



# SABBAT REPORT

## SABBATICAL OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL #5

Hilary Term, November 21st 2023 until February 6th 2024

**NAME:** László Molnárfi

**POSITION:** President

### REPORT IN BRIEF:

1. **ANNUAL LEAVE & TOIL ACCRUED**

2. **EXPENSES**

3. **PREVIOUS REPORTS**

4. **UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS**

- a. Housing Campaign
- b. Masters' Fees
- c. Lecture Recording Survey
- d. Green Paper on Disability Reform
- e. LENS Compliance Survey
- f. Health Sciences, Social Work and P.M.E Survey
- g. Anti-Government Voter Registration
- h. Palestine Solidarity
- i. Press and Campaign Talking Points, Facts and Figures
- j. Capitulations Committee ToR
- k. Campaigns Committee / Town Hall #2 and #3
- l. Campaigns Email #2
- m. Lobbying
- n. Solidarity With University Workers (#AskYourTeacher) and Trade Union Cooperation
- o. TCD Sense Launch
- p. STEM Spaces



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- q. Atrium Spaces
- r. Assisting Students4Change 'Democratize the University' Banner Drop
- s. TCD Climate Assembly
- t. PGR Pay
- u. State of College Counselling and College Health
- v. 1.4 Referendum
- w. The World We Always Wished For: Alternatives in May 68
- x. Trans Healthcare Letter to the NGS
- y. Proctoring
- z. Sports and Student Parent Bursaries

## 5. MEETINGS ATTENDED

## 6. MANIFESTO PROGRESS

## 7. MANDATE TRACKER

## 8. HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

## 9. VOTER REGISTRATION

### OFFICER REPORT:

#### 1. ANNUAL LEAVE & TOIL ACCRUED

Since July 1st 2023 I have taken 2 of my 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 €3045.15 since July 2023 as of 5th of January 2023.

### 3. PREVIOUS REPORTS

- [July 1st 2023 until October 1st 2023](#)
- [October 1st 2023 until October 16th 2023](#)
- [October 16th 2023 until November 7th 2023](#)
- [November 7th 2023 until November 21st 2023](#)

### 4. UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

#### Housing Campaign







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- Sign the [petition](#) to abolish the restrictive and paternalistic overnight guests policy.
- I submitted an [FOI on Circuit Laundry](#) which I received back and can be accessed here.
- Motion on overnight guests policy [passed](#) the 21st of November 2023 Council and myself and Welfare Officer Aoife Bennett met with the Junior Dean on the 4th of December 2023 where a possible solution was proposed.
- [TCD Renters' Network has been set up](#) and has reached more than 100 members after flyering and social media push, please join if you rent on-campus or at Halls! On the 8th of December 2023 we had a [meeting](#)

with 15 in attendance where we discussed campaigns such as overnight guests policy and actions such as rent strike.

- [Met](#) Martin Leahy on the 25th of January 2024.
- We also launched our [Housing Survey Report](#) on the 25 of January 2024 with Housing Rights Officer Siubhán Stockman earning national [media attention](#).
- With the TCD Renters' Solidarity Network we [flyered](#) on the 27th of January 2024.
- We did a banner drop on the 31st of January 2024, and an [FM104 interview](#) as well as [College press](#) around it as well as talking to politicians.
- I attended the follow-up DDPa workshop on the 31st of January 2024 where I presented the TCDSU Housing Survey report.

## Masters' Fees

- If you are interested in applying for a masters' degree after finishing your bachelors, I urge you to read this and [get involved in the campaign](#). There is a College proposal to hike one-year masters' degree fees. Let's take action. Nothing must be off the table. We must target the reputation and finances of the College, and make it impossible for them to increase fees.
- I met with Declan Coogan from the Global Office on the 31st of January 2024 to secure their support for the masters' fees issue.
- Discussion item on this is coming to the February 6th Council.

## Lecture Recording Survey

- [Please fill out this survey here](#), the results of which will be used to advocate for more recorded lectures, and therefore a more accessible, equitable and fairer learning environment.

## Green Paper on Disability Reform



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- TCDSU are working on a submission to the Department of Social Protection to respond to their Green Paper on reforming disability payments. We would love your feedback and experiences to include anonymously in our submission. We want to showcase the voices of the people this policy would affect, and by quoting your opinions we can capture the reality and genuine fear, anger and questions that this proposal is raising. Please fill out the [Google Forms](#), or attend one of our online (February 19th, 1pm, [Zoom link](#)) or in-person consultations (February 9th, 1pm, PHS An Meitheal room).
- Motion with Disabilities Officer Keely Jenkinson and Welfare Officer Aoife Bennett on this is coming to February 6th Council.

## **LENS Compliance Survey**

- Together with Welfare Officer Aoife Bennett and Disabilities Officer Keely Jenkinson and the help of the Disability Service we sent out a [survey](#) that gathered 210 responses - 10% or so of all students with disabilities at our College - and the results will be put in a report and used to advocate for better compliance in the 24 Schools.

## **Health Sciences, Social Work and P.M.E Survey**

- These groups are often neglected by the union. This is despite this cohort of students facing huge issues. This includes placement, exhaustion, racism and discrimination, bullying, unfair grading etc. If you are a Health Sciences student, [please fill this survey out](#). If you are a Social Work student, [please fill this survey out](#). If you are a P.M.E (Professional Masters in Education) student, [please fill this out](#).

## **Anti-Government Voter Registration**



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- We launched our [anti-government voter registration campaign](#) with Citizenship Officer Ella Mac Lennan, which is a series of posters urging students to vote against the Fine Gael-Fianna Fáil-Greens coalition.

