

REPORT to COUNCIL, TERM 1 / 24.11.20 / ZOOM

NAME Eoin Hand

POSITION President

1) REPORT IN BRIEF:

1. **Student Centre**
2. **Lobbying work and activism**
3. **Media Relations**
4. **HIV Rapid Testing**
5. **Environmental Work**
6. **SU Specific Work**
7. **Trinity Halls**
8. **Misc.**

2) OFFICER REPORT OCTOBER 27th - November 24th 2020

1. Student Breakout Spaces and Student Centre established

- The student breakout spaces have been running quite well. Due to demand in TBSI I successfully lobbied to get the ZML opened to alleviate pressure.
- I have also been working closely with TAF, DUPA, and TAW to get the spaces decorated with installations to brighten the New Square Marquee up after it reopens.
- I had a meeting with the Bursar, the Head of Sport, the Provost, Dean of Students, FSD, and CSC about the needs, wants, and demand for a student centre. Such a project has been in the pipeline for over 20 years and right now I am collecting all the information I can about what goes wrong, what is needed, available funds, and how best to approach a business proposal for the space.
- In the interim, it was decided that the Bank of Ireland space in Hamilton would be an ideal location to create a student space after COVID subsidies.

2. Lobbying works and activism

- I arranged a phone call with FF TD John Lahart to discuss student issues, fees, international student fees.
- With regards to the international student fee increase; I have had a meeting with the Provost, FSD, the Senior Tutor, Academic Registry, and Global Relations, to collect all the information I can about the increase. I also met with the proposers as well and discussed our plan of action going forward. It is up for discussion at the next Finance Committee where I hope to have it reviewed.

- I organised a meeting with Gabrielle Fullam about 27th amendment to see how best TCDSU can support their campaign.
- I had a meeting with the VDP Social Justice branch about Period Poverty, and ASAP Scholarships and Christmas hampers for DP with the Welfare Officer and we are currently working with VDP to see how best we can support the Christmas Hampers drive while also furthering the conversation at a college level around the ASAP scholarships and Period Poverty.

3. Media interviews

- I partook in a 'live' q and a for open day and the Comms and Welfare officer also partook in a social media live stream on Saturday 7th for open day.
- Partaking in Movember. I had a small photo with Provost and an UT article was written on Movember. Also running 120km with Comms officer.
- Email sent to the Claire Byrne Live about student issues of mental health, financial issues, and the stresses of COVID.

4. HIV Rapid Testing

- Continuing to support the Vampire Cup initiative where I hope to collect as much information as possible to further the conversation around the MSM blood ban.
- Have organised a meeting with College Health to discuss getting HIV Rapid Testing on Campus as well as PReP.

5. Environmental work

- I am currently writing an open letter and petition around the importance of environmental issues for all incoming Provost candidates.

6. SU specific work

- I had a meeting with the Academic Registry and they acknowledged their policy documents, implemented in 2017 with help of the Gender Equality Committee, were in need of revision and update. They're also looking into up-skilling the service team on college structures as well and a full review of the forms related to name changes.
- Myself, the Welfare Officer, and the Education Officer attended a meeting on how best to allocate the HEA funds.
- Have had multiple meetings with the Library about issues students are facing voicing concerns and issues. I have also successfully lobbied the college to keep library facilities open during the christmas break.

7. Misc.

- Myself and the Welfare Officer had a meeting with Catering and successfully organised for College to fund a coffee cart in the front square.
- Had a meeting with the global office to discuss christmas activities and ideas for international students who will be facing increased loneliness and isolation this christmas.

3) MEETINGS ATTENDED

MEETING	HOURS
<p>Recurring Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Accommodation Sub-committee- AR Fortnightly- Board- Coronavirus admissions Sub-group- COVID-19 working group- Union Forum- Global Relations Committee- Green Campus Committee Meeting- Student Breakout Spaces - Weekly Meeting- Phased resumption of activities [Trinity Living With Covid]- Printing House Square steering meeting- Provost bi-weekly meeting- Finance Committee- Staff Meeting- Weekly meeting Dean of Students- Weekly team meetings- Zoom meeting with Sports intern- Student Life Committee- Capitulations- Dartry Project Steering Group- USI President's Working Group- Student Experience Sub-group committee	
<p>Ad Hoc Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Open day meeting- Student Consultative Group- Vampire Cup- Meeting with Library staff- Bonn na Gaeilge- Art Installations- International Student Entertainments- 27TH Amendment-	

<u>TOTAL: 30</u>	<u>86 Hours -21.5 per week on average</u>
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4) MANIFESTO PROGRESS

<u>MANIFESTO POIN</u>	<u>ACTIONS TAKEN</u>	<u>PROGRESS</u>
<u>Encourage student engagement.</u>	Ongoing though increased social media engagement.	
<u>Identifiable meeting students out of office attending society events.</u>	Ongoing year round.	
<u>Unified manifest to be disseminated to college members.</u>	All manifestos are now on the website.	
<u>Speaking to academic and admin staff to address issues.</u>	Ongoing year round.	
<u>Student spaces and adequate amenities.</u>	Ongoing with great success thus far.	
<u>HIV Rapid Testing, period poverty, SSDP drug policy.</u>	Ongoing	
<u>Showcase the positive work we do.</u>	Ongoing year round	
<u>Accommodation talks RTB halls.</u>	For Hilary Term.	
<u>Be transparent.</u>	Ongoing.	
<u>Reusable cup depository scheme + compost bins on campus accommodation and promote Educational platform for proper recycling</u>	Ongoing	

5) ANNUAL LEAVE

None

6 EXPENSES

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7) THANKS

Thanks for reading!

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

Best wishes,
Eoin Hand

Education Officer's Report to Council

Megan O' Connor -24th November 2020

Zoom

What have I been up to?

- Teaching Hero's awards are open!
- Arranging for the Senior Tutor to have a Q&A with reps next week! (YAY!)
- Spoke at the National Symposium on Work Based Assessment with QQI and National Forum for Teaching and Learning

Overwhelming workload/difficulties with content

- Continually working with SLD with creating resources for students
- Creating a
- Working to address the Bed to Desk situation for many students. Very cognisant of the fact that many students do not need to leave the bedrooms each day and it's a serious cause for concern.

Erasmus

- Erasmus application deadlines and issues with exams in S2.

Library

- In ongoing communication with the Library, alongside the President to ensure the Library's opening hours are to be extended asap. Should have happened sooner, disappointed it hasn't.
Ongoing

Open Modules

- I am still talking about Open Modules to ensure what happened will never happen again. Have another meeting with the Project Steering team next week.

