

REPORT to COUNCIL, TERM 1 / 27.10.20 / ZOOM

NAME Eoin Hand

POSITION President

1) REPORT IN BRIEF:

- 1. Cross Over training with previous president twice a week from May – late June, settled into role in late June, one week intensive training with Laura on Campus.**
- 2. Student Breakout Spaces established**
- 3. Lobbying works and activism**
- 4. Media interviews**
- 5. HIV Rapid Testing and Drug Policy**
- 6. Environmental work**
- 7. Accommodation Refunds for Level 5**
- 8. Refugee Week**
- 9. USI involvement**
- 10. SU specific work**
- 11. Trinity Halls**
- 12. Misc.**

2) OFFICER REPORT JUNE 29TH – OCTOBER 27TH 2020

1. Cross Over training with previous president twice a week from May – late June, settled into role in late June, one week intensive training with Laura on Campus.

- Have two meetings a week with Laura since early May for crossover with weekly tasks and homework. Lots of introductions and sitting on committees as an observer including Finance and Board.
- Had a 9-5PM intensive crossover week with Laura from June 22-26. More training, introductions, committees, comprehensive review of the bespoke crossover manual.
- Organised an early meeting with the Provost to set a good tone for our working relationship going forward through the year
 - o I felt this was incredibly important given the extra added stress of COVID to be on good terms with the Provost.

2. Student Breakout Spaces established

- I quickly set about realising one of my main manifesto points around student spaces and amenities. The team and I visited all ZML on campus to access what they needed and put a story on Instagram for people to suggest what they wanted to see.

- As the COVID situation developed and the necessity for monitored spaces became essential, a lot of the ZML were unfortunately deemed unsuitable by College Health.
 - o This is how the Marquees came into play. I gained permission from Catering to use the Dining Halls and from the Head of TBSI to use the Knowledge Exchange as Student Breakout Spaces. The School of Med were halfway through converting the ZML in James's Old Stone Building into clinical lab space without our consultation. My team and I lobbied the College and got the support of the Dean of Health Science to support us. The School of Med looked elsewhere and the space ultimately remained as a ZML which now functions as a monitored Student Breakout Space.
 - o The locations found usable are; Dining Hall, New Square Marquee, Botany Marquee, Goldsmith Lobby, TBSI Knowledge Exchange, the old Bank Space.
- Following discussions with the Provost, post lobby Catering and Estates and Facilities for microwaves, €1 coffee machines, and vending machines, the involvement in the situation ensured students got these amenities much quicker than Catering might have liked
- The SU then set about hiring a total of 70 student ambassador staff to supervise the spaces as well as 6 supervisors.
 - o I hosted a training day on Microsoft Teams for all staff.
- Although I acknowledge that the Marquee spaces are a little bare, we have contacted and are working with TAF, and DUPA to decorate the spaces accordingly to bring new life to the Marquees. I also note that the Botany Marquee is not functioning at a desirable capacity and it may be worth reconsidering its use.

3. Lobbying works and activism

- During the Education For All campaign, while I was away, my team members participated in the photoshoot for USI.
- I personally emailed 57 different representatives from the Dublin Region to lobby them in support of the campaign as well as including information on it in the weekly email.
 - o I took a phone call from the Social Democrats Education spokesperson Holly Cairns about the issues students are facing in light of the Budget as well including the Student Contribution Fee, Accommodation, and issues of Connectivity.
- I organised a meeting between myself, the Ents Officer, the Comms Officer, and the Disability PTO to meet Counsellor Danny Byrne to discuss the issue of Cobble stones in Temple Bar.
- I emailed 222 TDs, Senators, and Deputies about the sealing of the Mother and Baby homes records. I fielded a number of responses and thanked all who wrote back to me in objection to the Bill. I note that not a single GP, FF, or FG representative responded.

- As the Resumption of Teaching Working Group neared the end of its life with nothing to replace it with, I along with the Education Officer lobbied the Provost during one of my bi-weekly meetings to replace it with a similar committee to continue to address any and all educational issues and discrepancies that might occur during this year of most stressful difficulties.
- Myself and the Citizenship Officer worked with a number of American National Students who wished to organise an American Voter Registration Drive. The relevant information was quickly gathered and disseminated to all students in multiple weekly emails, to USI, and via the SU's Social Media.
- During the talks on meal plans for Halls International Students in restricted movement, myself, the GSU President, and the Education Officer successfully lobbied the Vice President of Global Relations and the Head of Accommodation to subsidise the extortionate €350 proposed food plan.
 - o From this, the COO allowed for €140 to be reimbursed via TCards to be spent in the Butter. I note that the Provost then cut the Buttery prices to 50% meaning each student who paid for the meal plans really only paid €70 for two weeks' worth of meals.

