



Trinity College Dublin Students Union

SCHEDULE 4

The Policy Manual

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Document Managed by
Secretary to Council

Introduction

Schedule 4 of the TCDSU Constitution (also known as The Policy Manual) contains all Long Term Policies and Mandates passed by Referendum of the Student Body and by Council, respectively. It is managed and interpreted by the members of the Oversight Commission, who also investigate any possible breaches of mandate and constitutional obligation.

Long Term Policy

Long Term Policy lasts until it is overturned and can be on any subject of interest to the student body. It can only be set and overturned by referendum. Long Term Policy set the direction of the union for years and even decades after passing, but still must not conflict with the constitution.

Council Mandate

Council has the power to mandate any policy on any subject relevant to the aims and principles of the Constitution or the administration of the Union. Council also has the power to give mandate to officers on any subject relevant to the aims and principles of the Constitution or the area of competency of the officer, so long as that mandate does not infringe on individual rights and freedoms of the officers being mandated. Mandates expire 2 years after the academic year the motion passed (ie, a motion passed in October 2016 and a motion passed March 2017 would have both expired in June 2019)

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SECTION 1

Long Term Policy

LTP 1: Abortion Information

Enacted: 1990

We mandate the Students' Union to:

- a) Provide full information on all pregnancy options, including the option of abortion, as this information is presently being censored in Ireland;
- b) Campaign to make professional non-directive pregnancy counselling available for Irish women
- c) Campaign for greater availability of comprehensive sex education and contraception, and promote the sale of condoms in the SU shop;
- d) Continue working for more and cheaper places in the College crèche for the children of students;
- e) Campaign against all discrimination against single parents, and work to ensure a living income and decent housing for them and their children.

LTP 2: Nestlé Products

Enacted: 2004

TCDSU votes to boycott (not to stock or sell) Nescafé or other Nestlé products in the Students' Union shops.

We encourage College to do the same. We take this action in the light of Nestlé's continuing contravention of the World Health Organisation/UNICEF International Code of Marketing of breast milk substitutes by promoting bottle feeding and undermining breast-feeding

LTP 3: Membership of USI

Enacted: 2013

We support the continued affiliation of TCDSU to the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and for the costs associated with affiliation to be met by an annual levy of no more than 8 Euro per student.

LTP 4: Sports Centre Levy

Enacted: 2015

TCDSU should support an increase in the existing Annual Sports Centre charge from €90 to €120 with the provision that;

- Students with financial hardship would be exempt from the charge, as moderated by the Senior Tutor's office.
- The levy would be overseen by the SU and the Treasurer's Office.

LTP 5: Semesterised Examinations Policy

Enacted: 2010

TCDSU shall campaign for the following:

The current annual examination structure should be replaced with a fully semesterised structure, where workload, assessment and examinations will be evenly distributed between the two teaching terms. Christmas examinations should be introduced in an effort to reduce the workload at the end of the academic year.

This will be applicable to all courses and modules unless it is determined, in discussions with College authorities, that the quality of the course would be negatively impacted upon (e.g. professional accreditation, placement, practical and final year project modules, etc.).

Any changes to the timing and structure of the Supplemental and Foundation Scholarship examinations as a result of replacing the current annual examination structure should preserve the idea of balanced workload.

LTP 6: Direct Provision

Enacted: 2014

TCDSU shall campaign:

To abolish the system of direct provision for asylum seekers.

For its replacement by self-catered accommodation and the right to work for asylum seekers who have not had their applications processed after six months.

For the government to sign up to the EU Receptions Conditions Directive setting down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers"

LTP 7: Pro-Choice Mandate

Enacted: 2014

TCDSU shall advocate for legislation for abortion to be upon request of the woman.

LTP 8: Palestine, and BDS of Israel

Enacted: 2018

TCDSU will adopt a long-term policy in support of Palestine and in favour of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).

As per the petition, the policy mandates TCDSU to:

- a) Support and endorse the Global Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement
- b) Comply with the principles of BDS in all Student Union shops, trade, business and other Union operations
- c) Establish a BDS implementation group open to all members of the union to ensure compliance with (b)
- d) Campaign and lobby College to adopt BDS; which should include a total boycott of the State of Israel (Cultural, Academic and Economic), divestment of college funds from Israeli companies and other companies listed on the BDS Divestment List.
Divestment should also involve termination of contracts with companies complicit in Israel's violation of International Law, the occupation of Palestinian Territories and/or violations of the human rights of Palestinians.
- e) Lobby government and relevant external organisations to support BDS and the Palestinian anti-apartheid cause.

LTP 9: LTP Proposal on Gambling Advertising Practice

Enacted: 2021

TCDSU shall not accept advertisements or sponsorship money from any company that promotes betting or gambling.

The President, Welfare and Equality Officer and Ents Officer shall lobby for the banning of gambling advertising and sponsorship in Ireland, in particular advertising that is targeted specifically at young people.

LTP 10: TCD divestment from arms and weaponry manufacturers

Enacted: 2021

TCDSU shall campaign in favour of Trinity College Dublin divesting from arms and weaponry manufacturers.

SECTION 2

Mandated Policy

Mandates on Officers of the Union

Below is a list of mandates on specific officers of the union. This list is for reference only, and the exact text of each motion establishing mandate is listed further in this document. Some motions mandate specific, one-time actions such as the updating of a Terms of Reference, creating a committee, the creation of a programme convenor, the creation of a PTO, motions of censure, motions of impeachment, or the release of funds for capital projects. These motions are not included in this Schedule unless there is also a mandate external to the action ie eligibility criteria for running for a particular PTO.

Committees and their expiry date are instead listed in Schedule 9, PTOs and their expiry date are similarly listed in Schedule 10, and Programme Convenors are listed in Schedule 1.

General Mandates

- Lobby for the USI to change its electoral system to a universal suffrage mechanism so that national representatives are elected directly by students from all affiliated member organisations via universal suffrage. 21
- That the Union support the demands of the trade unions within Trinity when it comes to trade union representation on Board and that this be part of its submission to Trinity’s ongoing consultation. 24
- TCDSU to promote An Taisce’s 2 euro student membership to students. 25
- That all members of the Union are automatically registered by the Students Union to vote in all Students Union elections in which they are eligible to vote in 29
- TCDSU to cover the costs of election expenses for TCDSU members contesting USI elections, to be repaid by the candidate at a later date. 33
- Non-EU students are included in the movement to reduce EU student fees for the 2021/22 year. 38
- Any officer that chairs an ad hoc body to attach the minutes of that body since last Council to their Officer Report. 38

Take a formal stance against the 27th amendment and support the Irish Nationality and Citizenship(Citizenship for Children) Bill 2020 and other legislative reforms in pursuit of human rights and associated goals.	39
TCDSU delegates to USI National Council and USI Congress put forward a motion at those bodies to create a national USI-led campaign on GEM tuition fees.	41
Support the End Image-Based Sexual Abuse Ireland group in supporting the Dáil Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offenses Bill 2017 and its proposed amendments.	43
Lobby to make free, rapid HIV testing accessible to all, with the eventual aim to end HIV Transmission.	47
Campaign & lobby for the prohibition of unpaid internships nationally . .	54
Advocate for Visa status for Burmese students residing in Ireland and reach out to other SUs seeking support for this movement	55
That €30,000 be allocated from the HEA Fund as has been outlined in the International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision Scholar Fund Proposal with 20,000 being used this year to support international students' recovery from COVID-19 shutdown and €5,000 being disbursed for the two following years	97
Lobby for full transparency and openness regarding College's investments	98
Hold an official stance to #StopKillingDublin	100
TCDSU work together with graduate students, IFUT and lecturers to find a solution for handing over copyright of recorded lectures to lecturers, to create a policy of lectures being recorded, along with a hybrid approach to lectures, so that no student is disadvantaged for not being present on campus	102
Support the Non-EEA Ph.D. Students Society-Ireland's campaign to expand the Hosting Agreement Scheme eligibility criteria to include research scholarship contracts	104
Share the Non-EEA Ph.D. Students Society-Ireland's petition for the same issue	104
Adopt the living wage plus holiday pay as their rate of pay for all Union employees	104

Adopt a committed stance in support of the Postgraduate Workers' Organization (PWO), their aims and objectives as outlined by their charter. This should include active participation in the PWO campaigns and collaboration on campus-based campaigns relevant to both the PWO and the TCDSU.	105
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Sabbatical Officer Board's Mandates

Lobby college and local and national politicians for the improvement of the working conditions for students on placement.	47
Campaign for the implementation of the Universal Design for Learning across all platforms in Trinity by 2025	58
Lobby for staff to engage with students and include them in the process	59
Collaborate with trade unions to lobby for staff to be released from their duties for a period each semester to work on the renewal of their curriculum	59
Respond to unanswered questions by email no later than one week after receiving them from the Secretary of Council	95
Schedule at least 2 hours per week during term time, during which they will be available for students to drop in, and that these will be publicized by the Students' Union in the weekly email	96
Report their expenses in the reports that they provide to Council	96
Lobby College for more transparency by advocating for the publication of all College meeting minutes online and for better availability of annex documents online for College meetings	99
Lobby for the public availability of the agenda and annex documents before College meetings take place	99

President's Individual Mandates

To cooperate and work with An Taisce to accomplish its goals in relation to housing and climate justice through regular communication.	25
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That the President, through liaison with the Welfare and Equality Officer, Union Forum, and Campaigns Committee, will strategically consult on how college accommodation can be made affordable and campaign for this to be achieved.	27
Ensure that all clothing provided to members of the Union or sold in the SU shop are offered in an ample variety of sizes to accommodate people of all body types	28
That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.	28
That the President and the Welfare Equality Officer incorporate the principles of weight-bias education in campaign weeks where relevant.	30
Lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college	31
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients	31
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients.	34
Lobby to ensure adequate provision of information for international students relating to planned teaching methods and student support services.	36
Lobby to ensure support is made readily available to students regarding international travel, finances and Government guidelines.	38
Organise an annual ethnic minority workshop	39
Support and platform the TCD Against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th Amendment.	41
Coordinate actions to support students on placement and their trade unions.	45
Organise awareness campaigns for a return to democracy and an end to human rights abuses in Myanmar with the Citizenship Officer	54

Lobby for the phasing out of all vehicular parking on campus within a reasonable timeframe, with appropriate exemptions	55
Lobby the College for a feasibility study into making all levels of House Six accessible to all students	57
The Campaigns committee in conjunction with the President to work towards forming an action plan to face this issue	100
That the President and Education Officer campaign for College to cease outsourcing A/V support to FittingImage and for it to be provided by in-house IT Services, accompanied by the necessary expansion and/or pay rises for such staff.	102
Raise this at the Information Systems Services User Committee	103
Amend the contracts of Union staff to reflect this change by week beginning Monday 28th February 2022	105

Education Officer's Individual Mandates

To campaign to the Senior Lecturer, Senior Tutor and any other relevant parties for improvement of the Fitness to Study letter of certification and to review and adapt the Off-Books application so that the questions are not as invasive.	20
That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.	22
Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	45
Organise an Annual Academic Integrity Week	46
Work alongside the College to promote and campaign for the principles of Open Access	48
Hold a "convenor training" following the election of convenors at the end of each academic year	52
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	53
Host seven fora in each academic year	56

Bring the summary and a Report including actionables arisen and general insights gained from the open fora to Council, at least once per term in the form of a discussion item	57
That the President and Education Officer campaign for College to cease outsourcing A/V support to FittingImage and for it to be provided by in-house IT Services, accompanied by the necessary expansion and/or pay rises for such staff.	102
Raise this at the Undergraduate Studies Committee	103

Welfare & Equality Officer's Individual Mandates

That the President and the Welfare Equality Officer incorporate the principles of weight-bias education in campaign weeks where relevant.	30
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients	33
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients. . .	35
Support and platform the TCD Against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th Amendment.	42
Continue to provide support to all victims of IBSA.	43
Work alongside the College to promote and campaign for the principles of Open Access	48
Raise awareness of this issue and lobby politicians in both jurisdictions to legislate for a complete ban on all forms of conversion therapy and to work with and coordinate their lobbying with groups campaigning on this issue	56
Aid USI in antispiking policy where possible and ensure that TCDSU follows the policy when it is completed	98

Communications & Marketing Officer's Individual Mandates

Ensure that all clothing provided to members of the Union or sold in the SU shop are offered in an ample variety of sizes to accommodate people of all body types	28
The Comms Officer include information on harm reduction for transgender students seeking DIY Healthcare	35
Formulate and maintain an Archival Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	49
Formulate and maintain a GDPR Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	50
Formulate and maintain a Communications Strategy Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	51

Entertainments Officer's Individual Mandates

That events held by Trinity Ents must have a gender neutral bathroom available.	31
Aid USI in antispiking policy where possible and ensure that TCDSU follows the policy when it is completed	99

AHSS Convenor's Individual Mandates

That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.	23
Submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council	40
Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	44
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	53

STEM Convenor's Individual Mandates

That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.	24
That the STEM Convenor ensures, when safe and practical to do so, STEM Ball is run in some capacity, be that by the Convenor themselves or by a society in conjunction with the STEM Convenor. . . .	26
That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.	29
Submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council	40
Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	44
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	53

HS Convenor's Individual Mandates

That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.	24
That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.	29
Submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council	41
Campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	43
Lobby for the introduction of a college policy, banning credit-bearing unpaid internships	54

Citizenship Officer's Individual Mandates

Support and platform the TCD Against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th Amendment.	42
Organise awareness campaigns for a return to democracy and an end to human rights abuses in Myanmar with the President	55

International Students Officer's Individual Mandates

Lobby to ensure adequate provision of information for international students relating to planned teaching methods and student support services.	37
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LGBTRO's Individual Mandates

Lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college	32
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients	33
The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients.	34
To campaign for the improvement of trans healthcare.	36
Raise awareness of this issue and lobby politicians in both jurisdictions to legislate for a complete ban on all forms of conversion therapy and to work with and coordinate their lobbying with groups campaigning on this issue	57

Mature Students Officer's Individual Mandates

Officer for Students with a Disability's Individual Mandates

Lobby the College for a feasibility study into making all levels of House Six accessible to all students	58
Campaign for the implementation of the Universal Design for Learning across all platforms in Trinity by 2025	58
Create and circulate the accessibility request form in advance of any upcoming councils.	101
Take charge in reviewing any requirements and to work with the Electoral Commission and Secretary to the Council to fulfil any accessibility requests for Council attendance.	101

Oifigeach na Gaeilge's Individual Mandates

Translating or organizing translation of any email sent by sabbatical officers to all the students to ensure that it is sent bilingually as two separate emails.	59
Work with the Electoral Commission and the Oversight Commission to increase the presence of Irish in Council, Forum, and during elections.	60
Work with the Education Officer to pressure the College to implement plans to offer modules through the medium of Irish in other courses that are not Irish themselves in line with the targets of the Official Languages Act (Amendment), 2021.	60

Gender Equality Officer's Individual Mandates

Lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college	32
To campaign for the improvement of trans healthcare.	36

Student Parents' Officer's Individual Mandates

Community Liaison Officer's Individual Mandates

Off Campus Officer's Individual Mandates

Coordinate actions to support students on placement and their trade unions.	46
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Ethnic Minorities Officer's Individual Mandates

Organise an annual ethnic minority workshop	37
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Environmental Officer's Individual Mandates

Formulate and maintain a GDPR Policy, and update Council and the OC as appropriate	46
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Access Officer's Individual Mandates

Volunteer Forum Coordinator's Individual Mandates

Electoral Commission's Mandates

That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.	22
Chair of Council to review eligibility criteria for availing of ESL mitigation measures on a yearly basis.	37
Produce a report on Class Rep Elections to second Council	39

Oversight Commission's Mandates

That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.	22
Note unanswered questions during Council and forwards them to the team no later than three days post-Council (Chair of OC)	95

Other Mandates

That School Convenors email the reports that they present to their Faculty Assemblies to students in their Schools.	23
That the curated mailing lists and a guide on how to obtain and update them should they change should be part of the crossover document of School Convenors.	23
School Convenors to campaign for systemised rubrics and marking to be made available to students.	45
TCDSU to hold a poll to determine the majority preference for the USI Executive team candidates, which the TCDSU delegation will then vote in line with at the USI NC	49
Run an information campaign and fundraiser for charities supplying much-needed medical supplies to the people of Myanmar, and reach out to the Trinity Development and Alumni (TDA) fund seeking to match funding	56
The Campaigns committee in conjunction with the President to work towards forming an action plan to face this issue	100

2022/23

2022/23-1: Motion on Returning from Off-Books

Council notes

That students may need to go off-books for medical reasons during the academic year.

Council further notes

In order to return to studies after going off-books for medical reasons, students and their medical GP, consultant or specialist are required to complete and return to the Senior Lecturer a Fitness to Study Letter of Certification (<https://www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/student-cases/assets/world/fitnesstostudy.pdf>).

Council regrets

That the off-books procedure can feel invasive to students and create undue stress due to its comprehensive and overly prescriptive questions.

Council mandates

The Education Officer to campaign to the Senior Lecturer, Senior Tutor and any other relevant parties for improvement of the Fitness to Study letter of certification and to review and adapt the Off-Books application so that the questions are not as invasive.

Proposed by Ruaidhrí Campion, School of Maths Convenor

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer

2022/23-2: Motion on Activist Training

Council notes

That TCDSU is a students' union—its campaigns should empower as many students as possible to participate in actions and decision-making.

Council commends

The hard work of student activists and grassroots groups throughout the year.

Council therefore mandates

That the TCDSU Citizenship Officer, with the support of the President, run an annual training series—that is open to all students—on activist well-being, organising strategy, and horizontal group structures.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Connor Dempsey, Citizenship Officer

2022/23-3: Motion on USI Democracy

Council notes

That TCDSU is an affiliated member organisation of The Union of Students of Ireland (USI). At National Congress (NC) each year TCDSU delegates vote for the USI Executive team. All students, both ordinary and voting members of TCDSU, are members of USI.

Council praises

That with regards to the TCDSU, USI candidates are voted on by a referendum to the student body, and all delegates at NC are to vote in line with the majority preference from this vote.

Council notes

That not all student unions follow a similar structure. Some student unions delegates have a free vote, while some vote as per the preference of their Council equivalent, and some follow the same structure as the TCDSU.

Council therefore regrets

The USI electoral system in its current form does not directly elect its national representatives via universal suffrage in some cases.

Council believes

In the interests of democracy, the national representatives should be voted on by the student body in all affiliated member organisations of the USI.

Council therefore mandates

That TCDSU lobby for the USI to change its electoral system to a universal suffrage mechanism so that national representatives are elected directly by students from

all affiliated member organisations via universal suffrage.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, TCDSU President

2022/23-4: Motion to Explore Switching Voting System

Council notes

Currently, the TCDSU uses a voting system called Eviabi to conduct elections.

Council notes with concern

That College has so far not entered into a data-agreement with the TCDSU, meaning that we have to pre-register students to vote, taking up a sizable amount of administrative time and ensuing costs.

Council further notes

The need for pre-registration may drive student engagement to be low, as it presents a barrier.

Council further notes

In 2020, student representatives at the February 9th Council called for barriers to engagement to be lowered.

Council further notes

The fact that the system is a company started by two students from Trinity in 2019, has only a few clients and is not a well-established and well-known company may contribute to College's reluctance to enter into a data-sharing agreement with us.

Council recognizes

Switching to another voting system may increase the chances of a data-sharing agreement with College.

Council further notes

While the current system has worked, there may be better alternatives out there, both from a ease-of-use and cost perspective.

Council finally notes

The TCDSU is a democratic body.

Council therefore mandates

That the Secretary of Council, Chair of Council, Education Officer and the Electoral Commission look into the possibility of changing the voting system and present the options to the Union Forum before the end of the year.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Kiaya Doyle, School of Chemistry Convenor

2022/23-5: Motion on School Convenor Report to Students

Council notes

That engagement with students on the ground, and garnering their feedback and ensuring accountability, should be one of the primary aims of the Union.

Council also notes

School Convenors are in an apt position to be the link between students and the Union.

Council regrets

That according to a survey that the Union ran in 2020-2021, only 25% of students knew who their School Convenor was.

Council further notes

School Convenors have access to the course mailing lists and the ability to email students in their Schools.

Council regrets

That sometimes, due to issues with IT Services, it may not be possible to reach all students in a given School.

Council nevertheless notes

It is possible to curate all the course mailing lists for a given School and aim to email as many students as possible.

Council therefore mandates

That School Convenors email the reports that they present to their Faculty Assemblies to students in their Schools.

Council further mandates

That the curated mailing lists and a guide on how to obtain and update them should they change should be part of the crossover document of School Convenors.

Council finally mandates

That Faculty Convenors campaign to have access to the Faculty student mailing lists.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, SSP School Convenor

Seconded by Patrick Flynn, SF Biological and Biomedical Sciences Class Rep

2022/23-6: Motion on Trade Union Solidarity in Wake of HEA Act

Council notes

The HEA Act 2022 was signed in to law by the President of Ireland on 12 October 2022. As part of the Act, the composition of governing bodies of third-level institutions will change, and trade union representation is at risk.

Council also notes

Some specifics, such as the composition of the 5 internal members on governing bodies, remains up to individual institutions. Trinity, at the moment, has opened up a consultation on this and other aspects of the Act that are left up to each institution.

Council recognises

The rich history of student-staff solidarity when it comes to challenging senior management and government decisions unfavourable to our communities.

Council appreciates

That trade union representatives at Board have traditionally supported students' demands for a fair, equitable and public education system.

Council therefore mandates

That the Union support the demands of the trade unions within Trinity when it comes to trade union representation on Board and that this be part of its submission to Trinity's ongoing consultation.

Proposed by Patrick Flynn, SF Biological and Biomedical Sciences Class Rep

Seconded by László Molnarfi, SSP School Convenor

2022/23-7: Motion on Collaboration with An Taisce

Council recognises

that An Taisce, Ireland's National Trust, advocates for publicly owned, heavily subsidized, carbon neutral public transport and active travel infrastructure. Council further recognises that An Taisce practises far-reaching climate advocacy, particularly in protecting natural habitats.

Council notes

that An Taisce are at the forefront of legal objections to speculative housing developments, (including build to rent and co-living developments) which harm students and the rental market.

Council recognises

that the work of An Taisce has a strong overlap with the work of TCDSU.

Council recognises

that TCDSU require allies within the sector to collaborate and work towards their aims of affordable housing and climate action.

Council further recognizes

that An Taisce has strong links to Transport For Ireland, and Dublin City Council, and as a prescribed body under the planning regulations act, they have lobbying power in this area.

Council also notes

that An Taisce are stronger with a larger membership base, and that the quality of their work is strengthened with wider student engagement, allowing it to be more student-focused.

Council therefore mandates

TCDSU to promote An Taisce's 2 euro student membership to students.

Council also mandates

the President to cooperate and work with An Taisce to accomplish its goals in relation to housing and climate justice through regular communication.

Proposed by Gabrielle Fullam, TCDSU President

Seconded by Jenny Maguire, Gender Equality Officer

2022/23-8: Motion for a STEM Ball Mandate**Council welcomes**

The return to in-person events due to the relaxation of covid restrictions.

Council regrets

The lack of events for students over the last few years and the absence of a STEM Ball in 2021.

Council notes

The success of the return of STEM Ball last year and the will of the students for the event to be continued. also Notes The possibility of future unforeseen events, similar to the covid pandemic, that would render the hosting of a ball unsafe or impractical.

Council mandates

That the STEM Convenor ensures, when safe and practical to do so, STEM Ball is run in some capacity, be that by the Convenor themselves or by a society in conjunction with the STEM Convenor.

Proposed by Seán Lysaght, STEM Convenor

Seconded by Faye Murphy, Deputy STEM Convenor

2022/23-9: Affordable Accommodation

Council notes

There is a cost of living crisis, with accommodation being a major subset of it.

Council further notes

TCDSU runs an Accommodation Advisory Service (AAS) to provide advice to students on their accommodation search. As part of this service AAS maintains a DIGs portal, in which rooms in owner-occupied homes are advertised.

Council regrets

That DIGs accommodation is not the most ideal accommodation type, but is often a cheaper alternative for students.

Council further regrets

That many landlords seek to exploit students through charging high rents for their DIGs rooms.

Council notes

That rent caps were introduced this year to help protect students looking for DIGs accommodation via the AAS portal. These rent caps acted as maximum rents that could be advertised on the portal. Any rooms advertised in excess of these rent caps were refused advertisement on the AAS portal.

Council mandates

The Welfare & Equality Officer to create and enforce rent caps on the DIGs portal to help limit exploitation of rents for students.

Council further mandates

The Welfare Equality Officer to review the rent caps at the start of their sabbatical term through consultation with relevant interest bodies.

Council regrets

That Trinity College, through its provision of Purpose-Built Student Housing, seeks to monetarily benefit from the housing crisis by charging students high rents.

Council further mandates

That the President, through liaison with the Welfare and Equality Officer, Union Forum, and Campaigns Committee, will strategically consult on how college accommodation can be made affordable and campaign for this to be achieved.

Proposed by Chloe Staunton, Welfare & Equality Officer

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

2022/23-10: Motion on Fatphobia in College

Council notes

The discrimination and social stigma that fat people face in education, healthcare and the media.

Council regrets

That facilities, institutions and other programmes in College are not equally accessible to people of all body types, and are often specifically inaccessible for fat people.

Council acknowledges

That the Union has not yet done enough to advocate against fatphobia and has work to do in ensuring its own services are equally accessible to people of all body types.

Council mandates

That the President and the Communications Marketing Officer ensure that all clothing provided to members of the Union or sold in the SU shop are offered in an ample variety of sizes to accommodate people of all body types.

Council further mandates

That the President, Health Sciences Convenor and STEM Convenor lobby for the introduction of weight-bias education for students and for the curriculum to approach body weight holistically.

Council further mandates

That the President and the Welfare Equality Officer incorporate the principles of weight-bias education in campaign weeks where relevant.

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Citizenship Officer

Seconded by Gabi Fullam, President

2022/23-11: Motion on Students Union Voter Registration Requirements

Council Notes

that students need to pre register to vote in Students Union elections such as Class Representative elections

Council Notes

that some students were unable to vote in Class Representative elections because they didn't register to vote in time

Council Notes

that some students were unaware they had to pre register to vote in Class Representative Elections

Council Mandates

that all members of the Union are automatically registered by the Students Union to vote in all Students Union elections in which they are eligible to vote in, effective from after the 2022/23 sabbatical election period

Proposed by Patrick Keegan, JF BESS Class Rep

Seconded by Melis Asiyu, JF BESS Class Rep

2022/23-12: Motion on Gender Neutral Bathrooms

Council notes

Gender neutral bathrooms are important in providing a safe and comfortable college environment for all students.

Council further notes

That several venues which Trinity Ents may use do not have gender-neutral bathroom facilities and it would be unfeasible to find alternatives.

Council therefore mandates

That events held by Trinity Ents must have a gender neutral bathroom available.

