

TCD Student's Union 5th Council Minutes 2020/21

2nd March 2021

6.30pm

Zoom Meeting

Chair: Yannick Gloster
Secretary: Cian Walsh
Minutes: Cian Walsh, Secretary to Council
Simon Evans, Administrative Officer
Lydia MacBride – Oversight Commission

Yannick welcomed everyone to the 5th Council meeting of 2020/21.

1. Minutes:- The Minutes of the Council held on 9/2/21 were approved.

2. Matters Arising:- There were no matters arising.

Procedural motion A allowing a change in the Agenda was approved and a presentation was given to council by Aoife Grimes – sexual consent intern.

Aoife gave a thorough briefing to Council on her role and thanked the student body for their continued support.

3. Items for Noting:- No questions.

4. Elections:- Student Parent Officer: vacant

5. Sabbatical Officers Reports

(A) **President, Eoin Hand.** Eoin asked for his report to be taken as read. He urged all class reps to support the March4Masi fundraiser.

(B) **Education Officer, Megan O Connor.** Megan asked for her report to be taken as read. She advised class reps to tell their classes that the exam schedule will be out on April 8th and the USI congress applications were now open. She urged class reps to put themselves forward.

(C) **Welfare and Equality Officer, Leah Keogh.** Leah's report was taken as read as she is on leave.

(D) **Communications Officer, Philly Homes.** Philly asked for his report to be taken as read and he advised Council that he was nearly up to date with the archiving and was looking forward to the upcoming elections.

(E) **Ents Officer, Hugh McInerney.** Hugh asked that his report be taken as read. He also noted that the Ents Constitution was being redone and he asked anyone to submit their ideas. There will be a survey in the upcoming weekly email inviting contributions.

6. Discussion items:

(a) Oversight Commission Report

This was presented by Cian Walsh, Secretary to Council, who noted that a number of committees were in breach of their reporting deadlines. He recommended that all committees send their reports to the OC. He further noted that the Stem convenor had sent in a report.

He also raised the issue of Minutes from part-time officers, sabbatical reports and comms committee.

There were no questions for Cian.

(b) Constitutional Review Working Group Minutes

Cian briefed Council on CRWG minutes for Meetings 3 and 4.

He noted that in meeting 3 the group had considered other SU Constitutions from 8 to 10 Universities taking into account issues such as governance, staffing and committees.

Meeting 4 covered the Election and Oversight Commissions. The group would now be taking testimonies from Union Forum and part time officers in relation to these roles.

Finally, Cian asked if any council members or students had contributions to make on the Constitutional Review to please do so.

(c) Consent Intern Update

This was given by Aoife Grimes at the start of the meeting.

(d) Support of Academic and /or Professional pursuits

This was presented by Daniel O Reilly, Stem Convenor. Daniel proposed a Motion K to move this item to a subsequent meeting as there is not sufficient time allocated to this subject at this busy meeting. The Motion K was passed by council.

(e) Inclusion of a vote on abstention in the upcoming Student Provost Vote

This was presented by Laszlo Molnarfi who urged Council to absent from voting on the Provost vote in order to express its dissent at the way college dealt with key student issues. The motion was not carried.

7. Motions

(a) LTP Moton on Opposing the Use of Shannon Airport by the US Military

This was presented by Laszlo Molnarfi who urged Council to oppose the use of Shannon airport by the US military. Matthew Enright wanted to know what was the value of this motion to Trinity College Students Union. He felt the SU would be much better serviced dealing with issues concerning them directly. Megan O Connor appreciated the spirit of the motion but felt that our stance on the airport issue was not going to make any difference. Laszlo responded by referring to the BDS Long Term Policy.

Daniel O Reilly spoke against the Motion but he also noted that the BDS motion referred to a specific issue. Eoin Hand felt the same as Daniel O Reilly and spoke against the motion. Charles Sweeney agreed with the points raised by Daniel and Eoin. He questioned the wisdom of supporting an organisation we don not know much about.

Laszlo summed up for the motion and he urged Council to support the motion. He also noted that TCD is a sanctuary university and Ireland should live up to this by opposing the use of Shannon airport by the US military.

The motion was not passed.