Disabilities

- Met with the Disability Service, the Officer for Students with Disabilities and a rep from the Ability CO-Op in relation to issues with online accessibility and captioning. Ongoing
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Laptops

- Calling for review of laptop rental criteria. Raised with Senior Tutor and the HEA. Ongoing

Semester 2

- Planning ongoing. Hoping for an update next week following clarification from the Government. The college is eager to increase the levels of in person teaching, I am passionate to ensure all of this is non-mandatory for students and 'hybrid' teaching. Ongoing

Communication

- Working to continually improve communication with reps and students.
- Regular emails to reps.
- Tweeting more

Students on Placement

- Sitting on a National Working Group to address issues facing student nurses and midwives.
- Spoke on a panel with QQI and National Forum for Teaching and Learning last Thursday about work based assessments.
- Ongoing discussions regarding the exploitation of Student Nurses and Midwives on placements with both the National Academic Affairs working group and the college.
- Still no updates from NMBI.
- This has also been raised with the Minister for Higher Education and the Minister for Health. The biggest issue is that no office seems to want to take responsibility for this cohort of students. Calling for these departments to do better.
- Spoke on a panel with UCDSU, INMO reps and Richard Boyde Barrett on Student Nurses and Midwives work conditions.
- Meeting with the School of Nursing and Midwifery next Monday. **Ongoing**

Graduations

- Discussion with the Registrar alongside TCDSU President re: arrangement for students due to be conferred in the Winter session.
- Decision made to allow students to decide to be conferred online or defer their graduation. All transcripts for masters etc can be downloaded from your my.tcd.ie or from AR.

Recording of Lectures/Captioning

- Working group was founded this week (finally!) to address the issues regarding recording and captioning. Some students are captioning the class **Ongoing**

Exams / Continuous Assessment

- Working to ensure accessibility of live exams for international students who will be in different time zones during the exam period. To facilitate this, most exams should be at 12pm daily.
- Some schools are having *terrible* issues with CA. Please flag this with myself or your Faculty Convenor.

Learning To Learn Online

- In constant communication with Academic Development and SLD regarding making tools available to students to assist with the transition to online learning.
- You can find a video of yours truly on this module on your Blackboard if you wish to check it out! All feedback welcomed. **Ongoing**

Management System

- The current management system is not fit for use and needs updating.
- It's almost done! **Ongoing**

Schedule 1 Rewrite

- The schedule with all of the Class Rep structures needs updating to be in line with new course structures and to ensure proper student representation. In communication with schools, convenors and the Chair of Council. Ongoing

International Student Issues

- In ongoing discussions with the Vice-Provost for Global relations and the International Student Officer alongside the President to address issues faced by international students including but not limited to, access to online learning materials, visas and issues with fees.
- Have sought support and advice from USI's Equality Officer to address these issues which are facing students nationally.
- Since last council myself, the President and the International Student Officer have met with the Office again to see what we can do to support students.
- Met with the proposers of the motion to support international students about what we can do better to support them. Ongoing

Schols

- Ongoing discussions regarding how Schols will be proctored this year.
- Looking for the college to provide a space on campus for students to use.
- A working group to be founded to address the long standing issues with the exams. Clarification to follow from the Senior Lecturer in the coming weeks. ?? (I said this at last council too.. I am still waiting!)

Casework

It's been an incredibly difficult time for students particularly over reading week so my casework load has been significant. The main issues arising were:

- Overwhelming workload +++
- Issues with forms of assessment
- Methods of teaching and LENS report clarifications

Manifesto Progress Report

Manifesto Point	Actions Completed	Progress
Accessibility		
<p>Accessibility and Equality training for lecturers</p> <p>The importance of abiding by LENS reports, utilising assistive technology and exam invigilator awareness, ensuring staff are equipped with the information they need to make sure students can succeed! Anything less than this is insufficient and isn't fair.</p>	<p>27/10/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worked with CAPSL and Academic Development on the creation of an online training resource for staff and students adapting to online learning. - This addressed some accessibility needs of students but there is a long way to go with this one and I will be working on this with the Welfare and Equality Officer throughout the year. - I have met with the head of Disability Services and the Disability Officer about this. <p>20/11/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing issues. LENS report dissemination is insufficient in many schools. Have raised it with the DS and COLSAG on many occasions. Slowly being addressed. 	<p>In Progress A lot to do yet. LTP</p> <p>No updates since last Council.</p>
<p>National Lobbying</p> <p>Work alongside the SU President in campaigning against fee increases and improved accessibility to third-level education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education for All Campaign was run in the lead up to the Budget. - I sat on the national working group and participated in the online campaign. 	<p>Complete LTP</p>
<p>Modular Billing</p> <p>Modular billing is part of the TEP strategic plan so it must be implemented within the next year. I hope to work alongside the Vice-Provost in ensuring students' best interests are at the forefront of discussions. I believe modular billing would be greatly beneficial to students in introducing the opportunity to sit one module, while remaining a registered student of the college, instead of having to go "Off Books" with assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have spoken with the Vice Provost, Senior Lecturer and head of IT services about this. - The infrastructure is almost there to support it. Needs funding from the college (ie. will be a big battle). - Unfortunately low on the lists of college's concerns at the moment but will continue to work on this throughout the year. <p>24/11/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DT2 Project needs to be completed prior to moving on to DT3 which is meant to be (hopefully!) addressing micro credential and modular billing. - Will need <u>lots</u> of funding. - Not looking possible to make much advancement this year but will try my best. 	<p>No real advancement due to infrastructure</p>
Improving Engagement		
<p>Office hours</p> <p>I will improve 1:1 availability to students. This will include holding office hours during unsociable hours, in off campus locations and availability for Skype calls.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have extended my office hours to 6 hours a week since last council due to demand. - This is unsustainable so I will be cutting it back but still always available if anyone contacts me. 	<p>Completed - LTP</p>