Council further mandates

The Gender Equality Officer, LGBT Rights Officer, and the President lobby college to create gender neutral bathrooms, with sanitary facilities, that are widely publicised in every building in college.

Proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

2022/23-13: Motion on Transgender Healthcare

Council regrets

The current unreasonably long wait times for care and treatment methods at the Loughlinstown national gender service at St. Columcille's Hospital which are massively harmful to the mental health of the transgender patients that the gender clinic is supposed to help.

Council further notes

1) The national gender service only serves 150 patients per year (3 patients per week) due to understaffing while over 300 patients are referred per year. 2) Care that is provided to cisgender patients with minimal medical intervention (like HRT for cisgender women experiencing menopause) requires psychological evaluation and intrusive questioning to be prescribed to transgender patients.

Council mandates

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for reduced waiting times at any national gender services and for review of the invasiveness of the questions asked to transgender patients

Council further mandates

The LGBT Rights Officer, President, and Welfare & Equality Officer to lobby for the implementation of an informed consent model as opposed to the current pathologised care of transgender patients.

Council further mandates

The Comms Officer include information on harm reduction for transgender students seeking DIY Healthcare

Council further mandates

The LGBTRO and Gender Equality Officer to campaign for the improvement of trans healthcare.

Proposed by Niko Singband, LGBTRO

Seconded by Chloe Staunton, Welfare and Equality Officer

2022/23-14: Motion on mitigating measures to remove barriers to engagement of students who speak English as a Second Language (ESL)

Council notes

That Trinity College Dublin enrolls students representing over 122 countries at the date of drafting this motion.

Council also notes

That some members speak English as a Second Language, and that Council/ elections hustings operate in English and As Gaeilge.

Council further notes

That multiple bodies that run activities involving the delivery of speeches have introduced ESL mitigation measures.

Council regrets

That given the strict time limits for speaking at Council and hustings, and instant translation not being a feasible option, it might be disadvantageous for a member who speaks English as a Second Language to be subject to the same limits when speaking at Council.

Council therefore mandates

The introduction of a set of mitigation measures for members with ESL when speaking at TCDSU Council subject to the following:

- Eligibility criteria for availing of the below mitigation measures shall be at the discretion of Chair of Council and must be reviewed by the Chair on a yearly basis.
- When deciding the eligibility of a member to avail of the ESL Status, the Chair must give consideration to:
 - The language the member identifies as their first language.
 - Whether any linguistic barriers exist for the member to speak at Council or TCDSU Election Hustings.

Council further mandates

That once a member is deemed eligible for ESL status by the Chair of Council, they are offered additional time when speaking publicly at any TCDSU meetings subject to speaking time limits, whereby the additional time is clearly communicated by the Chair at the beginning of each Academic Year as a percentage of the time ordinarily allotted for the standing order in question with the status being valid for the full Academic Year it is granted in.

Proposed by Zaid Albarghouthi, International Students' Officer

Seconded by László Molnarfi, SSP Convenor

2022/23-15: Motion on Election Expenses

Council Notes

That the cost of running for election can be prohibitive, and exclude high quality candidates from contesting elections on the basis of their financial circumstances.

Council Commends

The current election expenses system in place at TCDSU, whereby candidates' materials are purchased on their behalf by the union prior to the election period, and later repaid by the candidate in a mutually agreed upon system, which can include payment by instalments, or access to financial assistance.

Council Recognises

That it is very rare that non sabbatical officers contest elections to the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Coiste Gnó (Executive Board). One such barrier to full-time students contesting these elections could be the costs associated with running.

Council Further Notes

There is a spending limit of 350 for campaign materials used by candidates in USI elections, which is considerably higher than the spending limit for materials in TCDSU elections.

Council Mandates

If a member of TCDSU contests a USI election, TCDSU will cover the cost of their election expenses, to be later repaid by the candidate in a mutually agreed upon way.

Council Further Mandates

If the candidate receives the support of TCDSU in their election such that the TCDSU delegation to USI Congress is mandated to vote for them in their election, this repayment of elections expenses shall be waived.

Proposed by Bev Genockey, László Molnarfi, Kate Hyland, Conall O'Dwyer, Adam Hanlon, Sanjana Pradheep, Aoife Bennet, Erin Labuschagne, Isobel Duffy, Stephanie Foley

Seconded by Zaid Albarghouthi, International Students Officer

2023/24

2023/24-1: *Motion on Support for International Students

Council notes

That international students are a particularly vulnerable cohort which is now further exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic.

Council also notes

That international students pay significant fees and do not qualify for grants such as SUSI or the Student Assistance Fund.

Council regrets

That this fee is subject to a 3-5% annual increase in Trinity College student fees and this was not reexamined during the COVID19 crisis.

Council believes

That international students require more support from the college and believe that the current lines of communication are insufficient. Regardless of EU status, every student needs additional support during the global pandemic.

Council mandates

That the Student's Union lobbies against the annual 3-5% increase in student fees, including non-EU students.

Council further mandates

That the President and International Part Time Officer lobbies to ensure the adequate provision of information for international students by the college, including but not limited to the planned methods of teaching for the rest of the year and student support services available.

Council further mandates

That the President also lobbies to ensure that support is made readily available to students by the college on a case-by-case basis when in relation to difficulties regarding travel status to other countries, finances and Government Health guidelines where appropriate. All information should be clearly accessible to students

with reference to ever-changing situations and all information should be updated accordingly.

Council further mandates

Non-EU students are included in the movement to reduce EU student fees for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Originally Proposed by Rucha Benare, Julia Bochenek, Emma Hurson, Boluwaduro Kareem, Aliya Syeda, Dylan Krug, Olivia Butler, Emily Tzu Ying Yu, Lauren Vrbanic, Jane Cook

Originally Seconded by Patrick O'Mahony, International Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-2: *Motion on Ethnic Minority Workshop

Council notes

The diversity of the student population at Trinity and the Union's commitment to inclusivity for all ethnicities.

Council mandates

That the Ethnic Minorities Officer & President organise an annual workshop introducing the various ethnicities in the student population of Trinity. The speakers in this workshop shall be primarily comprised of speakers sourced from Trinity's staff & student population.

Originally Proposed by Catherine Zhou, JF French JH Class Representative

Originally Seconded by Philly Holmes, Communications & Marketing Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-3: *Motion on Class Rep Elections Report

Council notes

The success of the recent online class rep elections.

Council however notes

That some administrative errors occurred, which should be rectified going forward.

Council mandates

That the EC produce a report on class rep elections annually with recommendations on improvements going forward if necessary, to be presented no later than the first Council in Hilary Term.

Originally Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer

Originally Seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer & Cat Arnold, Education Officer, seconded by David Treacy, Access Officer

2023/24-4: *Motion on Ad Hoc Body Minutes

Council notes

That there are a number of ad hoc Union bodies chaired by Officers which have no formal reporting lines to Council.

Council believes

That for it to effectively oversee Union activity, it must first be able to see it.

Council also notes

That all Sabbatical and Part Time Officers are already mandated to submit a brief report to every meeting of Council.

Council mandates

That any officer who chairs an ad hoc Union body which does not already have a formal reporting line to council, attach the minutes of any and all meetings of that body approved since the previous meeting of Council to their Officer report.

Council further mandates

That Faculty Convenors submit to every Council in the form of a Faculty Convenor Report any minutes from their respective Faculty Assembly which have been approved since the previous meeting of Council.

Originally Proposed by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convener

Originally Seconded by Eoin Hand, President

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convener, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convener

2023/24-5: *Motion on Migrant Rights

Council notes

Following the passage of the 27th Amendment in 2004 and subsequent legislation, those born on the island of Ireland on or after the 1st of January 2005 have not been automatically entitled to Irish citizenship.

Council recognises

That this legislation facilitates systemic inequality that deprives members of our community equal access to resources such as education and employment opportunities.

Council mandates

TCDSU to take a formal stance against the 27th amendment and support the Irish Nationality and Citizenship (Citizenship for Children) Bill 2020 raised by Deputy Barry and other legislative reforms in pursuit of migrant rights and associated goals.

Council further mandates

The President, Welfare and Equality Officer and Citizenship Officer to support and

platform the TCD against the 27th campaign, and further to this, actively support migrant rights and the reversal of the effects of the 27th amendment.

Originally Proposed by Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Officer

Originally Seconded by Jodie Milne, Citizenship Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-6: *Motion on Graduate Entry Medicine Tuition Fees

Council notes

That many TCD graduates pursue GEM programs in Irish universities.

Council regrets

The exorbitantly high tuition fees for these programs, not supported by SUSI or HEA Free Fees. These fees present a significant financial barrier to students from lower income backgrounds in accessing these programs.

Council recognises

The recent protest by UCD students wherein 70% of the GEM students have withheld their fees in protest to year on year GEM tuition fee increases.

Council mandates

The TCDSU delegates to USI National Council and USI Congress put forward a motion at the next meeting of those bodies to create a national USI led campaign on GEM tuition fees. The aims of the campaign shall be to lobby the Irish government to increase financial support for GEM students.

Originally Proposed by Charles Sweeney, JS Physiology Class Representative

Originally Seconded by Eoin Hand, President

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-7: *Mandate on Image-Based Sexual Abuse

Council notes

The recent events where thousands of people fell victim to one of the largest

known examples of online image-based abuse in Ireland. This is a profound violation of these individuals and there is no current legal protection for those affected by this leak.

Council regards

The recent events as a flagrant violation of privacy and unequivocally non-consensual.

Council recognises

The work done by grassroots campaigns across the country, the Victims Alliance and the Gardaí in response to this event, and the continued efforts of the Consent Education programme.

Council regrets

The absence of legislation in this area, preventing victims from pursuing effective and adequate legal remedy.

Council mandates

The Welfare and Equality Officer to continue to provide support to all victims through the provision of relevant resources and information.

Council also mandates

The Union to support the 'End Image-Based Sexual Abuse Ireland' group in their call for the urgent criminalisation of IBSA by the passing of the 'Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Bill 2017' which is currently in its third stage in the Dáil and to campaign for the application of the proposed amendments.

Originally Proposed by Rebecca Kelly, Law Convener

Originally Seconded by Leah Keogh, Welfare & Equality Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-8: *Motion on Continuous Assessment Rubrics

Council notes

That the guidelines for continuous assessment submissions are sometimes vague and unclear, with insufficient advice or help being offered to students to aid in

bridging the gap between Leaving Cert, Fresh and Sophister standards of submission.

Council also notes

That for students to improve upon the quality and standards of their work, they must first know what is expected of them.

Council regrets

That students sometimes submit assignments having not received feedback on previous submissions.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer, Faculty Convenors and School Convenors campaign, where possible, for systemised rubrics for assessment and marking to be made available by module coordinators to students.

Originally Proposed by Bev Genockey, Deputy STEM Convenor

Originally Seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convenor

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-9: *Motion on Academic Integrity Week

Council notes

That the National Academic Integrity Network defines Academic Integrity as “the commitment to, and demonstration of, honest and moral behaviour in an academic setting by the enrolled learner. It assumes that all interactions with their higher education institution and their staff are approached with honesty.”

Council also notes

The importance of Academic Integrity in Higher Education and the possible consequences for students who are caught plagiarising or using essay mills.

Council also notes

The importance of ensuring students are equipped with knowledge regarding this

to be successful in their degree programme.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer organises a campaign week, in collaboration with the National Academic Integrity Network, dedicated to Academic Integrity in the first semester of each academic year.

Originally Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer

Originally Seconded by Jacqui Whelan, AHSS Convenor

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-10: *Motion on Support for Students on Placement.

Council notes

Students on clinical placements across the country such as Student Nurses and Midwives are working in unsafe conditions, are unpaid and undervalued.

Council also notes

The job prospects for student nurses upon graduation are extremely limited in Ireland, with low wages and harsh working-conditions. In an INMO survey in 2018, 71% of final year student nurses considered leaving Ireland. In a Trinity survey in 2015, it was found that 50% of student midwives experienced bullying.

Council mandates

That the President and Off Campus Officer coordinate actions to support these students and their trade union(s).

Council further mandates

That the Sabbatical Officer Board lobby the college and local and national politicians for the improvement of these students' working conditions.

Originally Proposed by Megan O'Connor, Education Officer

Originally Seconded by Jodie Milne, Citizenship Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-11: *Motion on Carbon Costing for Union Activities

Council notes

That the Union reports annual its financial expenditure, but does not currently make any effort to quantify the carbon cost of its activities.

Council also notes

That calculating the exact carbon cost of Union activities is prohibitively difficult, and a schedule of estimates is therefore required for the Union to make a reasonable estimate of its carbon footprint.

Council mandates

That the Environmental Officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on Carbon Costing and Reporting, including a schedule of carbon costs for typical Union activities.

Council further mandates

That the Environmental Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per academic year, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Environmental Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Originally Proposed by Áine Hennessy, Environmental Officer

Originally Seconded by Daniel O'Reilly, STEM Convenor

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-12: *Council Motion on Rapid HIV Testing

Council notes

That current Irish HIV transmission rates are approximately double the European average and higher than transmission rates during the height of the AIDs epidemic in Ireland.

Council also notes

That access to HIV related services in Ireland is currently insufficient and HIV Ireland continues to be underfunded. The closure of the Gay Men's Health Service (GMHS) during the COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the barriers present to accessing effective healthcare services. The unprecedented demand for STI screening kits during the launch of the HSE SH24 home testing pilot scheme in January 2021.

Council further notes

A mandate to lobby against the Irish MSM blood ban was passed by Council in 2019/20. As a result of this motion, the current SU President has been able to establish strong ties with HIV Ireland.

Council mandates

TCDSU lobby to make free, rapid HIV testing accessible to all, with the eventual aim to end HIV Transmission.