4. Media interviews

- Myself and the Communication and Marketing Officer organised and shot a College Campus A-Z information video for the Communications Team here in Trinity.
- I also partook in three other videos on COVID Reg on campus, and a separate video for the Student Breakout Spaces.
- Shot a photo-campaign to mark World Mental Health Day
- I have taken part in a number of UT and TN articles with quotes, interviews, and statements on ongoing issues students are facing.
 - o I also spoke to the London Financial Times, the Irish Times, have an interview with Radio France International and 98FM. Also had a TV interview with Virgin Media News defending students during COVID times in relation to outbreaks and finger pointing. Spoke out strongly condemning those opposing the extension to Trinity Halls extension.

5. HIV Rapid Testing and Drug Policy

- Met with the organisers of Trinity's Vampire Cup initiative to figure out how the SU can support this Blood Drive campaign.
 - o In conjunction to the Vampire Cup, I have also reached out to HIV Ireland to organise HIV Rapid testing and to enquire about Prep in the College health service. The provision of both of these services alongside Vampire Cup is proposed to give more weight against the MSM Blood ban argument in hopes that this can contribute to the abolition of the MSM Blood ban.
- A comprehensive Drug Policy was already put through Student Life Committee and passed at Board 14.10.2020 so no action was needed on my behalf.

6. Environmental work

- I attended a face-to-face meeting with the creators of the Ethicart App and put them in touch with the Comms and Marketing Officer so as to establish a link between them and the Union for advertisement.
- Attended a meeting with a member of Estates and Facilities and the Environmental Sustainability Officer about organising the Sustainability Champions and 8 residential compost bins on campus. Compost bins were also put into the Student Breakout Spaces as well as recycling bins and waste bins to encourage proper waste segregation.
 - I note that I am currently liaising with the Environmental Sustainability Officer to organise educational posters about proper recycling to be put up in the Marquees and other Student Breakout Spaces, and an educational training day to take place to ensure the Student Ambassadors are adequately trained.
 - I also assisted the Environmental Sustainability Officer in advertising the Sustainability Champions around campus.

7. Accommodation Refunds for Level 5

- As a recent development, and building on previous meetings with the Junior Dean, the Head of Accommodation, and the Provost, due to Level 5 restrictions I took to putting increased pressure on the Provost and the College to obtain a clear communication for students who wish to vacate their Trinity owned accommodation – which is inclusive of Trinity Campus and Trinity Hall only.
 - I note that at my most recent meeting with the Provost 22.10.2020 he acknowledged my enquiry and opened a very beneficial dialogue to allow me articulate the worries of students. From this meeting, the Provost agreed to waive the €100 administration fine and allowed for the two month rent (usually withheld during early departures) to be lessened to one month for students who wish to leave and obtain a partial refund for their accommodation. Provost also confirmed that those who wish to leave immediately can do so and any financial penalties incurred will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

8. Refugee Week

- I, with the help of the Citizenship Officer and the International Students Officer organised three panel discussions for Refugee Week this year.
 - The first panel discussion was about centred around the causes of migration, what a refugee is, what an asylum seeker is and what their legal rights in Ireland are. Speakers include Gillian Wylie, lecturer in International Peace studies, and Barrister David Hand.
 - The second panel discussion was about the history of Direct Provision, personal experiences from Asylum Seekers currently living in Direct Provision,

and why it is an unsustainable model. Speakers included Amanda Nyoni from MASI, Senator Ivana Bacik, and a recipient of Trinity's ASAP Scholarship.

- The last panel discussion looked at ways individuals could help in lobbying local government officials to enact change around Direct Provision, and different models and systems that could replace Direct Provision. Two representatives from the 400 Welcomes campaign also spoke about first hand experiences. Speakers included Conall Keane from Trinity VDP, and Caoimhe Butterly and Karen Crowley from the 400 Welcomes campaign.
- All three panel discussions were recorded with the permission of those speaking and those in attendance. I have yet to publish these on the SU's socials.

9. USI involvement

- I, with the assistance of the Oifigeach na Gaeilge signed up for the *Bonn na Gaeilge* initiative to ensure the Union can continue to promote the Irish language as much as possible and to acknowledge all the good the Union has done in the past to promote Gaeilge.
- I, along with the rest of my team, attend SUT during the July months.
- I, along with the rest of my team, attended National Council, Dublin Region working group, and other USI sponsored committee meetings and working groups.

