

Minutes of Fourth Council

Minutes taken by Lydia MacBride, Secretary to the OC & Cian Walsh, Secretary to Council

Meeting opened at 19:03

1 Approval of Minutes

Council voted in favour of approving the minutes from last meeting. [134:7]

2 Matters Arising from Last Council

None.

1 Procedural Motion A

Education Officer called procedural motion A to bring forward the discussion item 'Student Matched Funding'.

Council voted in favour. [114:17]

Student Matched Funding

Presented by Dan Ferrick.

No further comments

3 Items for Noting

Part-Time Officer Reports

No comments.

4 Elections

Student Parent Officer

Nominees

- No nominees

USC Representative

Nominees

- Sameer Shaikh, Seconded by *missed*

Sameer Shaikh elected as USC Representative.

Ethnic Minorities Officer

Nominees

- Mia Brzakovic, seconded by Rian Errity, JF CSL Class Rep
- Tammy Nath, seconded by President

Tammy Nath elected as Ethnic Minorities Officer.

5 Sabbatical Officer Reports

A President

Wrote TOR for a student spaces working group. Currently looking at installing a lift in House 6 to increase accessibility to the building. Organising getting the fees petition to Simon Harris. Working with the accommodation office to increase leniency for students. Working on interviews and campaigns for a variety of topics. Met in regards to HIV, PREP, and rapid testing on campus

No questions.

B Education

Takes report as read. Education Officer gave commendation to all students for making it through exams and thanked class reps. Noted that they are holding an open forum in relation to experiences with online learning.

No questions.

C Ents

Takes report as read. Notes conclusion of the Clash of the Comics, Trinity Christmas Ball, Refreshers Week and Tog é Bog é. Encourages interested people to reach out to them with questions about running for the position of Ents Officer for next year.

No questions.

D Communications & Marketing

Takes report as read. Notes the report leap card application.

No questions.

E Welfare & Equality

Takes report as read. Notes Welfare delivery service. Notes securing new laptops for Nightline. Mentions free suicide awareness training available to students. Plans to become ambassadors with Period Poverty to ensure free access to period related hygiene products. Notes on going Addiction workshops.

Education Officer requested one more riddle.

6 Discussion Items

Oversight Commission Report

Secretary apologises that the agenda for this council was late. Notes an error with a motion from 16/17 that was made in error and was not acted on, suggests no action. Notes that the check-listing period is approaching.

No questions.

Constitutional Review Working Group Minutes

President urges members of council to make any submissions as soon as possible. Notes changes to TOR to reflect pushed back deadline.

No questions.

On the Situation of Students in Halls

JF Rep for PTS notes failures and malpractice of the college in relation to students in accommodation. Recommends that the SU pursues an investigation of these failures to bring to the college. Delivered a written testimony from a resident of Trinity Halls.

JCR Clark notes that there was an error with the attribution of the statement to a member of the JCR.

Education Officer notes concern over the failures of the wardens in Halls, but notes that no formal complaints have been raised to the SU and encourages any member experiencing these failures to raise one. Encourages members to read the recent article published in University Times.

Access Officer notes that the punishments from the wardens is solely in regards to breaches of Covid-19 regulations.

Welfare and Equality Officer notes the importance of giving residents empathy due to the mental health issues that arise from Covid-19 regulations.

President notes empathy for resident, further noting that the discussion of issues that have arisen from isolation have been drowned out by discussions of house parties. President encourages students to report and instances of abuse to the SU.

JCR President echoes support for the statements of the Sabbatical Officers.

Education Officer encourages the proposer of the discussion item to reach out to the Sabbatical Officers.

Environmental Sciences Rep notes that there have been reports made to the Trinity College Renter's Union.

Education Officer notes that tutors would also be a good idea to contact in regards to issues like this.

Communications and Marketing Officer encourages students to not "lash out" at wardens on social media.

JF Rep for PTS suggests gathering testimonies from residents and encouraging residents to also bring complaints up with the SU.

Education Officer requests that if anyone has any ideas on the matter to reach out to the SU.

No further questions.

On the Issue of Student Engagement

JF Rep for PTS notes that the mass of the student body is not involved with the SU and requests greater outreach to the student body. Notes a division in desires for how the SU operates within the student body. Notes that class reps should be mandated to share the agenda to the students they represent.