Council further mandates

In the short term, a provision of €6,000 to be drawn from the HEA Fund to purchase approximately 500 Rapid HIV Testing Kits as a pilot scheme with the aim of writing a collaborative report with HIV Ireland on the usage of the kits.

Alongside this, an Endowment Fund will be established using the HEA fund, with the purpose of providing free, rapid HIV testing kits for students in the long term. These kits will be provided via HIV Ireland who have an effective support structure in place for those diagnosed with HIV. These kits will be available to students via a form on tcdsu.org.

Originally Proposed by Eoin Hand, President

Originally Seconded by Philly Holmes, Communications and Marketing Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-13: *Motion on Academic Open Access

Council notes

That as opposed to previous forms of distribution, the digitalisation of academia has meant that research can be increasingly cheaply published.

Council regrets

The ongoing prevalence of paywall academia, that is pay-for-view or subscription based access to academic literature, representing an access barrier for students and researchers alike, especially vis-a-vis socioeconomically disadvantaged persons.

Council welcomes

Trinity's Open Access Institutional Repository (TARA), which is designed to store, distribute, and preserve the digital materials of Trinity College Dublin following the principles of Open Access.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer and the Welfare & Equality Officer work alongside the College to promote and campaign for the principles of Open Access. Specifically, in ensuring that the system for open access is advertised and used as effectively as possible by TCD researchers.

Originally Proposed by László Molnárfi, JF PPES Class Representative

Originally Seconded by Bev Genockey, Deputy STEM Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-14: *Motion on USI Candidate Poll

Council notes

That TCDSU is an affiliated member organisation of The Union of Students of Ireland (USI). At National Congress (NC) each year TCDSU delegates vote for the USI Executive team. All students, both ordinary and voting members of TCDSU, are members of USI.

Council further notes

That currently USI candidates are voted on by members of Council, and all TCDSU delegates at NC are to vote in line with the majority preference from the Council vote.

Council believes

All members of TCDSU should vote for their preferred national representatives.

Council mandates

TCDSU to hold a poll to determine the majority preference for the USI Executive team candidates, which the TCDSU delegation will then vote in line with at the USI NC.

Originally Proposed by Megan O' Connor, Education Officer

Originally Seconded by Bev Genockey, Deputy STEM Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-15: *Motion on Archival Executive Policy

Council notes

That the Communications & Marketing Officer is responsible for maintaining an archive of documentation for all Union meetings.

Council also notes

That there is a lack of established protocol regarding document archiving and retrieval.

Council mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on archival protocol.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per term, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Communication & Marketing Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Originally Proposed by Philly Homes - Communications & Marketing Officer

Originally Seconded by Evan Rork - History & Humanities Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-16: *Motion on GDPR Executive Policy

Council notes

That the Communications and Marketing is the de facto data controller for the Union.

Council also notes

For the purposes of data protection, TCDSU is accountable to the College Data Protection office with regards to data processing and internal data control.

Council also notes

The increase in the number of data-protection related enquiries from students and the increase in data sharing agreements signed between the Union and external

bodies.

Council mandates

That the Communications & Marketing officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on GDPR as it pertains to the Union and student data protection, including but not limited to information about Union GDPR best practice, information regarding how a student can report a data breach and protocol for data gathering and data sharing agreements.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer consult with the College Data Protection Office while compiling and reviewing this Policy.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per term, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Communication & Marketing Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Originally Proposed by Philly Holmes - Communications & Marketing Officer

Originally Seconded by Eoin Hand - President

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-17: *Motion on Communications Strategy Executive Policy

Council notes

That the coronavirus pandemic has illustrated the vital need for clear and effective communication from TCDSU both externally and internally.

Council also notes

The existence of various separate documents relating to Communications strategy, including the style guide and various parts of crossover documents.

Council recognises

The need for a single, up-to-date reference document for Union Communications strategy and protocols.

Council mandates

That the Communications & Marketing officer formulate a Non-binding Policy on Union Communications Strategy, including but not limited to information and procedures regarding public relations, the Union styleguide, brand guideline documentation, and details on Union publications and media channels.

Council further mandates

That the Communications & Marketing Officer conduct a review of this policy at least once per term, and this review be brought to Council as a discussion item.

Council finally mandates

That the Communication & Marketing Officer brings a discussion item to Council about any substantive alterations made at any point in time, and notify the Oversight Commission of any changes made at any point in time.

Originally Proposed by Philly Holmes - Communications & Marketing Officer

Originally Seconded by Evan Rork - History & Humanities Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convener, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convener

2023/24-18: *Motion on Convener Training

Council notes

The importance of school, programme and faculty convenors in representing class reps and students of their constituencies at school and faculty executive meetings.

Council welcomes

Existing TCDSU policy which ensures that upon election, convenors are provided with a crossover manual prepared by their predecessor.

Council recognises

The importance of leadership and lobbying skills required by faculty, school and programme convenors to best represent students on these committees.

Council mandates

That the Education Officer holds a “convenor training” following the election of convenors at the end of each academic year.

Originally Proposed by Bev Genockey - Deputy STEM Convener

Originally Seconded by Jacqui Whelan - AHSS Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convener, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convener

2023/24-19: *Motion on Unpaid Internships

Council notes

A number of courses within the college require and/or allow students to undertake an industry work placement for credit.

Council acknowledges

The incredible networking and skill development benefit that comes from these internship opportunities.

Council however notes

That due to the large non-monetary benefit to these internships, students can feel forced to take unpaid internships for credit.

Council also notes

That industry work placement often involve full-time hours, leaving little to no time for part-time work.

Council believes

Students are being forced into precarious financial situations where they are in effect working two jobs by these unpaid internships, if they are able to maintain their second job at all.

Council asserts

Interns carry out productive work for companies, generating value and as such should be fairly compensated.

Council mandates

The Education Officer and Faculty Convenors to lobby for the introduction of a college policy, requiring all credit-bearing internships to have financial remuneration, with appropriate exemptions where professional accreditation is involved

Council further mandates

The Union campaign & lobby for the prohibition of unpaid internships nationally.

Originally Proposed by Daniel O'Reilly - STEM Convener

Originally Seconded by Matthew Henry - SCSS Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convener, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convener

2023/24-20: *Motion on Open Fora

Council notes

The Students Union can sometimes be inaccessible to students not directly involved and existing fora are not conducive to free flowing discussion where students can raise concerns.

Council acknowledges

The importance of fostering a welcoming environment for students and the promotion of participation in the SU.

Council mandates

The Education officer to host a town-hall style open forum.

- There shall be seven fora in each academic year.
- The Education Officer shall open every forum with a report on any actionables from previous fora.
- Where possible, the Fora shall be advertised no less than one week in advance.

Council further mandates

The Education Officer to bring a summary of each fora and a report including actionables and general insights given from the fora to Council at least once per term in the form of a discussion item.

Originally Proposed by Megan O' Connor - Education Officer

Originally Seconded by Bev Genockey - Deputy STEM Convenor

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-21: *Motion on Reducing Trinity's Carbon Footprint

Council regrets

Vehicles being parked on campus are contributing to Trinity's greenhouse emissions.

Council further regrets

There has been much rhetoric, many committees but very few specific and effective solutions proposed to reduce Trinity's carbon footprint.

Council however notes

Trinity's Sustainability Policy, approved by the college board, which commits to continuous environmental improvement, including pollution prevention throughout its activities and compliance with all relevant legislation in the area.

Council further notes

All provost candidates have made commitments to substantially reduce Trinity's carbon footprint and to make Trinity a green campus.

Council mandates

The President and the Environmental Officer lobby for the phasing out of all vehicular parking on campus within a reasonable timeframe, with an exception made for staff and students that require on campus parking due to disabilities and other access issues, and for non-ICE campus service vehicles.

Originally Proposed by Dillon Broaders - SF Physical Sciences Class Representative

Originally Seconded by Áine Hennessy - Environmental Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-22: *Motion Against Conversion Therapy

Council notes

That conversion therapy is the harmful practice of attempting to erase, repress, 'cure' or change someone's sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Council also notes

That conversion therapy is currently legal and is practiced in both jurisdictions on this island.

Council regrets

The immense suffering experienced by, and lives lost within, the LGBT+ community due to this harmful practice.

Council welcomes

The current efforts by public representatives in both Stormont and the Oireachtas to ban conversion therapy as well as the recent renewed public interest.

Council mandates

That the Welfare & Equality Officer and LGBT Rights Officer raise awareness of this issue and lobby politicians in both jurisdictions to legislate for a complete ban on all forms of conversion therapy.

Council further mandates

That the Welfare & Equality Officer and LGBT Rights Officer seeks to work with and coordinate their lobbying with groups campaigning on this issue.

Originally Proposed by Thomas O'Neill - Chemistry Convener

Originally Seconded by Brian Hastings - LGBT Rights Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-23: *Motion on House 6 Accessibility

Council notes

Any floor above the ground floor in House Six is not accessible to wheelchair users and those with other disabilities. House Six is home to the Students' Union, the Central Societies Committee, Trinity Publications and The University Times offices, as well as several society spaces.

Council also notes

According to the Disability Service annual report 2019/2020, the number of Trinity Students registered with a disability reached its highest ever total at 1777 students.

Council believes

That students with any kind of disabilities should not be alienated from any aspect of university life.

Council mandates

The President and Officer for Students with Disabilities to lobby the College for a feasibility study into making all levels of House Six accessible to all students.

Originally Proposed by Niamh Herbert - Officer for Students with Disabilities

Originally Seconded by Bev Genockey - Deputy STEM Convener

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-24: *Motion on Universal Design for Learning

Council notes

That the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an inclusive educational practice framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning. It ensures equal opportunity, flexibility in the learning environment and lowers the barrier to engagement with content.

Council however notes

That UDL does not equal a fully inclusive curriculum, and further changes are required.

Council welcomes

The position of Vice Provost for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and the work of the Disability Service to date.

Council recognises

A high workload can make changing the way one teaches difficult or a stressful experience, especially when working to accommodate situations not personally experienced.

Council mandates

The Sabbatical Board and Officer for Students with Disabilities to campaign for the implementation of the Universal Design for Learning across all platforms in Trinity by 2025.

Council further mandates

The Sabbatical Officer Board to lobby for staff to engage with students and include them in the process.

Council finally mandates

The Sabbatical Officer Board to collaborate with trade unions to lobby for staff to be released from their duties for a period each semester to work on the renewal of their curriculum.

Originally Proposed by Megan O' Connor - Education Officer

Originally Seconded by Leah Keogh - Welfare & Equality Officer

Originally passed 20/21, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor, seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-25: Uasdátú ar Dhualgais Oifigeach na Gaeilge/Updating Oifigeach na Gaeilge's Mandates

Council notes

gur cruthaíodh post Oifigeach na Gaeilge chun guth agus ionadaíocht a thabhairt do chúrsaí Gaeilge san Aontas agus go bhfuil de sprioc ag an Aontas an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn mar gnáth-theanga laethúil.

Council recognizes

an méid oibre a bhaineann le ról an Oifigigh Ghaeilge maidir le haistriú, le stocaireacht a dhéanamh ar an Aontas le cloí le treoirínite Gaeilge an rialtais agus le bealaí istitiúideacha nua a chumadh chun láithreach na Gaeilge a threisiú i ngach gné den Aontas.

Council therefore mandates

go mbeidh Oifigeach na Gaeilge freagrach as aistriúchán a dhéanamh nó a eagrú ar aon ríomhphost a sheolann oifigeach sabóideach chuig na mic léinn uilig le cinntiú gur go dátheangach mar dhá ríomhphost ar leith a sheolfar é.

Council therefore mandates

go n-oibreoidh Oifigeach na Gaeilge in eineacht leis na hoifigídh eile go mbeadh fógraíocht ar fheachtais agus ar imeachtaí comh dátheagach agus is féidir.

Council therefore mandates

go n-oibreoidh Oifigeach na Gaeilge le Coimisiún na dToghchán agus leis an gCoimisiún Maoirseachta chun láithreacht na Gaeilge a mhéadú sa Chomhairle, san Fhóram agus i rith na dtoghchán.

Council therefore mandates:

go n-oibreoidh Oifigeach na Gaeilge leis an Oifigeach Oideachais chun brú a chur ar an gcoláiste le plananna a chur i bhfeidhm chun modúil a chur ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge i gcúrsaí eile nach iad an Ghaeilge féin iad, ar aon dul le spriocanna Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú), 2021.

Council therefore resolves:

Téarmaí Tagartha an Choiste Oideachais a leasú chun Oifigeach na Gaeilge a chur san áireamh mar bhall de bhrí oifige.

Council notes

the position of Oifigeach na Gaeilge was created to give a voice and representation to Irish language issues in the Union and that it is the goal of the Union to promote Irish as a normal daily language.

Council recognizes

the amount of work involved in the role of Oifigeach na Gaeilge in terms of translation, lobbying the union to adhere to Irish language government guidelines, and creating new institutional ways to increase the presence of the Irish language in every aspect of the Union.

Council therefore mandates

that Oifigeach na Gaeilge will be responsible for translating or organizing translation of any email sent by sabbatical officers to all the students to ensure that it is sent bilingually as two separate emails.

Council therefore mandates

that Oifigeach na Gaeilge work with the Electoral Commission and the Oversight

Commission to increase the presence of Irish in Council, Forum, and during elections.

Council therefore mandates:

that Oifigeach na Gaeilge will work with the Education Officer to pressure the College to implement plans to offer modules through the medium of Irish in other courses that are not Irish themselves in line with the targets of the Official Languages Act (Amendment), 2021.

Council therefore resolves:

to amend the Terms of Reference of the Education Committee to include Oifigeach na Gaeilge as an ex-officio member.