<p>Become more approachable as a SU Host coffee mornings! Regular open forums during term time. Work alongside class reps on local issues and collaborate with the Communications Officer to circulate relevant information to all students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Again, unfortunately the coffee mornings wasn't possible due to the restrictions. - Will host open forums on student experience with online learning over the coming weeks. - Working on constantly updating the website with info and utilising social media as much as possible. 	<p>In Progress LTP No updates since last Council.</p>
<p>Academic Senate. Work on academic senate's implementation. Make it accessible and appealing to the average student with an interest in academic issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decided to not bring the Academic Senate back this year and am going to trial a different TOR for the Education committee with an expanded membership. - This decision was made on what I believe to be best for the functionality of our reporting structures, students access and the 	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Union of Student's Ireland's Congress I will work to ensure USI's Nation Annual Congress is not exclusive to those involved in the SU and represents all students. Congress, and the motions carried forward from Trinity should be open to all those who are passionate about taking on issues at a national level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will come back to this one in the second semester. Congress is usually held sometime in March. 	<p>Hilary Term Project</p>
<p>Transparency I want to work with College schools and services to become more accountable, more open in communication and to have more information readily available. I will ensure students are invited to play an active role in coursework reform and implementation through ongoing feedback and open forums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working to see if the implementation of the Student Staff Liaison policy will help bridging the gap in communication. - Working with the Communications Officer in pushing the college to be more transparent. - Working to update the Website to have information readily available. - Utilising my Social Media channels where appropriate. - Inviting students to participate in feedback as much as possible & joining NStEP. <p>24/11/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sending regular emails to Class Reps - Using Twitter more for updates - Check it out! @TCDSU_Education 	<p>Completed-LTP</p>
<p>Student Support</p>		
<p>Buddy System I want to create a sign-up system for students similar to S2S's model but for all years. Pair up students with a student in the year ahead of them in the same degree programme. This would serve to assist students in choosing modules, electives and preparing for assessments. I also hope to work alongside the TCDSU Access Officer in implementing this for foundation course students to improve engagement with the broader college community!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had discussions with S2S and SLD to try and find what would be the most appropriate way of implementing this. - Spoke with Academic Secretary about ensure that this does not become "another SU policy" - Looking into if this could be encapsulated by a comprehensive Student Staff Liaison Policy document. - Unfortunately, due to COVID, there's been significant pressure on the offices I would require assistance in implementing this. - There is more need for this now more than ever. - Have a school onboard to trial this in the second semester all going well. 	<p>Ongoing LTP No updates since last Council.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trinity Access Office already have a good system in place but must look into this further alongside the Access Officer. 	
<p>Exams</p> <p>TEP was meant to diversify assessment types, not increase them. Many courses are being over assessed which is inappropriate and adds an unnecessary workload to students. I will work to ensure this is rectified.</p> <p>I will work with the Welfare Officer to improve and expand "Fit to sit",</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing discussions with the Senior Lecturer regarding assessments and methods of assessment for the coming year. - It is noted by the college that the forms of assessment are not diverse enough, do not encourage critical thinking or the mastery of one's subject but instead over assess students on rote learning and same does not serve to benefit students, but contribute to significant workload and stress. - Fit2Sit ran successfully during the supplemental period. Will further improve the content for the "Christmas" exam period in January. 	<p>Completed LTP</p>
<p>Erasmus</p> <p>I want to improve communication and coordination by forming a working group between Academic Registry's Erasmus Office and schools.</p> <p>This would ensure students are equipped with the necessary information required for their exchange.</p> <p>I will work to create a more accessible application process.</p> <p>The current system deters students from participating and adds unnecessary amounts of stress due to many deadlines with applications falling too close to Christmas exams.</p>	<p>27/10/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I sit on the Global Mobility group and have gained a lot of insight into the workings of the Erasmus Programmes. - Currently on hold with the AR/Global Office side of things due to the overwhelming amount of work they have in catering for the International Students during COVID. Will revisit this as soon as possible. - No work done on the application process yet but querying if this could be included in the Student Staff Liaison Policy. - In conversation with the ADUCE about TSM/TJH students on Erasmus. - Current concerns are more immediate implications for students requiring mobility for their degree programme. - Something to be further addressed by the Education Committee. <p>24/11/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deadlines approaching. - Met with the Erasmus Officer in AR re: how to communicate better with students. - Work ongoing. 	<p>In Progress LTP</p>
<p>Class Rep Support.</p> <p>Hold meet ups throughout the year and facilitate optional "trainings" in conjunction with other officer's of the SU and various guest speakers.</p> <p>Class reps are such a valuable resource and should be both encouraged and utilized further.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CRT completed. - All reps added to a Slack chanel for more informal communication. - Top-up Trainings to be provided on an Ad Hoc basis throughout the year. <p>24/11/20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held top up class rep training SUCCESS! - Regular emails. 	<p>Completed LTP</p>
<p>Availability of Supports</p> <p>I want to implement a flowchart on the SU website to assist students in easily finding the resources required.</p> <p>I want to empower students to deal with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flowchart idea was unpopular amongst those in tech, so I am working towards improving the availability of resources for students both on the TCDSU website but also continually flagging the issues with the Trinity Website. 	<p>In Progress LTP No updates since last Council.</p>

<p>situations while remaining fully supportive as Sabbatical Officer.</p> <p>I will meet with all schools in Trinity throughout the year to discuss providing information for students with special reference to mental health supports, disability requirements, and tutor availability to ensure that students feel supported by their faculty.</p>	<p>- Meeting with all 24 schools was always a significant commitment and something I had aimed to complete over the summer. Although this has proven impossible due to the workload regarding COVID, I am in regular communication with many of the DUTL's through various working groups and have reached out on an Ad Hoc basis when appropriate. I still aim to meet with every school over the next few months.</p>	
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Committees/Meetings Attended

College

College Board	September 16th, October 14th, November 12th
University Council	September 30th, October
Undergraduate Studies Committee	September 15th , October 13th, Nov 3rd
Resumption of Teaching	Every Friday until September 26th
Continuation of Teaching	Every Friday since October 2nd.
Quality Committee	October 1st, October 22nd,
Global Mobility	October 2nd,
DT2 Steering Group	July 7th, September 10th, November 20th
Library and Information	October 5th
Undergraduate Common Architecture	October 20th, November
Academic Development - CAPSL	October 7th,
Ass. Dean of Science Education	October 7th.
Ass. Dean of Common Architecture	October 12th
Student Learning and Development	July 7th, July 30th, August 11th
Senior Lecturer	Every two weeks.
Dean of Students	August 28th, October 9th
Registrar	Aug 18th, Sept 10th
Vice Provost	Sept 2nd, Oct 16th
HEA ICT Devices	Sept 8th & 17th

Erasmus Committee	Nov 16th
Vice Provost and Senior Lecturer -	Weekly

Students Union

Union Forum x2	Oct 5th, 19th, Nov 2nd
Sabbatical Board	Weekly
House 6 Team Meetings	Every 3 weeks
Faculty Convenors	Reg. weekly meetings since last council.
Electoral Commission	October 8th, October 12th, Nov
Dublin Region WG	SUT, Sept 2nd, Oct 14th, Nov 11th
USI National Council	July 28th, October 21st,
Academic Affairs Working Group	July 29th, Sept 7th, Oct 8th, Nov 17th
National Campaigns WG	Sept 14th, Oct 16th, Nov 12th
European Students Union Congress	Sept 17th, 18th & 19th
NStEP	Aug 11th, Oct 3rd,
EVIABI	Biweekly until Sept 17th where we met on an Ad Hoc basis until the completion of Class Rep Elections. Nov 5th
Faculty Assemblies	Nov. 3rd, 4th, 6th

Misc Meetings

- Head of School of Dentistry
- Senior Tutor
- Schols Secretary
- Mature Students
- National Forum Teaching Heros Briefing
- Disability Service

Training

USI Sabbatical Training	July 15th- 24th, August 11th-14th
Unconscious Bias Training	July 31st
Board Introduction	September 7th
Quality Committee Briefing	October 1st
Assistive Technology	August 12th

NStEP	August 20th
Union Forum Training	October 5th
Class Rep Training	October 24th, November 13th

Annual Leave

Nil.

Expenses

Nil

Mise le meas,
Megan.

