



# SABBAT REPORT

## SABBATICAL OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL #1

Michaelmas Term, July 1st 2023 until October 1st 2023

**NAME:** László Molnárfi

**POSITION:** President

### REPORT IN BRIEF:

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#### 3. UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

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- b. CATU Partnership
- c. Campus Housing Campaign
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### OFFICER REPORT:

#### 1. ANNUAL LEAVE & TOIL ACCRUED

Since July 1st 2023 I have taken 0 of annual leave days.

Since July 1st 2023 I have worked 20.5 of additional hours outside of working hours.

#### 2. EXPENSES

The cumulative expenses come out to €1913.25 since July 2023 as of 1st of October 2023.

**Note:** *The reason for the high figures is because through the President's account, the train tickets to SUT training were processed and so were all the sabbatical officer expenses, which is €20 per day for SUT and SUT+.*

#### 3. UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

##### **Submission to the Government's Private Rental Market Consultation**



- Our submission to the above-mentioned consultation can be found [here](#) and received great press coverage in the Irish Examiner [here](#), and in Trinity News and UT [here](#) and [here](#). It called for a reinstatement of the eviction ban, rent controls, constitutional right to housing, seizing empty and derelict properties, banning sex for rent amongst other measures.

## On-Campus Housing Campaign



- We are campaigning for an immediate 2-year rent freeze as well as trying to grow our demands to be more and more and our campaign group to be bigger and bigger. We earned [national media attention](#), and also held a [Town Hall](#) for the future of this campaign, as well as that we are in negotiations with senior management.

## TCDSU-CATU Partnership

- [TCDSU-CATU Partnership](#) has been agreed by the TCDSU President and CATU National Committee and is now awaiting Council approval at its October 3rd meeting.

## Letter to the Editor on Housing



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- We put forward a letter to the [Irish Examiner](#) and the [Irish Independent](#) criticising the government's neoliberal approach to housing that affects both students and staff, the Rent-A-Room Scheme and encouraging people to vote in the upcoming elections.

## Housing Survey

- [This survey](#) is for TCD students to document their experience of housing and was made by Adam Ó Ceallaigh and Siubhán Stockman in collaboration with TCDSU. Data from this survey will be used in a report and in TCDSU's ongoing campaign for fair and affordable access to housing for its members. Your support by filling it out would be much appreciated, as the more students fill out, the more legitimacy our survey will have!

## USI Direct Elections

- We passed a motion at the USI National Council mandating the USI Executive to conduct a full review and report of USI elections. Including financial barriers, hustings and the possibility of direct elections, [see here](#). This [motion](#) included the proposal document written by myself on direct elections for the USI, [found here](#).

## Lobbying



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**László Molnárfi (SU)**  
@TCDSU\_President



It was great meeting @MickBarryTD @SocialistParty last week to discuss student issues, such as housing, cost of education, underfunding of crucial services. The student movement must work closely with progressive parties, who unlike the government, act with our interests in mind.

1:58 PM · Sep 4, 2023 · 501 Views

## Labour stands in solidarity with TCDSU protest



Annie Hoey  
13 September 2023

- **Student accommodation hikes unacceptable**

Labour spokesperson for further and higher education Annie Hoey said students can no longer be seen as cash cows by the third level sector.

Speaking at the student protest arranged by Trinity College Students' Union today, Senator Hoey said:

"Trinity's decision to increase the cost of student accommodation by 2%, beyond the maximum legal limit, is truly outstanding.

"Students are not immune from the housing crisis, and universities are not immune from the few regulations in place to protect those on the coal face of the crisis.

"The cost of accessing accommodation should not be a barrier from anyone accessing education, and Trinity's decision to disadvantage its students is simply unbelievable.



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- I met with 5 politicians from 5 political parties to talk about student issues. This was Richard Boyd Barrett from People Before Profit, the Communist Party of Ireland, Senator Annie Hoey from Labour, Mairéad Farrel from Sinn Féin and Mick Barry from the Socialist Party. We talked about accommodation, supports for mature students, fees, cost of living, PGRs and underfunding of academia, alongside other topics. It is important that we as the student movement work closely with progressive parties, who unlike the government, have our best interests at heart.