Proposed by Pádraig Mac Brádaigh, Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Seconded by Niko Evans, Tionólaí Scoil na dTeangacha, na Litríochtaí agus na gCultúr

2023/24-26: Motion to Withdraw the Honorary Doctorate Degree of U.S. President Joe Biden

Council notes

Trinity College Dublin in 2016 gave an honorary doctorate degree to then U.S Vice-President Joe Biden, for his contribution to world politics.

Council remarks

the election of Joe Biden to the U.S Presidency in 2020.

Council is disgusted

that the United States, on the initiative of U.S President Joe Biden, has requested \$105bn of aid to be approved from Congress to be sent to wartime aid for amongst other places, Israel.

Council notes

this is not a once-off donation. Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign aid, until February 2022, the United States had provided Israel US\$150 billion. This money goes to fund Israel's oppressive security forces, which brutalize Palestinian men, women, and children every day.

Council is further disgusted

the continued support of the United States for the Israeli state, which has been recognized as an apartheid state by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

Council is concerned

some of these weapons may be sent via Shannon Airport, violating Irish neutrality and making Ireland complicit in violations of international law.

Council notes

our long-term policy of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, in order to make them comply with international and human rights law in their treatment of the Palestinian population.

Council recognizes

on the 20th of October 2023, students supported by Trinity BDS and TCDSU handed a letter to the Provost's Office demanding that College end all ties to the Israeli war industry, as part of an ongoing campaign for the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Council notes

Trinity College Dublin's mission statement includes both "engaging with issues of global significance" and "dedication to societal reform", and our College's response to Ukraine, which condemned the illegal invasion of the country by Russia.

Council remarks

the difference in the reaction of College, which has so far refused to condemn Israeli apartheid, amounts to hypocrisy, and that this hypocrisy must be challenged.

Council is therefore concerned

that the continued honorary doctorate degree of U.S President Joe Biden is in conflict with both the values of the university, the stance of the student body as well as that it is hypocrisy, and a dereliction of duty to the oppressed people of Palestine.

Council therefore calls for

Trinity College Dublin to withdraw the honorary doctorate degree of the U.S. President Joe Biden.

Council also mandates

that TCDSU campaigns for Trinity College Dublin to withdraw Joe Biden's honorary doctorate degree.

Proposed by Union Forum

Seconded by László Molnárfi, TCDSU President

2023/24-27: Motion on the Boycott and Replacement of StudentSurvey.ie**Council notes**

StudentSurvey.ie is a survey tool for Irish third-level educational institutions. It aims to collect students' perceptions of their time at institutions. Student unions share this survey around and promote it alongside the USI, as well as College staff, and exert considerable administrative efforts on the promotion of this survey.

Council regrets

That this survey is imbued with a corporate ethos. It is a corporate survey that pushes a cookie-cutter logic, and its equivalent the National Student Survey (NSS) is boycotted in the U.K. for commercialising institutions, contributing to course cuts and raising tuition fees.

Council notes

These tools, like league tables, measure the wrong things in an educational environment, turning higher education into a competitive market in which institutions are pitted against each other in meaningless categories. It is a customer satisfaction survey at its core.

Council remarks

Satisfaction is not the right indicator. Such surveys encourage institutions to stream money into marketing or other quick fixes to drive up student satisfaction on paper, while not making overarching or substantial changes for real improvement in the student learning experience.

Council believes

In contrast to the narrow view of education that this survey promotes, a holistic and structural approach should be taken which encompasses. Quality of teach-

ing comes from well-paid staff not on precarious contracts, adequate classroom investment and balanced student to staff ratios.

Council further regrets

The survey also lacks context. It reduces very different courses at very different institutions to a simple set of metrics, and implies that one can use these metrics to compare and rank courses and institutions. The questions are too simple and one-dimensional to properly measure the issues at hand.

Council further believes

What counts is whether students have been intellectually challenged in a supportive environment, which is difficult to measure. It can measure if students are happy or not with crude metrics, but the link to teaching quality is dubious at best, and the solutions arising from it are corporate. Such surveys aim to reduce the issues facing third-level education to mere managerial issues, in other words, designed to hide the forest from the trees, as if the wider socioeconomic context of underfunding did not exist.

Council is worried

This survey can be used to justify future tuition fee increases, and it also treats students like consumers instead of community members. Such scores can also be used by the senior management to justify cutting courses, shutting departments and sacking staff. This has happened in the U.K.

Council recognizes

The need for a student survey, and so proposes the development of a truly student-run and student-led survey.

Council therefore mandates

That the TCDSU does not share, promote or raise awareness of the StudentSurvey.ie, and that the TCDSU advises its members not to fill out this survey when the yearly circulation takes place, and that the TCDSU proposes the development of a truly student-run and student-led survey to the USI as an alternative to StudentSurvey.ie.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, TCDSU President

Seconded by Patrick Flynn, Natural Sciences Convenor

2023/24-28: OC Review of Schedule 4

Council notes:

The OC was previously mandated to review Schedule 4 which council either did not adequately address due to time constraints or the review was not brought by the OC entirely.

Council regrets:

The inability due to time constraints to discuss the Schedule 4 review at the final Council.

Council further notes:

That the previous mandate only permitted the OC to consider mandates that are outside of the remit of Council and aims and principles of the Union which prevents addressing mandates which are known to be problematic.

Council however notes:

That the OC shall not propose the content of amendments.

Council hence resolves to mandate:

The Secretary to Council to bring the Schedule 4 review as a discussion item, which is to be written by the OC, to the expected last council of the first semester. If the expected Council does not occur, the review shall be brought to the next council. The review shall list all mandates found in schedule 4.

Council further mandates:

The OC to recommend mandates in conflict to council by highlighting both mandates as conflicting within the Schedule 4 review and amendment by council.

Council further mandates:

The OC to consult the EC on mandates that are believed to be in breach of the constitution. Mandates found to be in breach shall be highlighted in the Schedule 4 review.

Council furthermore mandates:

The OC to inform the Sabbatical Officer Board on mandates found to be problematic from previous OC investigations.

Council finally mandates:

The Education Officer to propose amendments to mandates at council found to be problematic by the OC if it is deemed necessary by the Sabbatical Officer Board as part of the Schedule 4 Review.

Proposed by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

Seconded by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor

2023/24-29: Motion on STEM Freshers Day**Council notes**

The decreased engagement of the STEM Faculty in the College Community since the COVID-19 Pandemic. While the AHSS Faculty has seen renewed engagement in both the Student's Union and also College Societies, levels of engagement from the STEM Faculty have not fully bounced back.

Council regrets

The lack of initiatives to re-engage the students of the STEM Faculty, along with the breakdown of communication between the STEM Faculty and STEM Societies in previous years.

Council notes

That a STEM Freshers Day was run this year, to moderate success and could be used to engage STEM Students on their side of Campus, allowing for more sign ups for class rep positions, along with sign ups to societies on the East End and Goldsmith areas of Campus, including STEM-based societies.

Council therefore mandates

That the STEM Convenor and Deputy STEM Convenor will organise a STEM Freshers Day, in coordination with the Engagement Officer, in the Botany Garden during Freshers week, in conjunction with the STEM Faculty and STEM Schools.

Council also mandates

That the Communications and Marketing Officer include advertisement for the STEM Freshers Day event along with advertisements for Freshers Week events.

Proposed by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

Seconded by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor & Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

2023/24-30: Motion on the failure of the Government's response to the Climate Emergency and the setting up of an Environmental Action Committee

Council notes

In 2019 the Irish government declared a climate and biodiversity emergency but since then the Irish government has failed to meet its emissions reduction targets, with the EPA predicting Ireland missing its 2030 targets by a wide margin.

Council notes with frustration

The complicity of large corporations in perpetuating the crisis through greenwashing, including on campus. Ryanair runs its only sustainable aviation research centre in Trinity, which is likely a greenwashing campaign given that only 2% of all aviation decarbonisation targets have been achieved.

Council is alarmed

By the large number of people affected by the climate crisis, including 43.1 million child climate refugees in the past 6 years. The number of extreme weather events that have occurred, and are projected to occur, due to the climate crisis, such as the recent flooding of Cork, is also cause for concern. This is of particular concern to students, given many of us will live through the projected climate breakdown.

Council declares as a result

That it has no faith in the viability of the government's current approach to the climate crisis.

Council therefore mandates

That the Environmental Officer works with grassroots organizations such as the Student Climate Coalition of Ireland, in order to increase student participation in the national climate movement.

Council further mandates

That the union takes an active stance opposed to greenwashing by polluting cor-

porations in the college, including the Ryanair Sustainable Aviation Research centre.

Council finally mandates

The setting up of an environmental action sub-committee to aid the environmental officer in carrying out these additional duties. The terms of the committee are attached here.

Proposed by Nathan Hutchinson Edgar, Environmental Officer

Seconded by Anna Montgomery, SS Environmental Sciences Representative

2023/24-31: Motion to Amend International & ASAP Fund Terms of Reference

Council appreciates

The need for financial support for international students due to high tuition, increasing inflation and exchange rates, and lack of access to supports that exist for domestic students.

Council notes

That the pressing factors facing international students vary, and are often influenced by unexpected world events. The earthquake in Turkey and Syria was a recent world event posing significant financial issues for many Trinity students. Therefore, last year the funds were channeled to support these students.

Council notes

That this issue is no longer a practical way to channel the funds as needs have changed.

Council Resolves

To amend last year's proposal with the attached terms of reference.

Updated TOR

Proposed by Eduarda Werneck, International Student Officer

Seconded by Hamza Bana, Ethnic Minorities Officer

2023/24-32: Motion on the Creation of a Constitutional Review Working Group

Council Notes

The TCDSU Constitution is a well-written but imperfect document with inadequate structures for postgraduate students as well as several grammatical errors due to the transference between the original written document and Overleaf.

Council further notes

There have been several grievances raised with the TCDSU Constitution over the past several years, and these grievances should be aired as well as addressed to remain as democratic in our structures as possible.

Council Therefore Mandates

The creation of a constitutional review working group with the following terms of reference with the central goals to:

1. Fix any grammatical errors in the Constitution for TCDSU.
2. Integrate postgraduates into the Constitution with more formal structures.
3. Integrate already existing structures into the Constitution.
4. Review previously completed submissions of the constitution and providing a report to Council on this.
5. Review relevant sections of the constitution and propose a new constitution if required.

Proposed by Cat Arnold, Education Officer

Seconded by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor

2023/24-33: Motion on the Academic Senate

Council Notes

That the Students Union is the primary means of representation for students to engage in the creation of College-wide effective policy.

Council Acknowledges

That the creation of comprehensive, effective policies that are collectively agreed upon is restricted structurally by Council; as well as ill-accounted for within working groups and committees due to a lack of cross-faculty representation.

Council Further Notes

That Faculty Assembly currently does not best structurally facilitate discussion of the creation of cross-faculty policy.

Council Further Notes

The establishment of the Academic Senate from 2017 to 2019 was a positive advancement towards the creation of an effective policy creation structure but was ultimately inadequate due to their lack of institutional decision-making power.

Council Mandates

The Education Officer and their Standing Committee to form an Academic Senate, which will feed into the Student Council as the main Governing Body of TCDSU and meet at a minimum of twice a teaching semester.

Council Further Mandates

Any excess cases that are referred from the Academic Senate to Faculty Assemblies be presented to the relevant Faculty Assembly by Faculty Convenors or Deputy Faculty Convenors.

Proposed by Catherine Arnold, Education Officer

Seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy STEM Convenor

Academic Senate Terms of Reference (TOR)

The Academic Senate shall:

- Serve as a body wherein policy and reports may be debated, written, edited, and reviewed as well as have members of the TCDSU and the Senate note objections or concerns from policy to the Senate Executive.
- Report to council, in the form of minutes to be approved at the beginning of the next Council meeting.

- Report to council in the form of reports including policy suggestions and long-term plans to be noted at the beginning of the next Council meeting.
- Meet at least twice a term.
- Discuss matters relating to education and academic affairs on a College-level.

The Academic Senate of TCDSU shall consist of the following:

- Chair
- Vice Chair/Secretary
- Education Officer (ex-officio)
- Welfare Officer (ex-officio)
- All elected Faculty Convenors (ex-officio)
- All elected School Convenors (ex-officio)
- All elected Programme Convenors (ex-officio)
- Academic Senators: 25 members who applied for the role by anonymous application to the Education Officer
- One member from each School of STEM (Biochemistry and Immunology, Computer Science and Statistics, Genetics and Microbiology, Natural Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, Mathematics, Physics)
- Two members from each School of HS (Dental Science, Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences)
- Eight members chosen by anonymous application from eight schools within AHSS (Trinity Business School, School of English, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, School of Religion, School of Creative Arts, School of Histories and Humanities, School of Social Work and Social Policy, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences, School of Education, School of Law, School of Psychology, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies)

- One member from a Joint Honors pathway (any JH program including cross faculty)

The Executive of the Academic Senate shall consist of the following:

- Chair
- Vice Chair/Secretary
- Minimum 3 selected Academic Senators - Maximum 6 (1 to 2 from each faculty unless one member is JH cross faculty depending on the issue at hand)
- Education Officer

Duties of the Chair:

- The Chair of Academic Senate shall be appointed by the Education Officer after applying to the role.
- They shall be responsible for the running of the Senate. This will consist of:
 - The responsibilities of committee Chairs as outlined in the TCDSU Constitution, Section 4.11.4 (b)
 - At the end of each academic year, the Chair and Vice-Chair shall review and produce a report on the operation of the Senate.
 - They shall be responsible for arranging any necessary Executive meetings and aiding the Executive or the individual who suggested the creation of policy in writing the policy noted.