REPORT to COUNCIL, MICHAELMAS TERM // ZOOM // 24TH NOVEMBER 2020

NAME Leah Keogh

POSITION Welfare and Equality Officer

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OFFICER REPORT

REPORT IN BRIEF:

1. INTRODUCTION

2. MISCELLANEOUS

3. CASEWORK

4. CAMPAIGNS

5. COMMITTEES

6. MANIFESTO PROGRESS

7. WELFARE DIRECTORY

1. INTRODUCTION

Dia daoibh, this is my report to 2nd Council. In light of recent online-image based sexual violence I would like to urge anyone affected to reach out and seek support, you are not alone.

Welfare and Equality Officer: welfare@tcdsu.org

Student Counselling Service: student-counselling@tcd.ie

TCDSU Welfare Directory: www.tcdsu.org/welfare

Sign the petition

here: <https://www.change.org/p/irish-justice-department-make-revenge-porn-a-criminal-offence-in-ireland>

Women's Aid: 1800 341 900

Men's Aid: 01 554 3811

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre: 1800 77 8888

In other news, it's been a very busy few weeks-read about it below!

2. MISCELLANEOUS

- Radio interview with TFM

- Selected my Welfare&Equality Committee
- Reviewed application for and allocated the Childcare Assistance Fund
- Engaged in an Instagram live for Trinity Open Day
- Facilitated a Consent Plus class at Class Rep top-up training.
- Re-write the Ts&Cs of the TCDSU short-term loan scheme and had them approved by the college solicitor.

3. CASEWORK

It has continued to be a particularly challenging and uncertain time for so many students. I've been holding virtual officer hours and responding to student enquiries by email, phone call and Zoom.

Issues arising:

- Financial hardship
- SUSI advice
- SU loans
- Counselling service referrals
- Personal Support

As per my manifesto, I have been anonymously recording case work data and will be publishing a report at the end on Hilary Term.

4. CAMPAIGNS

- Mental Health Week

- MHW was a great success, we held 3 panel discussions, one film screening, we had free ice-cream on campus and in Halls and an interview with Blindboy that engaged 1.7k of you lot <3
- The Officer for students with disabilities also organised ISL for our first panel discussion ☺

- Rainbow Week

- Rainbow Week was another successful campaign week, I co-ordinated the week with the wonderful LGBT+RO, Q Soc Chair, Sports and Rec intern, Oifeagach na Gaeilge and Comms Officer!
- We had a host of panels, film screenings, safe spaces and debates.

- SHIFT DAY ✨

- I organised a Queer SHIFT (Sexual Health Information for Trinity) Day 🌈 on the Wednesday of Rainbow Week that involved:
- A social media campaign of various relevant terms and queer specific sexual health lingo all translated as Gaeilge.

- o I also facilitated a panel on Chemsex, an emerging drug trend associated with the gay/bi community.
- o We also had organised a 'Queer Sex Ed' event which unfortunately had to be postponed to next month by the Consent Intern due to unforeseen circumstances.

Currently planning: Disability Awareness Week

5. COMMITTEES/MEETINGS

- College Board x1
- Student Life Committee x1
- Healthy Trinity Main Committee x1
- Healthy Trinity, Drugs and Alcohol sub-group x2
- Student Advisory Board x2
- Meeting with Sport and Recreation Intern x4
- Union Forum x1 (I sent my apologies to one UF as I was facilitating a panel discussion at the same time.)
- Meeting with Students for Sensible Drug Policy x2
- Meeting with Vampire Cup x1
- Meeting with VDP x2
- Meeting with Consent Intern x2
- Meeting with PTOs x4
- USI: Dublin Region Working Group x1
- USI: Welfare Working Group x1
- USI: Equality Working Group x1
- Meeting with TCD against the 27th x1
- Academic Registry x1

6. MANIFESTO PROGRESS

Green-Complete
 Amber-In Progress
 Red- Not Started

<u>MANIFESTO POINT</u>	<u>ACTIONS TAKEN</u>	<u>PROGRESS</u>
I will establish a student welfare partnership with Academic Registry to combat its existing processes that don't serve students. I have developed an early action plan that targets the €385 re-admissions fee and advocates for a more	A bi-weekly meeting with AR was established to challenge the logic behind the €385 figure of the late-payment fee and advocate for its abolition. AR agreed not to charge any student this fee if they had an open case	

accessible fee payment plan.	with AR, I then launched a social media campaign to make students aware of this.	
I will work with the Student Support Officer to publicise grants and bursaries available to students to alleviate financial pressure .	Advertised this information in the SU Diary and on a case by case basis.	
I will organise 'safeTalk' training to be made available through the HSE for all Trinity students and staff to better equip us to support our students having suicidal thoughts.	Covid-19 has meant that safeTalk can no longer be delivered in person, however, it has been replaced with an alternative virtual course called START Training. This will be provided free of charge for all students and advertised during Mental health Week.	
I will work with Students for Sensible Drug Policy on the implementation of a drug policy that recognises drug use and informs students of support available. I will also work with USI to bring a Drugs and Alcohol information and support campaign to Trinity.	The 'Misuse of Drugs' policy was passed by College Board this month. We are actively working on its implementation and I have been appointed the operational lead on Healthy Trinity's Drugs and Alcohol sub-committee that are working on this policies implementation.	
I will work with USI to lobby the HSE for free and accessible methods to prevent STIs and crisis pregnancy such as the pill, latex-free condoms and dental dams.	I have liaised with the National Union on this topic. I have worked with the Gender Equality Officer on an application to the Equality fund to provide sanitary products free for all students in an effort to alleviate period poverty. This is a short-term solution until the government allocate funding.	
I will work with the College's Consent intern to implement the guidelines outlined in the 2019 publication by the Department of Education and Skills on ' Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish Higher Education Institutions'.	I met with Minister Simon Harris to discuss how best to implement this framework in our institution. I sit on the consent steering group who action the implementation of this framework. I also delivered consent classes, consent education is a	

	<p>large part of the frameworks action points.</p> <p>I suggested that all security guards should be trained as first responders and now arrangements are being made to train them.</p>	
<p>I will work with HIV Ireland to provide rapid HIV testing during Rainbow Week and ensure that information about PrEP is easily accessible to all students.</p>	<p>Unfortunately Covid-19 has put a hold on HIV rapid testing. I have however, signed up TCDSU to the Vampire Cup Initiative. This initiative is an intervarsity competition that encourages students to check their eligibility for blood donation and to donate blood where possible. I hope that the statistics gathered from the eligibility reckoner will give weight to our argument against the MSM blood ban.</p>	
<p>I will hold office hours in accessible locations in both on-campus and off-campus locations. I will provide out-of-hours office hours for students on placement and those with demanding timetables. I will also make Skype office hours available to Erasmus students to ensure we are minding our students overseas.</p>	<p>Unfortunately Covid-19 has put a hold on in-person office hours. Before level 5, I met students, by request, in accessible locations. I have also held virtual officer hours every week that have proved very accessible for students.</p>	
<p>I will work with the College's Director of Diversity and Inclusion to provide unconscious bias training for both students and staff to foster a more inclusive college campus.</p>	<p>I organised Unconscious Bias Training for all Sabbats as a pilot before we rolled it out to students and staff. We all agreed that the training would be more powerful with a student presence/empirical insight and so I am working with NStEP who are creating a Diversity training that we hope to roll out in the new year.</p>	
<p>I will record casework data and publish an anonymised annual report detailing key issues that students are facing. This data will legitimise funding applications and inform</p>	<p>Yes, I have anonymously recorded all case work so far and am on track to creating my annual report, scheduled to be published before the end of Hilary Term.</p>	

target areas for future
College Officers.

