

TCD Students' Union Extraordinary Council Minutes 2022/23

1 December 2022

Zoom

Chair: Emma Gallagher
Secretary: Maggie Larson
Minutes: Maggie Larson, Secretary to Council
Members of the Oversight Commission

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 2nd Council meeting, held on 1/11/22, were approved.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising from the minutes.

3. Elections

1. Electoral Commission

- a. Annual Member: Astro was elected.

4. Items for Noting

a. EC Report: Schedule 3

Bev makes the following comments:

- Commends the EC for meeting with CSC, but takes issue with 2.2c, which states that candidates must tell the EC 48 hours ahead of time if they plan to attend a society event; feels that it is overly restrictive and doesn't make a difference in whether they can campaign
- Schedule 3 has removed all responsibilities from the Secretary other than reading out the list of candidates - these duties are secretarial and time-consuming and so makes sense that they should fall to the full-time sabbatical officer on the EC.
- Secretary role on EC - what happens to this role if the Education Officer runs? Would the role be filled by another EC member, by-election, another current or former sabbatical officer? Bev believes the secretary role couldn't be filled by a full-time student due to the time-consuming duties mentioned previously
- No provision for what happens if a current sabbatical officer runs - Bev feels that this should be included in Schedule 3 in the interest of fairness to ensure people know ahead of time what to expect - schedule 3 specifies that the welfare officer will meet with candidates, education officer has EC responsibilities - what happens to these roles if they run? Previously, when Leah Keogh ran, she had to take annual leave and didn't have access to her office during the campaign period

Emma asks Bev if she is suggesting a specific provision for sabbats. Bev says that when Leah Keogh ran rules were made up as they went along, and that given that the EC has made provisions for the potential endorsement of societies for students who are in societies and evening the playing field, what measures will be taken to level the playing field if a sabbat runs?

Emma said that the EC would implement the same measures as when Leah Keogh ran, with the annual leave and restricted access. Bev asked why this was omitted from Schedule 3; Emma says this was an omission, and that it hadn't been included because it hadn't been in the previous year's Schedule 3 document. Bev acknowledged this. Bev asked if the EC could make clear, before nominations open, what will happen in the case that a sabbatical officer runs? Emma said that they are more than happy to communicate this. Based on the limited precedents, we would treat sabbats as any other candidate.

Second question – why have references to the role of the Education Officer/Secretary been removed? Emma says this comes out of discussions with Bev about the role of the Education Officer in the EC. Bev says that her concerns were with the Education Officer being involved in the electoral side of the EC, not with carrying out secretarial duties, and that it was the involvement of the Education Officer in writing schedule 3 that she had advised against.

Bev asked what was the purpose of removing the Education Officer's role in ordering material/collecting deposits, and if the Education Officer is given these duties to alleviate work from the rest of the EC, what happens to these duties if the Education Officer runs? Emma says that the EC had planned that the rest of the committee would absorb additional work if the Education Officer ran

Bev states that it is not feasible for the entire sabbatical elections to be run by full-time students during term time.

Emma said that the conversation with the CSC had been helpful, and that the requirement for advance notice of society events was not too egregious because committee members would usually have this information in advance.

Bev pointed out that it was not specified that this referred only to committee members. Emma said that this was what the EC had been thinking of. Bev suggested that this could be amended.

b. Faculty Convenor Reports

The report was taken as read and there were no questions.

c. PTO Reports

Reports were taken as read and there were no questions.

d. Minutes

i. Union Forum minutes

Laszlo asked if the in camera sections of the minutes would be released. Zoe explained that parts of meetings were held in camera for privacy around financial discussions. Union Forum may decide to release them, but Zoe would not release them without permission from UF.

5. Questions

- a. Bev asked the sabbatical team why TCDSU had thanked every USI officer who took part in a campus visit except for the VP for the Dublin Region. The Education Officer said there was no malice or motivation for it, but other officers had been thanked for giving up their Sunday.
- b. The Education Officer was asked, regarding the postgrad class rep elections:
 - i. How many postgraduates have registered to vote?
 - ii. How are PhDs accounted for if constituencies are based on classes?

- iii. Why is it that only postgrad class reps can run for representative positions on college committees when this isn't the case for undergraduate representatives?

The Education Officer said that 406 (9%) had registered, and that PhD candidates are grouped by discipline as the numbers are roughly the same as class groups and they don't have classes.

The Education Officer believed that if there were too many postgrad representatives they would just be the token rep on any given committee and this would dilute the postgrad voice; a small group of postgrads would be better able to collaborate. She said she had asked postgrad students and staff about this and no one had any complaints.

- c. The SSP Convenor asked the Education Officer why other sabbats and not the Education Officer had been helping with issues they were having with their school. The Education Officer said that although she received the emails, as they were addressed to the President, she did not respond because she didn't want to impose.

6. Motions

A quorum count was called as the President believed it would not be democratic to vote on motions without quorum.

Quorum was not met and the meeting ended at 8.14pm.