Duties of the Vice-Chair:

- The Vice-Chair will be selected through an application process, that will open following the selection of Academic Senators.
- The Vice-Chair will serve as secretary to the Senate and have the responsibilities laid out in the TCDSU Constitution, Section 4.11.5 and Section 4.11.8.
- The Vice-Chair will engage with the Chair of the Oversight Commission and Chair of the Electoral Commission to ensure policy created is in line with.
- At the end of each academic year, the Chair and Vice-Chair shall review and produce a report on the operation of the Senate.

The duties of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate will consist of:

- Writing the policy document if the person who submitted the policy is unavailable to write the document.
- Advising the individual who submitted the policy concept in the creation of the policy document.
- Referring excess cases to the appropriate bodies such as Faculty Assemblies and Council.

Quorum:

- To be considered quorate, the Senate will require one third of its members to be in attendance.

Attendance and reporting:

- The meeting will be open.
- Minutes will be made available as part of the agenda to council.
- Non-members of TCDSU will be permitted to address the Senate by invitation of the Chair only.

2023/24-34: Motion on Overnight Guests Policy

Council remarks

That around 1,800 students live on campus or at Trinity Halls, paying anywhere from 7,000 to over 10,000 a year, while facing yearly rent increases and not being granted full rights as tenants, rather being classified as licensees.

Council notes

The overly restrictive nature of the current on-campus and Halls residence overnight guest policy, which disproportionately limits the rights and autonomy of student residents.

Council specifically disagrees with

That on campus, no guest sign-ins can be done after 12am, and that at Trinity

Halls, no guest sign-ins can be done after 11pm.

Council further notes

This policy, not applicable to staff living on campus, creates an unjust disparity. TCDSU believes in fostering a supportive and inclusive community and opposes the paternalistic aspects of the existing policy, and believes that students are adults who should be granted the same rights on campus as other members of our academic community.

Council is concerned

That this is a dangerous, paternalistic, and double-standard policy, and is not conducive to student wellbeing.

Council specifically highlights

Cases where the friends of students who missed their public transport have had nowhere else to go, and College policy meant that they could not sleep on campus or Halls residences on the couch, but had to walk alone at night or not been able to go home, putting themselves in danger.

Council remarks

That College Security's 24/7 presence addresses any logistical concerns related to guest sign-ins after designated hours.

Council recognizes

The need to sign students in for safety and health reasons, but believes that there should be no limit as to how late a student can sign in a guest.

Council therefore mandates

The TCDSU will campaign to abolish the time limit on overnight guests on-campus and at Trinity Halls.

Council further mandates

That the TCDSU will, as part of this, campaign that College Security let guests wait for the resident student who signed them in inside the front gate area, rather than leaving them outside which is dangerous.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, TCDSU President

Seconded by Siubhán Stockman, SS Political Science and Geography Class Rep

2023/24-35: Motion on new Zón Mac Léinn

Council Regrets

The closure of the Mexican Restaurant in the East End/Hamilton. It might have been good, I wasn't a student at the time.

Council Notes

The space has been appropriated as a storage closet for the book of Kells.

Council Celebrates

The success of the Hamilton bank ZML, and its popularity among students.

Council Further Notes

The unsuitable number of lockers in that area of campus due to high demand. This results in students who perform labs to be unable to safely store their belongings during labs, which often last hours.

Council Further Notes

That there is no respite space for students to go to if they feel overwhelmed during labs or lectures down at the east end of campus.

Council recognises

Staff within the Sciences schools have noted that this is a problem and have already proposed using this space as a new student space, which would be designed to provide a storage space for belongings during practicals and a safe zone for students.

Council Mandates

The Sciences Programme Convenor, STEM Convenor, Convenors-in-STEM and the President lobby for this space to be opened as a new Student Space.

Proposed by Vilte Bivainyte, Science Programme Convenor

Seconded by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor

2023/24-36: Motion on Supports for P.M.E Students

Council notes

That those undertaking Professional Masters in Education (P.M.E.) degrees are often unnoticed and underrepresented.

Council remarks

That our College offers P.M.E. degrees, and that those undertaking these degrees are members of the Union and may be members of the Association of Secondary Teachers Ireland (ASTI).

Council notes with concern

P.M.E students are exploited and face many issues, including a high dropout rate, financial difficulties and hidden costs and not being properly paid for their training working in secondary schools.

Council praises

The work of ASTI, who passed a motion at their conference in 2022 to campaign for student second-level teachers to be paid for all the hours they work in schools during their second year of study.

Council believes

That the Union has a duty to support P.M.E students, and that the best way to do this is through solidarity and combining our forces with ASTI.

Council therefore mandates

That the TCDSU support ASTI's campaign to ensure that student secondary-level teachers be paid properly and that the TCDSU develop links with ASTI on this issue.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, President

Seconded by Catherine Arnold, Education Officer

2023/24-37: Motion on Bursary for Student Parents

Council regrets

The financial challenges faced by student parents, with many struggling to meet the costs of childcare during term time or attending camps, trips or events during school holidays when student parents are attending college, thereby impacting their ability to pursue education.

Council praises

That there have been some efforts to support student parents, such as the 1916 Bursary, which targets underrepresented groups, and one of these groups is lone parents.

Council notes

The financial struggles that student parents face hinder their academic progress and overall well-being.

Council further notes

The success of using TCDSU's Higher Education Authority (HEA) Fund in supporting projects that directly benefit students, specifically the Placement Bursary, the International Fund and the T-Fund.

Council therefore mandates

The allocation of resources from the HEA Fund to establish a Student Parent Bursary program aimed at providing financial assistance to both undergraduate and postgraduate student parents. Council proposes a total funding of e 20,000 for the project, which will be distributed annually over a five-year period, starting September 2024, to ensure sustained support for student parents.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, President

Seconded by Sheila Keegan, Student Parent Officer

2023/24-38: Motion on Opposing the Green Paper on Disability Reform

Council takes notice of

The government's Green Paper on Disability Reform.

Council recognizes

That there are over 2,000 or so students with disabilities at our College, many of whom have raised serious concerns about the green paper on disability allowance reform proposed by the government.

Council believes

The Green Paper breaches UNCRPD, particularly Article 33.3, as it lacked the involvement of disabled individuals or organizations in its drafting and by using a medical model approach not a social model as enshrined in the UNCRPD Article 1 and Article 2.

Council believes

The Green Paper fails to acknowledge the existence of systemic barriers hindering access to employment for disabled individuals and has been likened to a similar neoliberal policy that was introduced by the Tories in the U.K..

Council notes

The plan presented in the document is opposed by disability organisations around Ireland. Madani Maryam, Chairperson of the Disability Power Ireland, says that the community “have come together to protest this because there has been so much distress and outrage in the community since the announcement of these proposals. We will be categorised into tiers based solely on the perception of our capacity to work from independent medical assessors. All of this goes completely against everything that disabled people and our representative organisations, have been saying for decades.”

Council therefore recognizes

The need to scrap the Green Paper on Disability Reform and to return to the drawing board.

Council therefore mandates

That the TCDSU supports the Scrap the Green Paper Coalition and that the TCDSU opposes the Green Paper on Disability Reform in its entirety.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, President

Seconded by Keely Jenkinson, Disabilities Officer Aoife Bennett, Welfare Officer

2023/24-39: Motion on Bursary for Sports

Council remarks

A motion proposed by 11 postgraduate students struggling with the cost of living last year proposed to pressure the College into improving access to sport for underprivileged students by making the TCDSU stop supporting the sports levy.

Council sees

That this referendum failed, due to the implications it would have on the department of Sport to function, raising considerable alarm amongst Trinity Sports and Trinity Sports Union.

Council knows

That collaboration between the TCDSU and TSU is very important and that the way forward must be a collaborative approach.

Council praises

That the referendum, while defeated, nevertheless raised considerable attention to the issue of extra equipment, club subscription and court use costs which have a negative effect on the ability of underprivileged students to engage in sports.

Council notes

The importance of physical wellbeing for academic performance, mental health and general life quality.

Council further notes

The success of using TCDSU's Higher Education Authority (HEA) Fund in supporting projects that directly benefit students, specifically the Placement Bursary, the International Fund and the T-Fund.

Council therefore mandates

The allocation of resources from the HEA Fund to establish a Student Sport Bursary program aimed at providing financial assistance to both undergraduate and postgraduate students who may struggle. Council proposes a total funding of e 20,000 for the project, which will be distributed annually over a five-year period, starting September 2024, to ensure sustained support for students who wish to access sports.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, President

Seconded by Ella Mac Lennan, Citizenship Officer

2023/24-40: Motion on the Virtual Learning Environment

Council acknowledges that

According to IT services, the Virtual Learning Environment (currently Blackboard) is the most used piece of software within Trinity College Dublin for student learning.

Council recognises that

Since the beginning of the academic year 2023/24, the virtual learning environment has undergone a review process with staff and student input to decide whether additional functionality would be required or sought by the TCD community. This could lead to two possible outcomes: a complete change in the virtual learning environment or seeking additional functionality within Blackboard.

Council further recognises

Any additional functionality for the Virtual Learning Environment (whether within Blackboard or using a different VLE) would be implemented over multiple years and will require commitment from the Education Officer to ensure the wishes of the student body are fully complied with.

Council therefore mandates

The Education Officer to vote in line with what Council determines is necessary regarding the virtual learning environment, whether to search for additional functionality within Blackboard or to procure a new VLE to the relevant college governing bodies.

Council further mandates

The Education Officer report once per academic year on the progress for any changes regarding the VLE that is occurring to Council.

Proposed by Catherine Arnold, Education Officer

Seconded by Ruaidhri Saulnier, STEM Convenor

2023/24-41: Motion on Outlets in lecture theatres

Council notes

Many of the largest lecture theatres in Trinity College Dublin do not feature accessible electrical outlets.

Council further notes

Batteries lose charge when in use, and extended periods of lectures may prevent students from charging them sufficiently.

Council Acknowledges

Students use their laptops or other electronic devices during lectures.

Council mandates

That Faculty Convenors alongside the Sabbatical Officers lobby for the installation of outlets in large lecture halls.

Proposed by Catherine Arnold, Education Officer

Seconded by Ruaidhrí Saulnier, STEM Convenor

2023/24-42: Motion on equipment for Film Students

Council acknowledges

The Film Department currently has no ability to book equipment for use for essential assessments within the course.

Council notes

This creates a significant financial barrier for certain students to complete core assessments as well as an over reliance on certain societies for use of equipment.

Council therefore mandates

The Creative Arts Convenor, the AHSS Faculty convenor and the Education Offi-

cer to lobby for film and recording equipment to be made available and centrally bookable under the IT Services department for use for Film students.

Proposed by Catherine Arnold, Education Officer

Seconded by Eoghan Gilroy, AHSS Convenor

2023/24-43: Motion on Accessibility and Inclusion

Council celebrates:

The efforts over several years to make the Union and college community more accessible, and particularly the work done by students through the Disability Service, TCDSense, the Ability Co-Op and the DU Neurodiversity Society.

Council acknowledges:

That further work is necessary to deliver equity for all neurodivergent students and students with disabilities, particularly with regards to the culture and ethos of the Union itself.

Council accepts:

That “good enough” is not enough, and that accessibility for every last student is the minimum the Union must strive for as an institution.

Council therefore mandates:

That the Electoral Commission elects from amongst its membership an ombudsman responsible for ensuring accessibility and inclusion in sabbatical, part-time officer, convenor and class rep elections, as well as with respect to the running of Council.

Council therefore mandates:

That the Oversight Commission elects from amongst its membership an ombudsman responsible for ensuring accessibility and inclusion in Union business, including campaign weeks, committee meetings, social media and communications.

Council further mandates:

That the Welfare and Equality Officer meet with representatives of the Trinity Ability Co-Op and the DU Neurodiversity Society, alongside other relevant stake-

holders, to draft a report outlining current accessibility issues for neurodivergent students and students with disabilities within the Union, to be submitted no later than Third Council.

Proposed by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy Stem Convenor

Seconded by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

2023/24-44: Motion on Job Sharing and Leave

Council cherishes:

The continued success of the trade union movement in fighting for workers' rights and improved working conditions.

Council notes:

That Union officers often work extended hours on behalf of the Union, managing campaign weeks, casework, policy, committees and other essential business, and do so unpaid and without formal working conditions.

Council regrets:

The lack of procedures which satisfactorily facilitate leave for Union officers, particularly given the unfortunate fact that officers often have to choose between leaving necessary work undone and taking time for their wellbeing and college work.

Council fears:

That working students, students with heavy course loads and students on Erasmus or placement struggle to take on jobs within the Union due to the necessary time commitments.

Council hopes:

That work can be done to make accommodations so that all students, regardless of circumstances, can participate in the Union without it having a detrimental effect on their wellbeing, academics or personal lives.

Council therefore mandates:

The President to develop leave policy document in conjunction with the Sabbatical Officer Board and Union Forum to be presented to Council during the first

academic term.

Proposed by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy Stem Convenor

Seconded by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

2023/24-45: Motion on Anti-Traveller Racism

Council abhors:

The plight and ubiquity of anti-Traveller racism in Ireland which limits the community's access to higher education and hampers their participation in everyday life.

Council regrets:

The critical underrepresentation of Travellers within higher education institutions and, as a result, the limited capacity for grassroots organisation of Travellers in the college community.

Council highlights:

The work of the Trinity Access Programme and former Ethnic Minorities Officers over the previous decade to advocate on behalf of the Travelling Community within college and work towards their integration into the college community.

Council stresses:

That there remains work to be done in raising awareness to the issues of the Travelling Community and in resisting the racism that Travellers continue to experience.

