leverage Union and College assets to promote volunteering on campus.
- The VF will be working to promote the spirit of volunteerism across Campus and aim to support current volunteering activities within Trinity. By developing a bond between volunteers, they hope to create a common-cause and a feeling of community.
- TF will endeavour to raise support and awareness amongst both the local and business community and to provide a forum for the discussion of volunteer issues, sharing resources and information.
- Along with standing members, presidents of volunteering societies and college staff will be invited to attend meetings of the committee, as seen fit by the chair.

Accountability: Approved minutes shall be submitted to Council

Meetings:

- Meetings shall be arranged on an ad-hoc basis.
- There shall be a minimum of two meetings per teaching term.

Proposed by Ben Heskin, Volunteer Forum Coordinator

Seconded by Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

L. Motion to Update Diversity in STEM ToR

Council Regrets:

The underrepresentation of diversity within the STEM Faculty

Council Notes:

In order to combat this, the Diversity in STEM campaign must be as interactive and accessible as possible.

Council also Notes:

The current application process is time-consuming and reduces the amount of campaigning that can occur. The current process of application often leads to absenteeism.

Council Mandates:

The Diversity in STEM organising committee's Terms of Reference must be updated to remove the application process and elect students at the first STEM Faculty Assembly of each academic year. New Terms of Reference are attached.

[Terms of Reference](#)

Proposed by Faye Murphy, Deputy STEM Convenor (Chair of Diversity in STEM)

Seconded by Sean Lysaght, STEM Convenor

M. Motion on mitigating measures to remove barriers to engagement of students who speak English as a Second Language (ESL)

Council notes

That Trinity College Dublin enrolls students representing over 122 countries at the date of drafting this motion.

Council also notes

That some members speak English as a Second Language, and that Council/ elec-

tions hustings operate in English and As Gaeilge.

Council further notes

That multiple bodies that run activities involving the delivery of speeches have introduced ESL mitigation measures.

Council regrets

That given the strict time limits for speaking at Council and hustings, and instant translation not being a feasible option, it might be disadvantageous for a member who speaks English as a Second Language to be subject to the same limits when speaking at Council.

Council therefore mandates

The introduction of a set of mitigation measures for members with ESL when speaking at TCDSU Council subject to the following:

- Eligibility criteria for availing of the below mitigation measures shall be at the discretion of Chair of Council and must be reviewed by the Chair on a yearly basis.
- When deciding the eligibility of a member to avail of the ESL Status, the Chair must give consideration to:
 - The language the member identifies as their first language.
 - Whether any linguistic barriers exist for the member to speak at Council or TCDSU Election Hustings.

Council further mandates

That once a member is deemed eligible for ESL status by the Chair of Council, they are offered additional time when speaking publicly at any TCDSU meetings subject to speaking time limits, whereby the additional time is clearly communicated by the Chair at the beginning of each Academic Year as a percentage of the time ordinarily allotted for the standing order in question with the status being valid for the full Academic Year it is granted in.

Proposed by Zaid Albarghouthi, International Students' Officer

Seconded by László Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

7. Discussion Items

Ábhair le plé

8. Questions

Ceisteanna

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

9. Any Other Business

Aon Ghnó Eile