## Digs Drive



UCDSU PRESIDENT MAIYA NI RÍADA AND TCDSU PRESIDENT LÁSGLO MOLNÁRZI AT THE DIGS DRIVE. PHOTO VIA UCDSU.

- We've partnered as UCDSU x TCDSU this year and ran a [high-profile digs drive](#), distributing 6,000 fliers to commuters, alongside separately dropping 80,000 fliers in areas around Dublin as TCDSU.

## Floodlights

- Thanks to the collaborative effort between myself, Welfare Officer Aoife Bennett and Disability Officer Keely Jenkinson, we conducted a field survey of the main College campus and identified 17 places where lighting is too low. We wrote all of this into a [proposal](#) and upon presentation to

the Head of Safety at College it was received very positively and works are due to be started on it.

## **Student Spaces**

- Working with the Disability Service on the JCR Hamilton and GMB Lift proposals, at the moment these proposals have the green light as they passed the Capitations Committee, alongside cooperating with the TCD Sense project.
- SU Café will be reopened soon, expected for October 2023.
- Working on issues around the Panoz building and lack of seating area.

## **Collaboration with Capitated Bodies and Capitation Committee**

- The Capitated Bodies received the idea of having a shared strategic plan really well and we have set up a bi-weekly meeting to facilitate this project. Furthermore, I will be proposing an amendment to the Capitations Committee Terms of Reference to have all of its meeting agendas and minutes publicly available. For a group that manages so much of the student body, it is shockingly opaque.

## **Risk Register**

- I have been working with the Risk Office to set up a TCDSU Risk Register. At first, I thought this was useless bureaucracy. However, it is crucial and it helps us push for change at College-level because it is an official document of sorts we can use to argue for more resources, funding and supports. The current version of the document has 4 high risks, 4 medium risks and 9 low risks.

## Board Working Group for Postgraduate Researchers

- I have been working with the PWO to present a [proposal](#) to the Board of Trinity College Dublin on creating a working group to find statistical information on postgraduate researchers, as well as discuss local and national policies that could improve their situation. Unfortunately, this was rejected from the Board in what we believe is a managerialist intervention, and so we co-authored an [open letter](#) to the Board in dissent.

## Period Products

- Working with the Welfare Officer Aoife Bennett on a Board proposal for College to fund period products including a cost estimation (shoutout to Lórien MacEnulty who crunched the numbers to be [0.3 million euros](#)), as well as a campaign if that fails.

## Buttery Policy

- I have authored a [position paper](#) with help from the Disability Service on putting a stop to the Buttery's classist, elitist and discriminatory policy of kicking students out for bringing their own food. [See UT article here](#). This policy was sent to stakeholders. If College does not change its policy, I pledged that I will collect and throw out the signs myself every morning - and will write this into my contract for future Presidents! However, as of 22nd of September 2023, [we won this battle and the Buttery is now open to students to bring their own food in.](#)

## Defend the University Charter



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- Take action on the broken education system and sign our new [student-staff charter](#) seeking to address pressing issues in academia. Stand up to marketisation, managerialism and precarious employment, imposed by neoliberal policies. This is an initiative I launched in August 2023.

## E-Book Licensing

- The #ebookSOS campaign has highlighted the unfair practices of publishing companies that affect our libraries, such as price hiking, kafkaesque conditions and lack of access. Thanks to the collaboration between TCDSU and the Library Association of Ireland ebooks taskforce (shoutout to TCD Library for liaising between us and them), we have contributed a [piece](#) on this issue to the USI pre-budget submission, and it got picked up by [Trinity News](#) as well. As well as this, the USI passed this as a motion from TCDSU at its National Council in September.

## Google Workspace and Mailing Lists

- Worked with the Communications Officer to create TCDSU emails for the 24 School Convenors and also to create 3 Faculty Level Mailing Lists for the 3 Faculty Convenors.

## Human Resources

- Before 2023/2024, we lacked an HR Committee, so we are in the process of setting one up with expert advice from our employee law advisor.