Deputy STEM Convener Clarifies that there was no formal meeting that JF Rep for PTS suggested. Notes that increased communication with the student body on how to get involved would be a good thing.

Environmental Sciences Rep Clarifies that there was no formal meeting that JF Rep for PTS suggested.

Communications and Marketing Officer notes that engagement this year has increased greatly since previous years, even despite increased frequency of mental health issues. Further notes that this is a nation wide issue with all colleges in the country.

STEM Convener notes support for what the Communications and Marketing Officer said. Notes that a lot of people vote for their class rep to care about council on behalf of them. Notes that the lack of engagement with the referendum this year was likely due to how "boring" it was.

Education Officer notes that class reps, conveners and PTOs are full time students and should prioritise their own education first. Notes that the SU has always been on board with political issues and that the previous motions in regards to Rent Strikes were not made well, not due to the lack of radical beliefs in council. Requests that if anyone wants to increase outreach from the SU that they should reach out and offer to help. Notes frustration with the idea that the SU isn't doing enough.

USC Rep notes that they experienced similar feelings when they held the same position in the past, but states that the union has increased engagement. Notes that the SU can't force students to care about the SU.

JF PPES Rep notes that it is important that class reps share the campaigns of the SU with the students they represent. Suggests having a mandated list of actions for class reps to do after every council.

2 Procedural Motion K

STEM Convener called procedural motion K to move discussion item 'On the Issue of Student Engagement' to next council.

Seconded by Chemistry Convener.

Council voted against. [82:51]

Ben Cummins notes that class reps have lot on their plate as is.

Deputy STEM Convener notes that theres diminished value to continuously polling the entire student body. Notes important to take an outside perspective on calls in regards to failures of the SU.

Education Officer clarifies that Slack is the official communication channel of the SU, not Facebook.

PPES Rep notes interest in exploring how to engage new students with the SU, remarking that short presentations for new students could help spark engagement.

JF M... [Gabriel Torres] notes that most students don't refrain from engagement due to the belief that the SU isn't radical enough.

JH Philosophy Rep notes that the SU is there for students, not vice versa and that the SU should try build a community in the college as opposed to being a political entity.

Break

Break called at 20:44

7 Motions

Motion to on Therapies Programme Convener

Education Officer spoke in favour of the motion.

Council voted in favour. [119:4]

Motion on Welfare Annual Report

Council voted in favour. [108:2]

Motion on Carbon Costing for Union Activities

Welfare and Equality Officer spoke in favour of the motion, noting that TCD will also have legal obligations to reduce carbon spending.

PPES Rep spoke in favour of the motion.

Council voted in favour. [111:7]

Motion on the Recording and Captioning of Lecturers

Council voted in favour. [117:3]

Motion on Additional Course Costs

STEM Convener spoke in favour of the motion noting that STEM students have already been polled on the matter.

Council voted in favour. [119:3]

Motion on Donation of Campaign Materials

Council voted in favour. [115:4]

Motion to Amend the Campaigns Committee TOR

Council voted in favour. [112:3]

Motion on Reduction in Rent

JF PPES Rep Spoke in favour of the motion citing the increased costs on international students.

SF SH History Rep spoke in favour of the motion.

President requests an amendment to the motion changing it to reflect the "4 day increase". Changes are accepted by the proposer.

STEM Convener proposes a motion E that the addends this motion's mandate to the end of the 19/20 motion on rental prices. Proposer accepts the changes.

Education Officer suggests creating a separate motion specifically to support students with disabilities in funding accommodation. Officer for Students with Disabilities responds noting that these issues are not exclusive to students with disabilities.

[Connor Carp] spoke in support of the motion, clarifying that rent strikes were not part of this motion.

Welfare and Equality Officer spoke in favour of the motion.

Education Officer notes the existing motions in relation to rent prices.

Officer for Students with Disabilities thanks everyone for their input on the matter.

Council voted in favour. [111:3]

8 Questions

JF PPES Rep inquires whether the SU has a stance on the disqualification of a candidate in the upcoming Provost Elections. Education Officer responds stating that it is not the SUs place to take a stance on this.

No further questions.

9 AOB

Chair notes the upcoming Sabbatical elections. Education Officer wishes all candidates the best of luck.

Communications and Marketing Officer announces the prizes for the best Grundle tweet, the Grundle hide and seek, and the best Gaeilge tweet.

Education Officer notes the student survey.

Chair thanks interpreters.

Council adjourned at 21:42.