So that's what I've been up to! Busy busy, but so excited for Christmas 🎄 Please do not hesitate to get in touch at welfare@tcdsu.org if you need anything at all <3

If you made it this far, congrats! Here's a riddle for ya:
What can you hold in your left hand but not in your right?

7. WELFARE DIRECTORY

WELFARE DIRECTORY

For a comprehensive list of all supports available, check out [pleasetalk.ie/tcd](#). For further information, contact Leah at welfare@tcdsu.org.

MENTAL HEALTH Student Counselling Service 01 896 1407 tcd.ie/Student_Counselling student-counselling@tcd.ie	DRUGS AND ALCOHOL Alcoholics Anonymous 01 842 0700 www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie	LGBTQ* ISSUES LGBT Helpline 1890 929 539 www.lgbt.ie	Women's Aid 1800 341 900 www.womensaid.ie
Niteline <i>Listening and online chat service</i> 1800 793 793 www.niteline.ie	College Health Centre 01 896 1556 www.tcd.ie/collegehealth	Gay Switchboard 01 872 1055	Rotunda Hospital 01 817 1700 (<i>ask for the Sexual Assault Unit [if applicable]</i>)
S2S Peer Support <i>Listening service</i> student2student.tcd.ie/Peer-support	Ana Liffey Drug Project 01 878 6899	TCDSU LGBT Rights Officer Brian Hastings lgbt@tcdsu.org	One in Four 01 662 4070 www.oneinfour.ie info@oneinfour.ie
Turn2Me www.turn2me.org	The Deora Counselling Project 01 836 4524	Q Soc <i>Trinity's LGBTQ* Society</i> www.trinitylgbt.com info@trinitylgbt.com	ACCOMMODATION TCDSU's Accommodation Advisory Service tcdsuaccommodation.org accommodation@tcdsu.org 01 646 8431
Aware <i>Depression helpline</i> 1890 303 302 www.aware.ie	Narcotics Anonymous 01 672 8000 www.na-ireland.org	Transgender Equality Network Ireland Teni.ie	FLAC <i>Free legal advice centre</i> 1890 350 250 www.flac.ie
Pieta House <i>Suicide and self-harm</i> 01 601 0000 www.pieta.ie	Gamblers Anonymous 01 872 1133 // 087 748 5878 info@gamblersanonymous.ie	BeLong To 01 670 6233 www.belongto.org	Threshold <i>The national housing charity</i> www.threshold.ie
Reachout.com <i>Info on mental health & well-being</i> ie.reachout.com	Problem Gambling Ireland 089 241 5401 info@problemgambling.ie	SEXUAL HEALTH & PREGNANCY My Options 1800 828 010 www.myoptions.ie	PRTB <i>Private Residential Tenancies Board</i> 0818 303037 www.prtb.ie
Body Whys <i>Eating disorders</i> www.bodywhys.ie	LEARNING DIFFICULTY & DISABILITY College Disability Service 01 896 3111 <i>Text/SMS (for deaf students)</i> 086 344 2322 www.tcd.ie/disability	Irish Family Planning Association 1850 495 051 www.ifpa.ie	Money Advice & Budgeting Service 0761 072000 www.mabs.ie
Samaritans 01 671 0071 www.samaritans.org	AHEAD 01 716 4396 www.ahead.ie	Well Woman Centre 01 872 8051 www.wellwomancentre.ie	
Crisis Text Line Freetext TCD to 50808	SU Disability Rights Officer Niamh Herbert disability@tcdsu.org	Dublin Rape Crisis Centre 1800 778 888 www.drcc.ie	

REPORT to COUNCIL, MT // Zúm // 24/11/20

NAME Philly Holmes

POSITION Communications and Marketing Officer

REPORT IN BRIEF:

- 1. Transparency Update - Website**
- 2. Campaign Weeks Update**
- 3. Business Development (BisDev)/Sponsorship update**
- 4. Press Releases Update**
- 5. Social Channels Update**
- 6. Leap Card Office Update**
- 7. Gaeilge Update**
- 8. Weekly Email Update**
- 9. Long Term Projects Update**
- 10. Movember Update**
- 11. MEETINGS ATTENDED**
- 12. MANIFESTO PROGRESS**

OFFICER REPORT

1. Transparency Update - Website

- I have begun working on a page on the website to host publicly available minutes and finances.
- This is in line with promises I made in my manifesto but also a mandate to ensure that those minutes are readily available and not just available on request as they have been.
- The Communications officer in 18/19 worked hard on gathering material for archival during their term. I plan to examine what he did and make available anything that should be public. Ideally we'd have an archive going back as far as possible but this may prove difficult but I'll try my best. The Union seems to have a short term memory.
- If any secretaries of any committees can submit me their minutes once approved for publication, I'll get them on the website as soon as I can!
- There are always meetings that are in camera, those minutes will never be made public to retain confidentiality where appropriate, this is important to the function of the Union.
- Once finances and annual reports are made public they will ideally also be added to this page. Historically these have only been made available on request and the primary vector of communication has been University Times and Trinity News analysis. I think the option to have these more transparently available would benefit everyone.

- If anyone has any questions around this or wants clarification, shoot me an email.

2. Campaign Weeks update

- Since last council we've had two wonderful campaign weeks. Mental Health week, and more recently Rainbow Week (which is very close to my heart). I've felt very lucky to be able to support the Welfare officer and other relevant officers in these endeavours through marketing and graphic design.
- I dedicated a huge chunk of time to each, ensuring that each one had a distinctive aesthetic that was recognisable and eye-catching and **I would really love your thoughts on how our campaign week graphics are taking shape.**
- On the horizon we have College awareness week this week and Disability Week next week. Before next council we'll also have Empowerment Week. I'm looking forward to supporting the promotion of these weeks and hopefully developing some really slick marketing materials for each.
- We've been insistently pushing Gaeilge as much as possible during these campaigns. I'm feeling very responsible for pushing the language this year, and the consistent support of the Oifigeach has been genuinely crucial in ensuring that Irish Language content continues to be delivered for each campaign week. We had a particularly dense amount of Irish info go out around Rainbow Week and I now know about 30 more words for how to express my identity as gaeilge which is gorgeous.
- If anyone has feedback, questions or commentary about any of the campaign weeks or how I can be improving my reach, marketing or engagement don't hesitate to reach out. Shoot me an email communications@tcdsu.org

3. Business Development (BisDev)/Sponsorship update

- Sponsorship has been, as predicted, poor since last council.
- Had a few bits and pieces of bisdev but not too much. I've shifted focus to try and provide a platform for student-first deals, but since level 5, many of our typical partners aren't open for business.
- Worked with
 - Lombard Pharmacy
 - Ethicart
 - KBC
 - Flying Elephant
 - Café Mezza
 - 48
- Continuing to develop my relationship with KBC. They've been very happy to work with us so far and I hope that we can uphold that relationship as long as possible, subject to external pressures
- Working on clarifying details with the existing 3/48 deal and passing on those benefits to students.
- Beginning the preparation for 12-days of christmas, our annual christmas giveaway series.

