

Schedule 8 – Memoranda of Agreement Between TCDSU and TCDGSU

Preamble

The students of Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin (thereafter known as TCD), have historically been represented by two distinct students' unions; the T.C.D. Students' Union (SU), representing all students in the College, and the T.C.D. Graduate Students' Union (GSU), representing only the postgraduate students of the College. In order that the two students' unions might avoid discord, and work together to promote the interests of the students of TCD, the Unions formally agree to cooperate in the general area of student representation, and in particular agree to the following.

Representation on College Committees.

All student representatives on a committee of the College or University shall be appointed by the SU, save where that committee's constitution calls for representatives from postgraduate students whereupon the representatives shall be appointed by the GSU. Each Union may seek to have its representation on a particular committee expanded, but without prejudice to the representation of the other Union.

Representation of the student body.

The SU is the principal representative body of the undergraduate students of TCD and represents all students. The GSU is the principal representative body of the postgraduate students of TCD, however it is to be recognised that the postgraduate students are also members of the SU, and may be represented by the SU in relation to issues which affect all students.

If representation is to be made on an issue that affects undergraduate and postgraduate students equally, the SU shall take action, representing the student body as a whole, with support from the GSU if appropriate.

If representation is to be made on an issue that affects primarily postgraduate students, the GSU shall take action, representing the postgraduate students, with support from the SU if appropriate. This arrangement should apply to issues that arise both within TCD and externally.

If a campaign issue is brought to the GSU before being presented to the SU, and the issue affects all students equally, the GSU shall bring this issue to the SU council first. If rejected at the SU council, the GSU may still decide to run a campaign independent of the SU on this issue.

If individuals with responsibility for particular areas are appointed to committees, they shall be appointed by the SU only, except where the area in question is of particular relevance to postgraduate students, whereupon they shall be appointed by the GSU only.

This section is without prejudice to either Union assisting with campaigns of specific relevance to either or both Unions.

Representation of the student constituencies.

The SU shall arrange for the election of representatives from the undergraduate student constituencies as specified in the SU Constitution. These representatives shall be appointed by the SU to the Council of the SU, and to Department, School and Faculty Committees as appropriate.

The GSU shall arrange for the election of representatives from the postgraduate student constituencies as specified in the GSU Constitution. These representatives shall be appointed by the GSU to the Council of the GSU, and by the GSU to Department, School and Faculty Committees as appropriate.

If either Union requires assistance with running elections (for example, promotion), both Unions shall work together to assist the other with the election in question.

Liaison of the Unions.

Representatives of the Executive of the SU should meet at least once per term with representatives of the Executive Committee of the GSU to identify and discuss areas of common interest and concern. In particular, the President of the SU and the President of the GSU should arrange to meet regularly, with best practice indicated as at least twice per month.

The GSU Vice-President and the Education and Welfare Officers of the SU should arrange to meet regularly and if possible at least once a week during Michaelmas and Hillary Term.

Reviewal and Renewal.

This MoA will be reviewed by both Unions on a triennial basis and by latest November 2019.

Ratification

This was ratified by SU Council at its second meeting of 16/17. which was November 15th, 2016. Ratification can be found in Schedule 4, titled "16/17 12 Motion on SU-GSU Memorandum".