Council therefore mandates:

That the Ethnic Minorities Officer and Access Officer organise one event per academic term related to issues faced by the Travelling Community, relating to Traveller access to higher education, anti-Traveller racism or, more broadly, Traveller rights and culture.

Proposed by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy Stem Convenor

Seconded by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

2023/24-46: Motion to Develop a Schedule for “Officer Policy”

Council accepts:

That its business is severely constrained by time limits and that many motions are brought uncontested, and while incredibly important, they delay proceedings.

Council worries:

That some officers do not propose certain “policies” as motions and instead include them in handover documents, leaving them unenforceable by the Oversight Commission and at risk of being forgotten.

Council notes:

That the Union currently lacks an element of its legislative process similar to ministerial orders, and that this has led both to the clogging up of Council and to the lack of codification for much of the Union’s policy.

Council therefore mandates:

That the Engagement Officer, alongside the Engagement Working Group, develop a proposal for a constitutional amendment to create a new schedule of the Constitution for “officer policy” as outlined in the EWG Report to Fifth Council of 2023/24 (making changes as necessary), and that this proposal is presented as a Discussion Item no later than Fourth Council of 2024/25.

Addendum: This new schedule would enable officers to unilaterally introduce policies that would become binding on them (as it would be enforced by the Oversight Commission). To add a policy to their schedule, the officer would present the policy as an item for noting to Council. Officers may “deactivate” policies they or their predecessors have added by also presenting an item for noting to Council. The policies under this jurisdiction would be limited to what is within the officer’s remit, excluding larger policies within the remit of Council (for example, taking stances on issues). Instead, it would relate to actions, like liaising with certain groups, running certain events or lobbying for certain measures.

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

Seconded by Sé Ó hEidhin, Deputy Stem Convenor

2023/24-47: Motion on Review with Adequate Consultation of Chapter 1.4

Council recognizes:

The varying attitudes of the student body towards the question of whether the student union should be allowed to criticise political ideologies as well as able to take an explicit no-confidence stance in the government.

Council is concerned:

At the division this has resulted in, with opposing sides resorting to measures which have generated controversy, including constitutional breaches, walkouts and impeachment referendums being launched.

Council therefore reaffirms:

The need for civil discourse on the issues that matter to students, and that may be divisive, and that these issues best be settled by referendum.

Council therefore mandates:

That the incoming Sabbatical Officer Board work, with relevant consultation, to bring a motion to Council containing a proposal which may be put to referendum on Chapter 1.4 no later than the end of Michaelmas Term. This wording should allow the Union to criticise political ideologies and political parties, but will have the necessary safeguards in place to prevent abuse of power. Safeguards should include having to put any possible no confidence motions in the government to a Long-Term Policy (LTP) referendum, and the Union should be prohibited from affiliating to political parties.

Proposed by László Molnárfi, TCDSU President, Jenny Maguire, Peadar Walsh, Beth Strahan

Seconded by Colin Harper, JF Psychology Class Representative Seán Thim O’Leary, SF PPES Class Representative, Eoghan Gilroy AHSS Convenor, Hamza Bana Ethnic Minorities Officer , Pádraig Mac Brádaigh Oifigeach na Gaeilge

2023/24-48: Motion to Improve Support for Students on Clinical and Social Work Placement 2

Council notes:

That there are many students on clinical and social work placement who can become disconnected and isolated from the college community. These students work 40 hour weeks with often an additional part-time job. These students are overburdened and under-represented.

Council is concerned:

Multiple tragedies have struck Health Science students, in particularly in the School of Medicine relating to mental and physical health. Many students work full time hours on clinical placements for no pay, to the detriment of their health and well-being.

Council regrets:

That there are inadequate structures in place to safeguard the physical, emotional and financial health of students on clinical placement. This is partly due to the neglect of previous Student Union Teams over decades.

Council praises:

The ongoing efforts within the Health Sciences Faculty to improve mental health supports for students. This includes a mental health review committee within the School of Medicine and the appointment of a School of Medicine Support Officer. The work of TCD Counselling Services in both suicide prevention and student support. The work of Student Union members to lobby for better supports (including financial assistance) for students on clinical placement.

Council therefore mandates:

The implementation of proactive supports for all students on clinical placement. TCDSU must work in collaboration with TCD Counselling Services to lobby for:

- the creation of more out-of-hours appointment slots.
- the formation of support groups for students on clinical placement.

Council also mandates:

The introduction of a reformed tutor system, in conjunction with the senior tutor, which includes specific guidelines for tutors to organise welfare meetings with students during their clinical placement.

Council further mandates:

As a matter of emergency, TCDSU will lobby and report on progress to attain greater financial supports for students on clinical placement. This lobbying may include national level campaigns drawing attention to all courses who go unpaid. This includes but is not limited to: Radiation Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Social Care and Social Work, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Speech and Language Therapy, Dietetics and so on.

Council further mandates:

That the Student Union continues to demand that increased funding be allocated to mental health services, from both the university and the Irish government.

Proposed by Han McAuley, Off Campus Officer

Seconded by David Treacy, Access Officer

2023/24-49: Motion on Motion Summaries

Council is concerned:

That motions require technical language, and as a result, members of Council may struggle to understand the functional implications of motions from the text alone.

Council praises:

The work done by the Electoral Commission and Oversight Commission to provide motion summaries, making it easier for members of Council to understand what they're voting on.

Council hopes:

That these summaries continue to be used going forward, that they are made use of more and that they become a fundamental element of Council.

Council therefore mandates:

That the Secretary to Council, with the assistance of the Electoral Commission and Oversight Commission, write plain-text summaries explaining the functional implications of every motion brought to Council and publish these summaries alongside Council agendas.

Council further mandates:

That the Chair of Council read aloud the respective summary before the motion

is presented by the proposer.

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

Seconded by Eve Martin, Deputy STEM Convenor

2023/24-50: Motion on Amending TORs of Committees

Council worries:

That the excessive amount of elections held at First Council overburdens the Electoral Commission, disengages class reps and delays necessary proceedings.

Council acknowledges:

That many of the committee positions elected at First Council require individuals to publicly disclose sensitive information in order to run and that these, among other positions, could better be filled through anonymised application.

Council laments:

That certain provisions of the Constitution provide for absurd bureaucracy, requiring equally absurd means of improving efficiency.

Council further mandates:

That the section of the terms of reference of the Trinity Joint Honours Committee reading:

“Committee Members shall be elected at first Council of teaching term.”

shall be changed to:

“Committee Members shall be selected by anonymous application at the start of each academic year, except for Ordinary Committee Members, who shall be elected at the first Council of teaching term.”

Council further mandates:

That the section of the terms of reference of the Campaigns Committee reading:

“Elected Members (to serve until June of the academic year in which they are elected): 8-12 Ordinary Committee members Postgraduate Taught Representative Postgraduate Researcher Representative First Year Representative”

shall be changed to:

“Elected Members (to serve until June of the academic year in which they are elected and to be elected at First Council): 8-12 Ordinary Committee members
Appointed Members (to serve until June of the academic year in which they are elected and to be selected by anonymous application): Postgraduate Taught Representative
Postgraduate Researcher Representative
First Year Representative”

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

Seconded by Seconded by László Molnárfi, President and Giulia Villa, Trinity Joint Honours Convenor

2023/24-51: Rún um Ainm Theach 6 (Teach Mandela)

Tugann an Chomhairle faoi deara:

Go bhfuil oifigí agus seirbhísí AMLCT lonnaithe den chuid is mó i dTeach 6 (Teach Mandela), An Chearnóg Tosaigh.

Cuireann an Chomhairle fáilte roimh:

Athainmniú Theach 6 go Teach Mandela i 2000, in onóir Nelson Mandela.

Tuigeann an Chomhairle:

Iarrachtaí leanúnacha Oifigeach na Gaeilge, in éineacht leis na hoifigigh agus baill Aontais eile, an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn.

Tuigeann an Chomhairle freisin:

An gá atá leis an nGaeilge a bheith i ngach cuid den Aontas agus nár chóir í a imeallú go réimse an Oifigigh Ghaeilge.

Mar sin, tugann an Chomhairle údarás:

Go ndéanfaidh oifigigh Fhóram an Aontais, An Coimisiún Toghcháin agus an Coimisiún Maoirseachta tagairt do House 6 mar “Teach 6” agus/nó “Teach Mandela” i gcumarsáid Aontais oifigiúil agus go spreagfaidh siad na baill eile an Aontais amhlaidh a dhéanamh fosta.

Council Notes:

That currently the TCDSU sabbatical offices and TCDSU services are predominantly based in House 6 (Mandela House), Front Square.

Council Welcomes:

The 2000 renaming of House 6 to Mandela House, in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Council Appreciates:

The ongoing efforts by the TCDSU Oifigeach na Gaeilge, in collaboration with other officers and members of the union to promote the use of the Irish language.

Council Also Appreciates:

That Gaeilge must be in every part of the union and that it should not be isolated to the remit of Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

Council therefore mandates:

That all Union Forum officers, the Electoral Commission, and the Oversight Commission refer to House 6 as "Teach 6" and/or Teach Mandela in official Union communications, and actively encourage all other Union members to do the same.

Proposed by Pádraig Mac Brádaigh, Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Seconded by Fóram an Aontais (FA/UF)

2023/24-52: Motion to support a transition to a 75% plant based university**Council notes**

the need to switch to a plant based food system in the face of the climate crisis is an acknowledged scientific fact, backed up by international bodies such as the IPCC.

Council notes

that while there is variability in how people react to plant based foods, the overall health benefits of moving away from processed and red meat as a large component of diet are largely recognised by the medical community.

Council acknowledges

recent findings by animal rights groups, highlighting the inhumane conditions on Irish pig farms.

Council applauds

the recent work of Trinity Catering to make plant based foods more accessible, yet would like to encourage them to move further in this direction.

Council further notes

that college has taken an atrocious stance as regards eating disorders, as per a recent Trinity News Report. As such it is incredibly important that this is taken into account as a shift to a plant based food system is enacted.

Council therefore mandates

to support a campaign for Trinity College Dublin to transition to at least 75% plant based foods over the next five years.

Council mandates

that the Environmental Officer shall consult with the Officer for Students with Disabilities, the Disability Service in Trinity and other relevant bodies in so doing in order to ensure that there are no health issues caused by this.

Proposed by Nathan Hutchinson Edgar, Environmental Officer

Seconded by Aiesha Wong, Comms Officer

2023/24-53: Council Motion on Non-Sabbatical Officer Elections

Council notes:

That Non-Sabbatical Officers serve an essential role as part of the Union’s campaigns and delivery of services to students.

Council laments:

That the process of elections for Non-Sabbatical Officers can oftentimes feel inaccessible to students outside the Union’s bubble.

Council resolves:

To improve its institutions and ensure that all students, regardless of their background, have an equal opportunity of being elected to roles within their Union.

Council therefore mandates:

That the President, the Chair of Council and the Engagement Officer run an information session for Part-Time Officer and Convenor elections no later than one

week before the final Council of the academic year, and a separate information session for Class Rep elections no later than three days before Class Rep election registrations close.

Council further mandates:

That the Communications & Marketing Officer and the Engagement Officer publicly invite Part-Time Officer candidates to submit manifestos (through student-wide emails and social media) no later than one week before the final Council of the academic year, and that they share these manifestos in— a Google Drive, with individual folders for each Part-Time Officership, and a channel in the Union Slack, where all manifestos are shared by non-partisan members of the Union when possible.

Council further mandates:

That the Oversight Commission produce and submit a report, no later than the penultimate ordinary Council of the academic year, on all the extant Part-Time Officerships, explaining the day-to-day duties of each role, the weekly time commitments and other essential information for potential candidates to consider, and for the Communications and Marketing Officer to publicise this report in college-wide communications.

Council further mandates:

That the Chair of Council and Electoral Commission explore introducing a hustings, whether structured or unstructured, for Part-Time Officer candidates immediately preceding the final Council of the academic year where members of Council can have conversations with and ask questions to candidates in an informal setting, and produce and submit a report no later than the penultimate ordinary Council of the academic year outlining whether or not they will implement one.

Council further mandates:

That the Chair of Council and Electoral Commission explore introducing campaigning opportunities for Class Rep candidates, including possibly adding short “blurbs” written by candidates underneath their name on ballot papers, and include a list of recommendations for Class Rep election campaigning opportunities in their report proscribed in Motion “2023/24-3: *Motion on Class Rep Elections Report”.

Proposed by Connor Dempsey, Engagement Officer

Seconded by Ella Mac Lennan, Citizenship Officer

2023/24-54: *Motion on Issues Concerning Timetable Publication Scheduling at Trinity College Dublin

Council Notes

Academic timetables have this year and in previous years been published at best only one week in advance of the commencement of modules and classes (both in person and online) of their corresponding academic year. This has negatively impacted both students and teaching staff of all departments; restricting the individual's ability to organise their scheduling of activities external to Trinity College Dublin.

Council Also Notes

The issue of delayed timetabling results primarily and worryingly in the restriction of staff and students' abilities to schedule working hours for jobs or occupations that in many cases fund said students' or teaching staff's livelihood or even students' ability to work or study at Trinity College Dublin through the payment of annual fees. This specifically has already been aggravated by the Coronavirus pandemic and the increase of housing costs in Dublin, especially for students, thereby compounding the negative effects of the late release of timetables. Additionally, the late publication of module timetables at Trinity College Dublin particularly stands out against those of rival universities with institutions such as University College Dublin publishing their timetables months before the beginning of their corresponding academic terms.

Council Asserts

That current scheduling of the publication of academic and module timetables is performed too closely to the commencement of their corresponding academic years and that such a practice holds and executes the potential to negatively impact the livelihood of students and teaching staff across all departments.