- Right now we (the TCDSU President) have secured giveaways with the following
 - Westin
 - Honey Truffle
- I'm working to seek out a juicy giveaway from 48/3
- The goal will be to spread out the christmas cheer with students by getting as many small/medium value giveaways as possible rather than mostly big ticket items
- Hoping that things will pick up in the new year, but I'm not hopeful that things will perk up before then. I'll give updates at 3rd council if they do.
- Looking forward to recruiting a sponsorship officer this council and liaising with them regularly to increase SU income in what has been a difficult year.

4. Press Releases Update

- Press releases have again been going well.
- Can honestly say that the ball was dropped with Rainbow week, due to a high workload that week I was not able to deliver a press release for those events. Thank you to everyone who shared and got involved.
- Will endeavour to continue to deliver these as I believe they offer a valuable summation of goings on in the SU and help us to articulate what we're working on effectively.
- While not a press release, I have been openly critical of the attitude and tone of some members of staff towards the student body and I will continue to be critical of that treatment until members of staff begin to treat the students, young adults who they have duty of care to, like the adults they are. It's irresponsible for a college to market itself very openly as a place to spread your wings and fly, seek independence and start a new phase of your life, only for that same college to treat those students in a belittling manner.

5. Social Channels Update

- Instagram
 - Up to 7.5k followers. Consistent, slow uptick. 2k followers since Freshers boost.
 - Primarily in the 18-24 demographic
 - Projected that we'll see a big boost in followers around the 12 days of christmas period
 - Story Reach up to 3,000 per depending on calls to action/tags and shares
 - Post Reach
 - Giveaways doing anything from 10,000-90,000 impressions
 - Due mostly to paid boost
 - Posts related to national campaigns generally perform best after this.
 - 10-11,000 impressions but hugely varies.
 - The average info post does around 5-7,000 impressions per post.
 - We receive 50-80,000 impressions per 7 day period and depending on schedule/giveaway/call to action etc.
 - Instagram is our best performing social channel by far. Things have less of a dependency to go viral or be shared and perform in a very stable manner. It's my primary platform to pitch to business after the email obviously. Works best for giveaways.
 - Be sure to give us a follow if you're not already

- Facebook
 - 21.5k likes, did not see quite the same increase in followers compared to Instagram as we didn't run many giveaways or shareable content through here as may have been done in previous years.
 - Demographic trends higher here due to historical followers. There's a lot of holdover from previous years and this audience is the least predictable. I don't think the majority engaged with the page are currently students but there's no way to prove this
 - Our reach is 75-100k per 7 day period, content dependent. This is very poor in proportion to our following.
 - Facebook are adamant that video is king, so our general posts perform quite poorly here unless they contain a video element.
 - In contrast, a paid post will receive 80k impressions in a 7 day period on it's own.
- Twitter
 - 7.6k followers with a slow but steady up trend. I foresee that the Instagram will eclipse this before the year is out.
 - We receive 80-100k impressions per 28 day period and due to the nature of Twitter, I believe that this is surprisingly good.
 - We rely a lot on the officer accounts to disseminate information and that all gets retweeted by the main account. This helps to inject personality into things and show that information is coming from people and personalities and not just the faceless SU.
 - Gis a follow :) and tweet @ us @tcdsu
 - The audience here is a lot of academics but there's a good proportion of students following us too. It can be quite echochamber-y at times but there's been an injection of engagement since class reps got on board
- We got #yupcouncil trending number one in Ireland, which while monumental, is also the reason why other universities are sick of us (hahaha), but I genuinely am very proud to say that we got a lot of reach in and around council and to get something trending like that has been a goal of mine for a while. Thank you to everyone who tweeted and engaged and made memes and stuff, it was nice to see. Thanks everyone :)
- There's a bit of a backlog right now on messages, particularly FB and Insta. I'm dealing with urgent ones as they crop up but I'm back-2-back most days and haven't been able to carve out the time to consistently deal with that backlog. I just want to flag that here. I took time this previous Thursday and now our messages are at zero again
 - I make sure to vet messages as much as I possibly can and if anything is urgent it's addressed as fast as I can.
 - Most messages come in after work hours, so I apologise if anyone had anything urgent crop up that I missed. For my own sake, I try my best to not engage with the professional challenges outside of the hours of 9-7 on weekdays
- We're working now to bring more of a face to things. There's been a drought of our own personality on the Union media for a wee while and that's simply because the Sabbat team

is pretty consistently slammed. We've discussed it and will be working to make these changes and bring a bit more engagement to our channels

- Want to finally flag an issue that arose with the recent referendum, it wasn't appropriately messaged on social media and not enough lead time was given for students to do their research. Meetings are being had about this and an investigation is underway about the factors leading to this. I acknowledge my partial blame here and have instituted protocol to ensure this doesn't happen again. It may crop up as a mandate in the future, but lines of reporting will be tightened up to ensure that an error like this will never happen again. Paper trail is being kept. Thank you to UT for diligent reporting around this. They helped to keep us externally accountable on this one. As always I appreciate their dedication.

6. Leap Card Office Update

- Both the House 6 and Turks Head offices are open as pre-level 5 lockdown.
- We have now started our online leap card delivery service and have collaborated closely with Student Leap Card and the National Transport Authority to do this.
- We are now the preferred supplier for remote leap card delivery and Student Leap Card have begun rolling out a campaign advertising us to previous leap card owners.
- Typically we expect an influx in December/January as Leap Cards go out of date. Given the lack of access many students have to physical leap card kiosks, there's potential for us to be quite successful here and as it gets closer to that time I'll be working hard to deliver marketing content around this.
- As I mentioned before, our typical tourist-related income has taken a significant hit, but potentially a boost in January could, in some way, make up for this.
- It would be nice to see a return to normality and a regular Tourist Traffic come Summer next but I'm not getting my hopes up for a cure-all vaccine quite yet.