(b) Motion to amend the Constitutional Review Working Group TOR

This motion was presented by Megan o Connor and passed by Council.

(c) Council Motion on Rapid HIV Testing

This motion was presented by Eoin Hand who gave a detailed presentation to Council. The motion was supported by Philly Holmes, Communication officer, who noted the commitment to this project. Bernard Hasting, LGBT officer, urged everyone to support the motion which was carried overwhelmingly.

(d) Motion on Provost Hustings Committee TOR

This Motion was presented by Eoin Hand who urged Council to support the Motion which was carried by a large majority.

(e) Motion on Academic Open Access

This motion was presented by Laszlo Molnarfi. The Motion was supported by Daniel O Reilly who also proposed an amendment under Procedural Motion E to generalise the mandate to all areas of research. Laszlo accepted the amendment and the amended motion was carried.

(f) Motion on Amending the Diversity in STEM Committee TOR

This was presented by Beverly Genockey and the motion was carried by Council.

(g) Motion on Faculty Assembly Minutes

This was presented by Liam Kavanagh and the Motion was carried by Council.

(h) Motion on USI candidate Poll

This was presented by Megan O Connor and the motion was also supported by Beverly Genockey and Oisin Brown who asked if the delegates would be mandated to block vote and would the vote be proportional.

Megan responded noting it was deemed unreliable to vote proportionally as a block vote was simpler. The motion was then carried.

(i) LTP Motion Against the Ratification of CETA

This Motion was presented by Morgan Hildula who briefed Council on the many dangers of CETA. Daniel o Reilly proposed an amendment to the original motion to include a mandate on boycotting any companies which took a case to the Investor Courts, which was accepted by the proposer.

The Environmental officer, Aine Hennessy spoke in favour of the amended motion. Beverly Genockey noted that other Universities have not passed this Motion by way of referendum. Morgan Hildula said she was open to the suggestion of a referendum. Charles Sweeney supported the motion and asked if the SU could use the USI to push this issue. Beverly Genockey wondered why we are bringing this motion to referendum. Procedural Motion E proposed. Daniel O Reilly spoke against the procedural motion noting the support of USI is good but it shouldn't be long term policy. Charles Sweeney then withdrew the procedural motion. It was felt that a long-term policy against the ratification of CETA would be best done with a referendum.

A proposed motion to amend the current amended motion, to remove the long term policy and revert it to Council mandate, was accepted by the proposer. Megan also felt it was more appropriate to oppose CETA by referendum. Beverly Genockey noted, we cannot wait for weeks and urged that we proceed with the original motion and if necessary, this can be changed next year. Megan felt it was best to maintain the long term policy aspects and to go with a referendum in the future. Daniel O Reilly asked if the EC had advised on this matter. Cian replied that it was his advice as Secretary that led to the LTP policy, due to the incompatibility of the mandate with the Union Aims & Principles.

Beverly Genockey did initially submit the Motion and then withdrew it on the advice of the Secretary. SSPP class rep spoke in favour of the motion. Daniel O Reilly noted this was not logical and just because it was urgent, we should still do it the right way. Megan supported this and proposed that we should set up an external grassroots movement with the SU support so that the SU can support the opposition of CETA in a meaningful way. The motion where LTP was being used incorrectly just did not make sense. Beverly Genockey agreed and felt that the campaign would work well as a grassroots movement. A procedural Motion E was proposed and accepted by Morgan Hildula who proposed the original motion.

Daniel O' Reilly asked whether this motion would be marked as unconstitutional in the upcoming OC review. Cian Walsh replied that it would be incorrect to make a statement on this now as he was not comfortable pre-empting the review process. He reiterated his opinion that no evidence was present suggesting that this mandate was compliant with Section 1.4 of the Constitution – the Union must act in the interest of all students. Morgan then summed up this much amended motion and the amended motion was carried by Council.

8. Questions - no questions

9. A.O.B.

Megan urged students to engage with the 2 surveys, Access and Sharing. Philly urged Council members to support the Twitter hashtag as there were lots of prizes to be won and Yanick noted that we are No 1 trending in Ireland.

Council ended and after a 10 minutes break Hustings were held.