10. SU specific work

- Myself, the Ents Officer, and the Welfare and Equality Officer met with an official from the Lir to see how we can support them this year. The main takeaway was for support for the Lir to stay open should restrictions worsen as they are confident and have shown by shown through adversity that they are well prepared to deal with COVID related incidents.
- Near the start of my term I worked with the SU Shop Manager to supply facemasks in the SU shop at cost price.
- I got in contact with the SU solicitor early in my term to see about rewriting a lot of the staff contracts to ensure that they are legally binding and inclusive of all aspects of the role. At present I am not satisfied with the condition of our working contracts nor am I satisfied with the condition of the Weekly paid staff, or full time staff contracts.
 - This unfortunately has proven to be a slow process and is a work in progress.
- I chaired two official Union Forum meetings and scheduled the rest for both Michaelmas and Hilary Term. I also compiled a Dignity and Respect Agreement and a Union Forum HandBook for the use of Union Forum members.
- Near the very start of our term, my team and I began vigorously cleaning and removing clutter from our office space. I Organised for the College painters to paint the Welfare and Equality Officer and the Ents Officer's office space. I also organised for the Union Technical Officer to fix or assist the other officers in any technical issues they were facing.

- Have been holding full SU meetings with Simon, Dáire, Almir, Patrick, and the sabbatical officers ones every three weeks with full team reports, updates, and strategy planning.

11. Trinity Halls

- I attended a meeting with the Warden of Halls and the JCR President around the issues facing students in light of COVID. I, along with the Ents Officer and the Welfare Officer thought of different ways we can assist the students in Halls to alleviate loneliness and anxiety. I also got consultation from the NUIGSU President too.
 - o I brought our ideas to the Provost and to the Vice President of Global Relations to bounce the ideas off and both were incredibly satisfied with them. As of now, I note that I am to reach out to the Warden and the JCR President with my ideas and support from other College officials to collaborate with the JCR. I also note that I do not wish to overstep my remit and take away or offend the JCR by insinuating they are not doing enough, this work is in show of my support for the JCR and a willingness to assist in any way we can to help the students in Halls.

12. Misc.

- Investigated idea of community promise like in Galway. Upon further investigation and through speaking to the President of NUIGSU we deemed the idea unsatisfactory and advised the College to abandon it.
- Myself and the Education Officer had a meeting with Registrar about graduations and the different possible options we could avail of during COVID.
- Assisted in Sports intern interviews with the Welfare Officer.
- Myself, the Welfare and Equality Officer and the Education Officer as members of Board took a toured TTEC campus.
- The Sabbatical team partook in an orientation week Q&A and in multiple FAQs with the College during freshers week.
- I worked closely with the Movember organisers to see how best the Union could support the initiative this year. From my meeting with the Provost 22.10.2020 I got agreement from him that he too would grow a moustache for the Movember campaign.

3) MEETINGS ATTENDED

<u>MEETING</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
Reoccurring Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Accommodation Sub-committee o AR Fortnightly o Board o College Identity Meeting o Coronavirus admissions Sub-group o COVID-19 working group 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency Accommodation Meeting ○ Union Forum ○ Engagement Advisory Group\ Global Relations Committee ○ Green Campus Committee Meeting ○ Group to discuss the operation of student eating spaces ○ GSSS SC meeting ○ International Students Arrival Package Workgroup ○ Open Day 2020 Working Group meeting ○ Orientation webinar on SU ○ Phased resumption of activities ○ Phased Resumption of Student Led Activities 2020/21 ○ Printing House Square steering meeting ○ Provost bi-weekly meeting 	
<p>Ad Hoc Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Voter Registration ○ Board Induction ○ BOI and PH tour ○ Compost bins ○ Finance Committee Induction - SU & GSU Presidents ○ Freshers week activities ○ HEA ICT Devices, TCD ○ James's OSB ○ JCR Accommodation ○ Jennifer Waters BSM ○ Meeting with Clodagh Brookes ○ Meeting with Richard Hammond talk on contracts ○ Niteline and SU ○ Ents Proposal Meeting ○ S.U. GDPR Art. 30 ROPA ○ Shortlisting - Sport & Recreation Officer Intern ○ Staff Meeting ○ Student Breakout Spaces - Weekly Meeting ○ Student Life Committee ○ Students Arrival - Processes and Guidelines ○ SU + ISSU / SU + SSUNI ○ Trinity Virtual Open Day Catch Up ○ UG Student's Union GDPR briefing ○ Unconscious bias training ○ Union Forum + Training ○ Weekly meeting Dean of Students ○ Weekly team meetings ○ Zoom meeting with Sports intern ○ Zoom with Niteline 	