7. Gaeilge Update

- The oifigeach and I have been working hard to inject cúpla focal into everything the Union does.
- We've continued our commitment to the Ríomhphost as gaeilge and I'm personally learning a lot from each edition as I pick up a cúpla focal each time.
- I hope that people take the opportunity to read the Irish Language email and maybe pick up a few things themselves.
- We had our first Coiste na Gaeilge and it was a really positive experience. This first meeting was mostly introductions and icebreakers but there's a really positive team there ready to assist with issues around the Irish language and I feel that it puts the Union in a really strong position to continue platforming the Irish language into the future regardless of who is in which role.
- We launched our beginners/improves conversation circle last week and we hope to continue that going forward. It's a really positive opportunity for speakers of all levels to get stuck into the language

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8. Weekly Email Update

- The weekly email is becoming quite dense at the moment

- We have a lot of information to disseminate and that's leading to huge length per email.
- Email 15/11 was our longest yet and I'll be working to slim that down going forward to make things more efficient for all involved.
- I can sense generally that engagement is down in the weekly email from students, but that's to be expected. It's the same Michaelmas 2 phenom documented by the CSC where students become less likely to engage when their workload increases.
 - I'm hoping this trend isn't reflected in council attendance!
- The Gaeilge email and the audio email have been going strong and while it's a bit of work each week, I've found that it's just as rewarding to deliver as when I started the project.
- Sponsorship is down as I mentioned and no place is feeling it more than the weekly email which typically relies on those weekly deals as a source of income.
 - I'm optimistic that the new year will bring new opportunities (haha) but it's bleak that I have been saying that since ~ week 4 or 5 of term

9. Long Term Projects Update

- I've started a few yearlong projects this year. Going to detail updates on those now
- I'm currently examining the brand guidelines of the Union. You may see things on our social channels that look a little bit different from the usual SU Blue, and these are all experiments and tests as to how we can expand and develop the existing SU brand while maintaining the recognisable aspects of it.
 - We've introduced two new colours to the Union. Pink and a darker blue. These are to provide contrast and interest to social posts we make. These will exist alongside SU Blue
 - The logo will be remaining the same.
 - I'm currently developing and finetuning icons for each sabbatical role. You will have seen those in the email or in any of the intro graphics we posted on social media or printed as posters. They borrow from the previous ones but modernise them and I'm finding ways for them to be implemented regularly into graphics from the union.
 - Everything I'm designing is being saved and I'm hoping that these designs can be used as templates in years going forward!
- I'm working on a few Comms related mandates. None passing at this council, but things that I've picked up on that historically should have been done. Housekeeping bits mostly that I want to see set in stone for my successors. Will have more details on this as the mandates get fleshed out.
- I want to work on a visual access manual, and even if it's the last project I complete in my term, I'll hopefully have delivered a guide about how we can cater and deliver high standards of accessibility across all parts of the Union going forward. (A visual access manual will be a guideline for how to approach accessibility pertaining to visual accessibility in all union materials)
- I developed a Terms of reference for a comms committee. In the long term I hope that this will positively impact the Union's income via a sponsorship officer, and ensure that events are well publicised via the photo/video officer. I also wanted to bring one OCM role into the mix for anyone who wasn't narrow focused on the other two areas but wanted to get involved in anyway they could or just wanted to learn about the role.

- Alongside these roles, JCR Comms and Pubs and Ents PRO and Photography officer will be sitting on this committee in an ex-officio, advisory capacity. I hope that this will allow the Union Communications officer to work closer with both the JCR and Ents to promote what's going on and so that they can ask the comms officer for advice when needed.
- **Under no circumstances should these ex-officio roles be used to try and over-reach SU power into Ents and JCR which, communications-wise, benefit from their own autonomy and should continue to do so.** The committee stands to benefit from those officers retaining their autonomy. The Comms officer should never be micro-managing these officers at any point, in my opinion.

10. Movember Update

- As you may or may not be able to tell from Eoin's glorious facial hair endeavours, we're doing Movember this year.
 - It's a campaign to raise awareness for mental health and men's health and we're hoping to raise money for this good cause. You can find the donation link here: <https://ie.movember.com/team/2385105>
- I'm running 120km this month and as of writing this I've completed over 90km of that challenge, yuppa!
- Thank you to everyone who has gotten involved. I'm really proud of all of the promo we've been able to do for this and I hope that we inspired cúpla people to get involved themselves and donate, whether they donated to team SU or any of their mate's teams, it's been really positive and TCD have raised over 45,000 euro so far.

11. MEETINGS ATTENDED

<u>MEETING</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
I sit on no college committees this year :(N/A
<u>USI Dublin WG x 1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Coiste Na Gaeilge x1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Union Forum x1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>JCR Open Forum</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>TOTAL: 4</u>	<u>4</u>

12. MANIFESTO PROGRESS

<u>MANIFESTO POINT</u>	<u>ACTIONS TAKEN</u>	<u>PROGRESS</u>
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Renew Social Media Strategy	Increase engagement, post more regularly, advertise our services more clearly	Ongoing but complete
<u>Engage on + off Campus students</u>	<u>Incredibly difficult due to Corona but I think we've done well to engage students via class rep elections and our social media is more regularly engaged with</u>	In progress but hard to gauge how successful this has been due to the pandemic
<u>Restructure emails for accessible and student first focus + signpost student services more</u>	<u>Email has a new look, audio version, a lot of space made for student services, increased accessibility</u>	Complete
<u>Harness digital billboards across campus</u>	<u>Not possible due to the pandemic and reduced footfall. We'll see in the new year if this changes</u>	
<u>Calendar Add-On</u>	<u>Something that has genuinely been put on the backburner due to increased workload. Calendar of campaign weeks is available on the website though.</u>	
<u>SU Messenger Chatbot</u>	<u>An Idea I now wholeheartedly disagree with and will not be pursuing this year. There's a lot of value to the human touch in responding to messages personally. While it's more workload, we are often the first point of contact for students and a personal, empathetic approach is really valuable here rather than automation</u>	
<u>Updated Website</u>	<u>Launched in mid august. Looking great. Ongoing maintenance required</u>	
<u>Website Jobs</u>	<u>Jobs have steadily gone on the new jobs portal and from my side, seems like that page is getting a regular tip over of engagement</u>	
<u>Rebranded SU Weeks</u>	<u>Working on a week-by-week basis. Injecting new design into them and promoting gaeilge as much as possible. Difficult situation as nothing can happen in person</u>	
<u>More upskilling</u>	<u>Not as feasible due to COVID-19 limitations.</u>	

	<u>Something we're looking into but not hopeful this side of christmas</u>	
<u>Reduce Waste</u>	<u>UT have not gone to print this year yet, I take no credit for this, this was a judgement call made by their team and while it's saving paper I feel for them as it was such a hard decision to make.</u> <u>We're cutting down printing of diaries wallplanners and other printed materials.</u> <u>We've printed a limited run of posters for breakout spaces as we have no other way to get messages into these spaces</u>	
<u>Accessible email</u>	<u>Ongoing but it's 100% accessible as much as it can be in my opinion</u>	
<u>Subtitles</u>	<u>We're exploring the limits of what we can subtitle here in the SU and looking into automatic systems to do so (panopto etc). We've subtitled on all short-form videos made by the Union and all instagram stories. Has had positive reception and this extra level of effort has paid off IMO</u>	
<u>Handbooks</u>	<u>No progress on these but I'm planning to design a visual access manual with tips for designing accessible materials. Will be linking in with the disability officer on this</u>	
<u>Student First Sponsorship</u>	<u>Despite downturn of sponsorship, I'm proud of the ones ive secured and I hope they have a more direct impact on the student body. This is an ongoing thing</u>	
<u>New Sponsorship Manual</u>	<u>We haven't found much use for the sponsorship handbook this year but we can publish or share the TCDSU advertising rates card on request.</u>	
<u>Collaborating with ents and UT</u>	<u>Have successfully negotiated KBC ads for UT and continue to push UT as a potential ad platform for businesses</u>	

	<p><u>alongside the SU. I'm happy to say this has been successful and look forward to developing this further. Again, pandemic and sponsorship drought makes this a little more difficult</u></p>	
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EXPENSES:

No further expenses

I hope everyone is keeping well at the moment. The days are getting shorter and I know I'm finding it hard to find motivation for things, I imagine I'm not the only one in this so I really hope that everyone is finding the time to take care of themselves, de-stress, eat a warm meal and spend some time safely with people they luv. The season affective disorder vibes are real, especially right now. Idk if you guys have heard but there's a big pandemic and it's kind of a bad buzz (hahaha).

