



AGENDA

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

Date 1/12/2022

Location Online Only

Time 6.30pm

Chair Emma Gallagher

Secretary Maggie Larson

1 Minutes

2 Matters arising

3 Elections

- Electoral Commission (EC)

4 Items for Noting

5 Motions

- Motion on PTO and Faculty Convenor Council Reports
 - Amendment 2021/22-15: Motion on Recorded Lectures & Hybrid Learning
 - Motion on the Students Union Running Voter Registration Drives
 - Boycott of Qatar FIFA World Cup
 - Motion on Establishment of BAME Advisory Group
 - Motion on Students Union Voter Registration Requirements
 - Motion on TCDSU Email Address for Administrative Officer
 - Motion on Gender Neutral Bathrooms
 - Motion on Transgender Healthcare
 - Motion on Fatphobia in College
 - Affordable Accommodation
 - Motion on Human Rights Abuses in Iran
 - Motion on Communications Marketing Officer Council
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- The provision of free sanitary products (tampons etc.) in all bathrooms and buildings around campus rather than only the Student Union building.

6 Questions

7 Any Other Business

1. Minutes

Miontuairscí

[Minutes of Council 2, 1/11/22](#)

2. Matters arising

Pointí ag teacht ón gcruinniú deireanach

3. Elections

dToghcháin

A. Electoral Commission (EC)

- Annual Member (1)

4. Items for Noting

Míreanna le tabhairt faoi deara

- EC Report: [Schedule 3](#)
 - Faculty Convenor Reports
 - [STEM Convenor Report](#)
 - PTO Reports
 - [Citizenship Officer](#)
 - [LGBT Rights Officer](#)
 - [Mature Students Officer \(MSO\)](#)
 - [Oifigeach na Gaeilge \(OnaG\)](#)
 - [Ethnic Minorities Officer \(EMO\)](#)
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- Environmental Officer
- Access Officer
- Volunteer Forum Coordinator
- Minutes
 - Union Forum
 - * UF 1
 - * UF 2
 - * UF 3

5. Motions

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

Proposed by Union Forum

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

B. Amendment 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. 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, allowing 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/>
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- <https://www.electionguide.org/countries/id/105/>

Proposed by Patrick Keegan, JF BESS Class Rep

Seconded by Melis Asiyo, JF BESS Class Rep

D. Boycott of Qatar FIFA World Cup

Council recognises

that public sporting events can have meaningful impacts on community building, public health, and social engagement.

Council however, regrets

that the Qatar FIFA World Cup failed to treat its workers with respect and dignity.

Council notes

that Human Rights Agencies such as Amnesty International have reported that migrant workers, predominantly from Nepal, Bangladesh and India have paid expensive recruitment fees, faced appalling working conditions, and experienced reduced and/or delayed salaries. It is further noted that workers have not been provided legally required ID cards or residency permits, leaving them fearful to leave the workers site or camp. notes with horror that over 234 migrant workers working on the Khalifa Stadium and the Aspire Zone have been abused and exploited, with some experiencing forced labour.

Council therefore mandates

a boycott of the Qatar World Cup.

Council further mandates

that the President lobby relevant bodies within Trinity, as well as nationally and internationally, to abstain from showing coverage of the Qatar World Cup or promoting it in any form, while maintaining vocal opposition to the coercive conditions that the workers were subjected to.

Proposed by Gabrielle Fullam, President

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

E. 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) Ethnic Minorities Officer (ex-officio, Chair) Community Liaison Officer (ex-officio) Citizenship Officer (ex-officio, Secretary)

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. The EMO will include minutes of the meetings in their report to council.

Proposed by Gabi Fullam, President

Seconded by Mihai Mesteru, Ethnic Minority Officer

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 Asiyó, JF BESS Class Rep

G. Motion on TCDSU Email Address for Administrative Officer

Council notes

That the Administrative Officer of the TCDSU does not have an official TCDSU email address (tcdsu.org) that they use, but uses a Trinity email address (tcd.ie).

Council is concerned

That this is not transparent as oversight is not able to be provided for by the Union, may pose difficulties with GDPR-compliance and is giving away institutional autonomy to Trinity College Dublin.

Council therefore mandates

That the TCDSU create an official TCDSU email address for the Administrative Officer, which they must use for any TCDSU-related business.

Proposed by Laszlo Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

Seconded by Patrick Flynn, Class Rep, Biological and Biomedical Sciences

H. 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

I. 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

J. 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

K. 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

L. Motion on Human Rights Abuses in Iran

Council regrets

The numerous human rights abuses committed by the Government of Iran, and specifically those committed while suppressing the protests following Mahsa Amini's death.

Council mandates

That TCDSU takes an official stance condemning these human rights abuses in Iran.

Council further mandates

That the President and Citizenship Officer organise campaigns bringing awareness to these human rights abuses, and to support and platform students who seek to organise similar events.

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Citizenship Officer

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

M. Motion on Communications Marketing Officer Council

Council appreciates

The work of the Communications and Marketing Officer.

Council notes

The report of the Communications Officer and Marketing that is presented to Council.

Council believes

In the report there should be details relating to social media and the appearances of the TCDSU in the press.

Council therefore mandates

That the Communications and Marketing Officer attaches as an annex to their Council report a social media report and a list of media/press appearances to which TCDSU gave comment in the 30 days prior to Council report submission.

Proposed by Julie Smirnova, Communications and Marketing Officer

Seconded by László Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

N. The provision of free sanitary products (tampons etc.) in all bathrooms and buildings around campus rather than only the Student Union building.

Council supports

the provision of free sanitary products etc... to all students at Trinity College

However,

Council regrets

that these products are sometimes not accessible to students when they are needed considering size of the campus. Therefore,

Council recommends

that the Student Union provide this brilliant service to all bathrooms and buildings across Trinity College to make sure that there accessible to all students when they need it.

Proposed by John Crofton, JF European Studies Class Rep

Seconded by Jordan Moran, JF JH Spanish Class Rep

6. Questions

Ceisteanna

- Opportunity for Questions

7. Any Other Business

Aon Ghnó Eile