TOTAL: 48

285 Hours – 16 per
week on average

4) MANIFESTO PROGRESS

<u>MANIFESTO POINT</u>	<u>ACTIONS TAKEN</u>	<u>PROGRESS</u>
(list your manifesto points here, if you submitted one to council)	(describe what you did here, you can be very brief!)	
- <u>Encourage student engagement</u>	<u>Difficult to do because of COVID but Class Rep elections went very well and an increase in social media presence has increased student engagement. The release of two surveys and more Instagram polls has allowed for students to voice their concerns.</u>	
- <u>Identifiable su meeting students out of office attending society events</u>	<u>Again, proving difficult because of COVID. Committee members are attending society events online as much as possible. Increased social media presence has helped with engagement to make us more identifiable.</u>	
- <u>Unified program to be deiminated to all college members – manifestos visable</u>	<u>A unified manifesto to be sent to all college officials would now prove less effective in my opinion. However, our manifestos are currently being published on the TCDSU website for all to see.</u>	
- <u>Speaking to academic and admin staff to address issues</u>	<u>This is part and parcel with the job. Will be ongoing until I finish in office.</u>	
- <u>Student spaces and adequate amenities</u>	<u>This again will be an ongoing task. Although we have provided new Student Breakout spaces, 70 jobs, cheap coffee with vending machines and free hot water, we will have to reassess the ZML and address the Student Centre with the other Capitated Bodies.</u>	
- <u>HIV rapid testing + prep, period poverty, SSDP drug policy</u>	<u>I have been in touch with HIV Ireland and understand the difficulties in getting rapid testing and Prep introduced to the health centre. This is an ongoing conversation between myself and the Health Centre.</u>	

- <u>Accommodation talks RTB halls</u>	<u>This will be a point for Hilary Term.</u>	
- <u>Reusable cup depository scheme + compost bins on campus accommodation and promote Educational platform for proper recycling</u>	<u>Although most cup depository schemes are actually highly unsatisfactory due to poor quality cups, I am working with the Sustainability Officer and the Comms and Marketing Officer around creating a more educational platform on campus. I am also working with Estates and Facilities around the introduction of Compost bins. At the moment ,compost bins in residences must be done on a pilot scheme basis at first before the confidence of the college is obtained.</u>	
- <u>Showcase positive work we do</u>	<u>This will be a year round initiative and I have been working closely with the Comms and Marketing Officer as well as the other Sabbatical Officers to ensure there are clear lines of communication to update students on what we have done. I note that through increased social media engagement and updates in weekly emails this is most effectively achieved.</u>	
- <u>Be transparent</u>	<u>This will be a year round project whereby I will consistently endeavour to reply to student emails to the best of my ability and to engage social media to highlight what we are doing and to stand accountable to students.</u>	

5) Union Forum Dates

Michaelmas Term

Week 2; October 5th, 5-8pm (Union Forum Training and first meeting)

Week 4; October 19th, 6-8pm (Meeting as normal)

Week 6; November 2nd, 6-8pm

Week 8; November 16th, 6-8pm

Week 10; November 30th, 6-8pm

Week 12; December 14th, 6-8pm

Hilary Term

Week 2; February 8th, 6-8pm

Week 4; February 22nd, 6-8pm

Week 6; March 8th, 6-8pm

Week 8; March 22nd, 6-8pm

Week 10; April 5th, 6-8pm

Week 12; April 9th, 6-8pm

6) ANNUAL LEAVE

18.09.2020 – 22.09.2020

7) EXPENSES

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8) THANKS

I want to thank the team for their constant support and cooperation through these first four months. Especially during the first two months where I had a total of 40 credits of college work still to complete by 24.08.2020 as part of my final year. This was tough but the teams continued support was incredibly well received and allowed me to complete my college career on a very positive note!

I also note that I am incredibly happy with the performance of the team. None of us foresaw COVID coming on election night 27.02.2020 and I feel they have done very well to adapt to the everchanging landscape and all the extra difficulties and stresses that COVID has brought.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask or email me on president@tcdsu.org.

Best wishes,
Eoin Hand