I've been listening to a lot of MGMT, Vampire Weekend and Phoebe Bridgers and drinking lots of green tea. I've also started cooking a lot more. I've been making lots of green curries and smoked paprika tomato dishes. It's a nice way to de-stress. I'd offer you some but that wouldn't be very socially distant of me.

As always, I want to note here that we should all recognise the hard work being done by Cormac and UT at the moment. Whether he's treating us 'favourably' with articles or not, he doesn't get this same opportunity to present on his hard work and justify his decisions and I'd like to make a point of just sending positive vibes his way. I could never do the work he does, and this year it seems especially hard as the sense of community often felt in the UT office and around publication weekends simply can't exist in the same way. The college community is better because of his presence :)

Also shameless plug, but I'm currently raising money for the Sex Workers Alliance of Ireland and their #30daysforSWAI challenge. I'm making and sharing a beat or piece of music every single day, it's been a lot of work but feels very rewarding. Due to events in the past few days, I think these funds are more crucial than ever and I'm proud to be raising money for such an important cause. Sex Workers are consistently criminalised and overlooked by our laws and I'm very hopeful that we can see some really positive reform to protect sex workers. I know that the area of sex work is an uncomfortable conversation for many people, I imagine particularly if you're a balding, cis, white, straight TD, but the longer we try to ignore these 'awkward' conversations and default to Irish catholic guilt-driven principles, the more people, disproportionately women and members of the LGBTQ+ community, will be hurt.

That's all from me, Go Raibh Maith Agat - Philly Cheesesteak xoxo

Hugh McInerney
Trinity Ents

Workers Report

October 28th - November 24th

OVERVIEW

November was jam packed with events, and it also provided a welcome planning period over reading week for next term. Halloween, the American election and reading week were all covered by our special themed events, and Ents provided 250 FREE pumpkins for any Halls student that wanted one. The lessons learned from our Trinity Treats stream enabled us to extremely successfully stream our Count Tails election night cocktail making class. Numerous long running classes came to an end and much anticipated competitions were launched. Viewership was promising and reaction positive, and a great time was had by all!

I took the opportunity to draw a rough sketch for the beginning of next term over reading week, but this proved and is proving enormously difficult as the restrictions can change at any moment. Every plan requires three different versions depending on what levels we could be, and the possibility always exists that the government introduces new levels, gets rid of all levels or flogs the country on DoneDeal while it still can. Planning takes triple the time and is even more disheartening because we plan one really cool event that definitely can't happen, one still pretty cool event that might happen but a week before the government tells us no and inevitably the one that does go ahead is on zoom. But who's bitter right.

Our Christmas period is essentially sewn up, and our Clash of the Comic competition is now live. Great prizes to be one, and a fun sense of community spirit will hopefully be fostered. Our online concert and cocktail class events will hopefully be going live this week, and we've expanded our content and begun a podcast to run alongside Trinity Talent. This means that beyond events Ents is providing content every single week, and is something we hope to keep up until in person events can return and Ents once again becomes what it was meant to be!

EVENTS THAT HAPPENED

Trinity Treats

- Multi pronged event where we handed out 250 pumpkins in halls and broadcast a pumpkin carving and smore making session
- Pumpkins were generously distributed by the JCR, feedback on the free pumpkins was overwhelmingly positive from the 1st years
- Stream encountered technical issues due to the inability of facebook live to handle multi cam set ups, lessons were learned for our next stream "Count Tails"

Trinity Talent Political Special

- Discussion between the major youth political societies on campus

- Ents remained apolitical, as it always should, but it was a great way to highlight the many commonalities shared by the organisers of these societies
- Interesting insight into the political activities of the groups, especially considering the entire world was so politically engaged that week!

Count Tails

- Held almost directly after the political special, this collaboration with LawSoc and the JCR was great fun.
- Feedback was great, and the lessons learned from Trinity Treats were applied with great effect
- Our skills as political commentators could certainly improve

The Waiting Room

- This collaboration with Comedy Soc ended Mental Health week, and involved a sketch produced by myself and the phenomenal Welfare Officer and a panel of comedians who discuss mental health hosted by the Comedy Soc Chair
- Really interesting and insightful event about how mental health is discussed and sometimes exploited for cheap laughs by comedians, and a worthwhile end to an all round fantastic week

Thursday Trivia

- This quiz was hosted over reading week to give the first years who still had lectures an outlet if they wished
- Attendance could have been better but those that did go had a great time and it was an all round enjoyable event

Clash of the Comics classes end and competition launched

- Our Clash of the Comics classes came to an end last week and were very well received by the dozen people who attended. These classes were weekly for six weeks, and the cost was footed by Ents and Comedy Soc. Once again showing Ents as a service, these were a great success and set the attendees up perfectly for the competition.
- The competition segment of the event was launched, and response so far has been promising. With a number of fantastic accessories to be won (which are being provided solely by Ents), this competition gives students a chance to showcase their talents as well as win amazing prizes for their efforts.

USI

- Attended Dublin Working Group and Campaigns Working Group, useful discussions had.

- Attended a very worthwhile Campaign Strategy Committee and contributed numerous ideas that will be actioned upon by USI.

EVENTS PLANNED

Cocktails Three

- Our Christmas themed cocktail event is currently in the works and should be going live this week
- Our final one of the term, this collaboration between the JCR and LawSoc has proved both fantastic to run and popular amongst students, and it'll be a great way to end the term

Online Concert

- After the success of Ents Online, we are planning another Online Concert to end the year in style.
- This iteration will focus on Trinity Bands and will have a decidedly Christmas theme.
- This will also be streamed professionally for free with prizes to be won by those watching at home.

Clash of the Comics competition

- As mentioned above, this has commenced and the heats and final will be taking place throughout December

- Prizes, audience interaction and more, we aim to make Clash of the Comics a template for how our online Battle of the Bands can and will work

Ents as a Service

- This is still core to everything we are doing at Ents this year.
- Our many events hosted in the interim have been free for students, as well as the events planned. We will continue to do this as long as is sustainable!

MISC

No holiday days were taken and no expenses were claimed.