## Unite with Palestine



- TCDSU and TCD BDS have been attending the [UWP protests at Dublin Airport.](#)

## Trans Healthcare

- TCDSU is working with QSOC, Trans Pride Dublin and College Health to author a letter to the NGS/HSE on waiting lists at the NGS.

## Trinity Live Feature Request Group

- This is set-up and can be accessed [at this link.](#)

## Freedom of Information Act 2014 Requests

- I have obtained via FOI statistics relating to Counselling Service and its usage, as well as this I put in an FOI about College Health asking the same, and also put in an FOI. All 3 of these will be published via TCDSU channels once analysed as well as this they will be uploaded to the [Students4Change FOI Drive](#).

## **4. MEETINGS ATTENDED**

| <b>Meeting</b>                                      | <b>Frequency</b>                         |
|---|--|
| Team SU   | 1 x 1.5hr                                |
| Sabbat Team   | 9 x 1hr + 4 x 1hr (Monday and Wednesday) |
| Accommodation Office                                | 1 x 1hr                                  |
| Politicians   | 5 x 1hr                                  |
| Library   | 1x 1hr and 1x 0.5hr                      |
| Lobby Day   | 1x 1hr                                   |
| PWO   | 2 x 1hr                                  |
| Trans Pride Protest and Posie Parker Counterprotest | 1 x 1hr and 1x3hr                        |
| Google Workspace Discussion                         | 2 x 1hr                                  |
| USI   | 6 x 1hr                                  |
| SU Restructuring                                    | 3 x 1hr                                  |
| VP CAO  | 1 x 1hr                                  |

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Provost                             | 3x 1hr            |
| Dean of Graduate Studies            | 1x 1hr            |
| Bursar                              | 1x 1hr            |
| Digs Drive Preparation              | 2 x 1hr           |
| Orientation and Speeches            | 1 x 0.5hr, 1x 6hr |
| PTOs                                | 2 x 1hr           |
| Floodlights with College            | 1 x 0.5hr         |
| Capitated Bodies Informal Committee | 2 x 1hr           |
| Risk Office                         | 2 x 1hr           |
| BDS                                 | 1 x 1hr           |
| Trade Unions                        | 3 x 1hr           |
| Board                               | 1 x 1hr and 1x3hr |

**Note:** *These are formal college committees, but several other meetings take place regularly and I also meet regularly with a variety of students and staff, my appointments are [bookable online](#), and you are always welcome to my office hours!*

## 5. MANIFESTO PROGRESS

[Please click here to see the 2023/2024 Manifesto Promise Tracker for the role of the President.](#)

## 6. HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

- Join the housing campaign group, just let me know your WhatsApp and I will add you!



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- Get involved in a group like [Trinity BDS](#), [DU Gender Equality](#), [Postgraduate Workers' Organisation](#) and [Students4Change TCD](#).
- If your class does not have a class representative, email [chair@tcdsu.org](mailto:chair@tcdsu.org) (Conor Casey) and you will be automatically a class representative.
- Come to Council and submit motions, discussion items and take part in the debate, you do not have to be a class representative to do this.

## 7. VOTER REGISTRATION

*All credit goes to Ella Mac Lennan, Citizenship Officer, for the below text.*

A constitutional referendum on gender equality is scheduled for November 2023, and local & EU elections will take place in June 2024. To ensure you have your say, register to vote [here](#) now - it only takes a few minutes. You will need your PPSN and Eircode - if you do not have a PPSN or address, complete the relevant form [here](#).

Even if you do not hold Irish citizenship, you are still eligible to vote in local elections. In addition to this, British citizens can vote in Dáil elections, and EU citizens can vote in EU elections. First time EU registrants wishing to vote in Ireland must complete an [EP1](#) declaration form to prevent double voting.

You may only be registered at one address - students who are already registered or wish to register at their home address may apply for a [postal vote](#). You may also apply for postal vote if you cannot go to your polling station due to illness or disability. The deadline for **all** postal vote applications is **22 working days before polling day**. If you register for postal vote, you cannot vote in person.

You may pre-register to vote if you are 16 or over. Your name will be added to the live register when you turn 18.





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Frequently asked questions can be found at  
<https://www.checktheregister.ie/en-IE/faqs>