Council Mandates

That the TCDSU Education Officer advocates on behalf of students to support the earlier publication of timetables.

Originally Proposed by Daniel Vives-Lynch, Senior Sophister Music Class Representative

Originally Seconded by David Boylan, Junior Sophister Music Class Representative

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-55: *Motion on Unanswered Questions at Council

Council Notes

That Council is the body that allows students to interact with the Sabbatical Team the most.

Council Also Notes

During officer reports, discussion items, motions, and other council proceedings, questions are asked to the Sabbatical Team which may go unanswered due to the officer(s) not knowing the answer.

Council Understands

That Sabbatical Officers don't always have the answers to all questions asked to them at council.

Council Mandates

That the Secretary of Council notes unanswered questions during Council and forwards them to the team no later than three days post-Council.

Council Also Mandates

That the Sabbatical Team responds to these questions by email no later than one week after receiving them from the Secretary of Council.

Originally Proposed by Paraic McLean, Communications and Marketing Officer

Originally Seconded by Aimee Connolly, Education Officer

Originally passed 18/19, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-56: *Motion on Sabbatical Officer Office Hours

Council Notes

Sabbatical Officers are frequently busy, either with meetings in their office or meetings and events out of their office.

Council Also Notes

That the accessibility of Sabbatical Officers to the students they represent is essential to the pursuit of openness, inclusiveness and student engagement with the Students' Union.

Council Mandates

That Sabbatical Officers schedule at least 2 hours per week during term time, during which they will be available for students to drop in, and that these will be publicized by the Students' Union in the weekly email.

Originally Proposed by Shane De Rís, President

Originally Seconded by Paraic McLean, Communications and Marketing Officer

Originally passed 18/19, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-57: *Motion on Reporting of Sabbatical Officer Expenses

Council Notes

Sabbatical officers sometimes require expenses as part of their job.

Council Also Notes

That sabbatical officers use these expenses with good intention, and with the students in mind.

Council Acknowledges

Transparency of expenditure in the Students' Union is appreciated by its members.

Council Mandates

That sabbatical officers report their expenses in the reports that they provide to Council.

Originally Proposed by Shane De Rís, President

Originally Seconded by Paraic McLean, Communications and Marketing Officer

Originally passed 18/19, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-58: *Motion on International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision (ASAP) Scholar Fund

Council Regrets

That International students pay more than twice as much for the same education as those who can avail of the free fees initiative, non-EU international students have seen their fees increase by 3% most years during Patrick Prendergast's provostship, that COVID-19 impacted international students in unique ways and that non-EU international students never received € 250 from Minister Harris' re-fund scheme.

Council Also Regrets

International students and ASAP scholars face many challenges that make focusing on education difficult.

Council Notes

International students and ASAP scholars face unique costs to education like visa costs, medical insurance and expensive travel costs.

Council Also Notes

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) Fund has been established to fund projects that benefit students and has proven effective by doing so in the past.

Council Mandates

That € 30,000 be allocated from the HEA Fund as has been outlined in the International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision Scholar Fund Proposal with € 20,000 being used this year to support international students' recovery from COVID-19 shutdown and € 5,000 being disbursed for the two following years.

International Student and Asylum Seeker Access Provision Scholar Fund Proposal

Originally Proposed by Sierra Müller-Owens, Welfare and Equality Officer

Originally Seconded by Dylan Krug, International Student Officer

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-59: *Motion on TCD Divestment from Arms and Weaponry Manufacturers

Council Notes

As of 2020, Trinity College Dublin invests 2,6 million euros into Arms and Weaponry manufacturers, such as BAE systems, Lockheed Martin and the Boeing Company through its endowment fund. Council Celebrates Trinity being awarded 'University of Sanctuary Status', fostering a welcome and inclusive environment for asylum seekers and refugees.

Council Regrets

That these arms and weaponry manufacturers undeniably view the migration of refugees and subsequent border security as an opportunity to make money.

Council Mandates

That TCDSU lobby for full transparency and openness regarding College's investments.

Originally Proposed by László Molnárfi - SF PPES Class Representative

Originally Seconded by Jodie Milne - SS Nursing Class Representative

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-60: *Anti-Spiking Policy

Council Regrets:

The increase in spiking that has been reported in nightclubs post lockdown.

Council Welcomes:

The many hours of research, communication and advocacy that have been done by the Union of Students' in Ireland's Welfare Officer to create a Dublin-wide agreement between SUs and private establishments.

Council Mandates:

The Welfare Equality Officer and the Entertainment Officer to aid USI in anti-spiking policy where possible and ensure that TCDSU follows the policy when it is completed

Originally Proposed by Seán Lysaght, JS CSL Class Rep, Education Committee
OCM

Originally Seconded by Sierra Müller-Owens, Welfare and Equality Officer

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-61: *Motion on College Transparency

Council Welcomes

Sabbatical Officers' work and their written reports to Council.

Council Notes

That the Sabbatical Officers' attend a lot of College and other meetings as part of their duties to the Union, the names of which are listed in their written reports to Council.

Council Regrets

That for some meetings, there are no publicly available minutes, especially for ad-hoc meetings.

Council Also Regrets

That oftentimes, as such, it is unclear from the written report what the Sabbatical Officers' said at meetings, if anything, and what the reaction to these interventions were. As such, Sabbatical Officers' can not be held to account in some cases, and there is a lack of transparency.

Council Mandates

The Sabbatical Officers' lobby College for more transparency by advocating for the publication of all College meeting minutes online and for better availability of annex documents online for College meetings.

That Sabbatical Officers' to lobby for the public availability of the agenda and annex documents before College meetings take place.

Originally Proposed by László Molnárfi, SF PPES rep

Originally Seconded by Leah Keogh, SU President

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-62: *Motion to Oppose the Cultural Death of Dublin

Council Regrets

The recent announcement of the closure of the Science Gallery, of Chapters Bookstore, and countless other cultural resources in Ireland.

Council Notes

Resources for students as well as the public are being torn down in favour of building more hotels, despite the fact that we are in a housing crisis as well as a cultural crisis. These resources include libraries, museums, bars, nightclubs, and more.

Council Recognises

Accommodation is the number one priority in the rent crisis that Ireland is facing and that the protection of cultural heritage is also worth fighting for.

Council Mandates

to hold an official stance to #StopKillingDublin.

Council Further Mandates

For the Campaigns committee in conjunction with the President to work towards forming an action plan to face this issue.

Originally Proposed by Cúnla Morris, Class Rep (SS Modern Irish)

Originally Seconded by Zöe Cummins, STEM Convenor

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-63: *Motion on Management of Accessibility Requests for SU Council

Council notes

The need for an accessibility request form for council, so accessibility needs are met and council is accessible to everyone.

Council also notes

That the creation and management of an accessibility request form is taxing for the Electoral Commission and Secretary to the Council to maintain due to the workload of council submissions during the lead-up to council.

Council further notes

That the Officer for Students with Disabilities is integral to helping the Students' Union maintain accessibility needs.

Council mandates

The Officer for Students with Disabilities to create and circulate the accessibility request form in advance of any upcoming councils.

Council further mandates

The Officer for Students with Disabilities to take charge in reviewing any requirements and to work with the Electoral Commission and Secretary to the Council to fulfil any accessibility requests for Council attendance.

Originally Proposed by Chloe Staunton, OSD

Originally Seconded by Sierra Müller-Owens, Welfare and Equality Officer

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-64: *Motion on Recorded Lectures & Hybrid Learning

Council notes:

During the pandemic, students with disabilities faced increased barriers with regards to their education. One of these barriers was not-recorded, online live events which posed challenges for students with, for example, hearing difficulties. also notes: Despite the return to face-to-face lectures, some students may be hesitant or anxious to come back in a full time capacity, either due to general anxiety around the ongoing pandemic, or due to them having vulnerable family members that means that they cannot take the risk, however small, of catching covid when in college.

Council also notes:

The rapid rise in case numbers since October 2021 has shown that there is a need to consider and implement a hybrid learning model so that students are not disadvantaged in their education for not coming into college, in line with Trinity's commitment that no student shall be disadvantaged by having to stay home.

Council observes:

That since not all courses were recorded during the Covid-19 pandemic, some students had less access to education than others, and as such, it was not a level playing field. It should be changed so that this situation does not happen again.

Council further notes:

The existence and success of hybrid-learning technologies and approaches in other Irish Universities.

Council remarks:

The recording of lectures has been traditionally opposed by trade unions, due to the College having copyright over such material, and the possibility that College will fire staff and use these materials to teach.

Council therefore mandates:

That TCDSU work together with graduate students, IFUT and lecturers to find a solution for handing over copyright of recorded lectures to lecturers, to create a policy of lectures being recorded, along with a hybrid approach to lectures, so that no student is disadvantaged for not being present on campus.

Council further notes

According to the IT Services Satisfaction Survey 2022 published, staff identified the outsourcing of A/V support as a barrier to implementing lecture recording. One lecturer is quoted as proposing for improvement: "More dedicated TCD staff on AV team for teaching - the outsourcing yields people who don't know about teaching in my experience: e.g. Someone from FittingImage trying to tell me that wanting to record Powerpoint plus the document camera in a large lecture theatre in Panopto was not something that was ""normal"". Core business should have core staff dedicated."

Council therefore further mandates

That the President and Education Officer campaign for College to cease outsourcing A/V support to FittingImage and for it to be provided by in-house IT Services, accompanied by the necessary expansion and/or pay rises for such staff.

That the President raise this at the Information Systems Services User Committee and the Education Officer at the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

Amended 2022/23

Originally Proposed by Valerie Fullam-Smith, class rep

Originally Seconded by László Molnárfi, SF PPES rep

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-65: *Motion on Non-EU Hosting Agreement

Council notes:

Currently, Non-EU/EEA PhD research students require a research contract of employment to be eligible for the Hosting Agreement Scheme. It is typical for most Irish universities to hire Non-EU/EEA PhD research students on scholarship contracts rather than employment contracts—this produces a barrier to access.

Council is concerned:

That unequal access to the Hosting Agreement Scheme adversely impacts non-eligible Non-EU/EEA PhD research students due to the precarity of their immigration status relative to those issued with a Hosting Agreement. Further, while eligible researchers' immediate families can reside or work in Ireland, non-eligible researchers are faced with family separation or the financial insecurity of a partner's inability to gain employment.

Council believes:

That the contributions of all Non-EU/EEA PhD research students to Irish research projects should be equally recognized, valued, and rewarded irrespective of their contractual terms.

Council therefore mandates:

That TCDSU supports the Non-EEA Ph.D. Students Society-Ireland's campaign to expand the Hosting Agreement Scheme eligibility criteria to include research scholarship contracts.

Originally Proposed by Laszlo Molnarfi, Class Rep

Originally Seconded by Julie Smirnova, Citizenship Officer

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-66: *Motion on Students' Union adoption of the Living Wage

Council notes

The rising cost of College: Trinity students currently pay the highest fees in the European Union, with Dublin being one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in (Irish Examiner, 2021).

Council regrets

The financial strain these costs place on students and its impact on student mental health and academic performance in many cases (Welfare & Equality Annual Report 2021).

Council notes

That the living wage is intended to establish an hourly wage rate that should provide employees with sufficient income to achieve an agreed acceptable minimum standard of living.

Council further notes

The Students' Union as an annual employer of students who deliver valuable student services and its responsibility to lead by example.

Council therefore mandates

TCDSU to adopt the living wage plus holiday pay as their rate of pay for all Union employees.

Council further mandates

The President to amend the contracts of Union staff to reflect this change by week beginning Monday 28th February 2022.

Originally Proposed by Leah Keogh, TCDSU President

Originally Seconded by Zoe Cummins, STEM Convenor

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President

2023/24-67: *Motion to Support PhD Groups

Council notes with concern

That postgraduate researchers are not recognised as workers by the university or state. Without this recognition, they are without working rights and are not entitled to a salary based on the living wage, employment contracts, minimum notice periods, leave from work (personal, parental or sick), social and pension contributions, safety in the workplace, equal treatment, or privacy and data protection. This lack of working rights has a significant impact on postgraduate researchers' welfare and financial stability. Doctoral stipends are not fixed, ranging from € 0 - € 21,000 pa. In all cases, this results in the candidate earning less than minimum wage for the work performed. Additionally, several departments at TCD require PhD researchers to complete unpaid tutorial and demonstrating hours to compensate for fee contributions. In light of the ever-increasing costs of living, the burden of these conditions is growing rapidly, resulting in a detrimental impact on the health and well being of postgraduate researchers.

Council further notes

That Ireland ranks at the very bottom among EU/EEA countries when it comes to average PhD stipend to cost-of-living, with 8 EU/EEA already implementing working rights for PhD candidates.

Council therefore mandates

The TCD-SU will adopt a committed stance in support of the Postgraduate Workers' Organization (PWO) (a merger of the TCD Postgraduate Workers Alliance (TCD PGWA) and the PhD's Collective Action Union (PCAU)), their aims and objectives as outlined by their charter. This should include active participation in the PWO campaigns and collaboration on campus-based campaigns relevant to both the PWO and the TCDSU.

Council further mandates

TCDSU support the idea of postgraduate researchers being represented by a workers union at Trinity College Dublin.

additional proposers: Conor Reddy, Shaakya Vembar, Shauna Donohoe, DJ Ringis, Mark Anderson, Tenaya Jorgensen, Serena Foo, Thomas Dinneen, Karina Einicke

Amended 2022/23

Originally Proposed by Eoghan Ross, Non-member of council

Originally Seconded by Leah Keogh, President

Originally passed 21/22, Renewed 23/24

Most recent proposal to renew by Union Forum, László Molnárfi, President