## **Palestine Solidarity**

## ‘We need to take drastic actions’ – Students end occupation protesting ‘Trinity’s links with Israel’



**Maeve McTaggart**

Thu 30 Nov 2023 at 12:08



Students from Trinity College Dublin (TCD) last night occupied the Regent House





- We organised another flag drop including in student accommodations on the 29th of November 2023.
- We occupied Trinity's Regents House overnight on the 29th of November 2023 and earned [national media coverage](#), with a follow up meeting on the 4th December 2023.
- I met with Academics for Palestine TCD at their December 8th 2023 meeting where we agreed to collaborate on a mapping project.
- We published our statement ["Trinity Cannot be Neutral" on the 8th of January 2024.](#)
- We began the process of ending our contract with Domino's at the earliest possible date on the 11th of January 2024.

- We published the “[Report on Palestine within Humanities curricula in Trinity College Dublin](#)” on 18th of January 2024.
- I attended the Healthcare Workers’ solidarity letter action at the Dáil on the 25th of January 2024, and TCD students are also involved in this campaign.
- In direct [response](#) to us cutting ties with Dominos, they removed the pro-IDF posts on the 1st of February 2024.

## **Press and Campaign Talking Points, Facts and Figures**

- I created this document to help student union and activist groups with facts and statistics about the third-level sector and Irish politics. It exposes the failure of the third-level institutions, government and of neoliberal capitalist policies. [It can be found here.](#)

## **Capitation Committee ToR**

- The first and second Capitation Committee ToR review working groups have concluded and the finalized ToR, which includes a new value of transparency and publishing of agendas and minutes of the meetings proposed by TCDSU, and has passed both the Capitation Committee 29th November 2023 meeting and the Student Life Committee 12th of December 2023 meeting. The document can be found [here](#).

## **Campaigns Committee/Town Hall #2 and #3**

- The second Campaigns Town Hall took place on the 28th of November 2023 and discussed the TCD BDS occupation, the renters’ solidarity network upcoming actions and a national action, minutes [linked here](#), and the third Campaigns Town Hall took place on the 23rd of January 2024 and discussed the Semester 2 Campaigns Plan [linked here](#).

## Campaigns Email #2

- I sent out my [campaigns email](#) in English and Irish on the 1st of February 2024.

## Lobbying



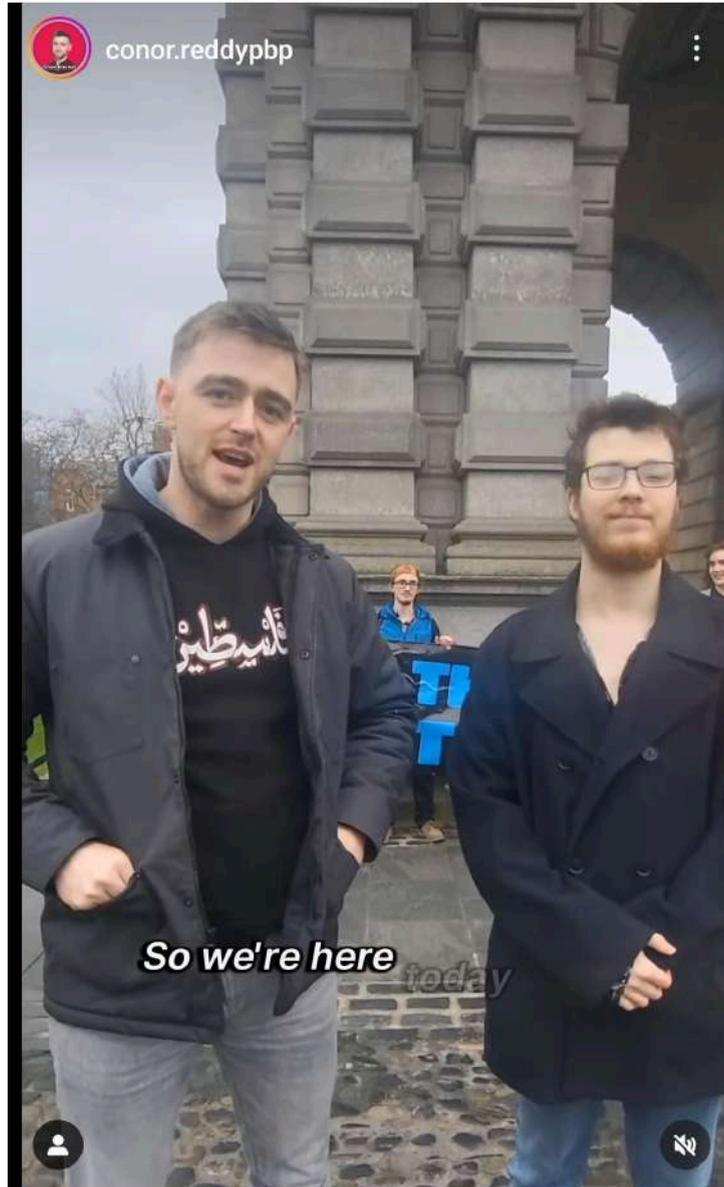




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- I met Senator Tom Clonan with Disabilities Officer Keely Jenkinson and another student to discuss the new disability green paper and how to oppose it on the 27th of November 2023, and attended the protest on the 7th of December 2023 of the same.



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- I met Pauline Tully TD and Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire with Disabilities Officer Keely Jenkinson and Welfare Officer Aoife Bennett on the 30th of January 2024.
- I met Mairéad Farrell TD on the 31st of January 2024 to discuss housing issues.
- I met Conor Reddy from People Before Profit local election candidate on the 31st of January 2024 to discuss housing issues.

## **Solidarity With University Workers (#AskYourTeacher) and Trade Union Cooperation**





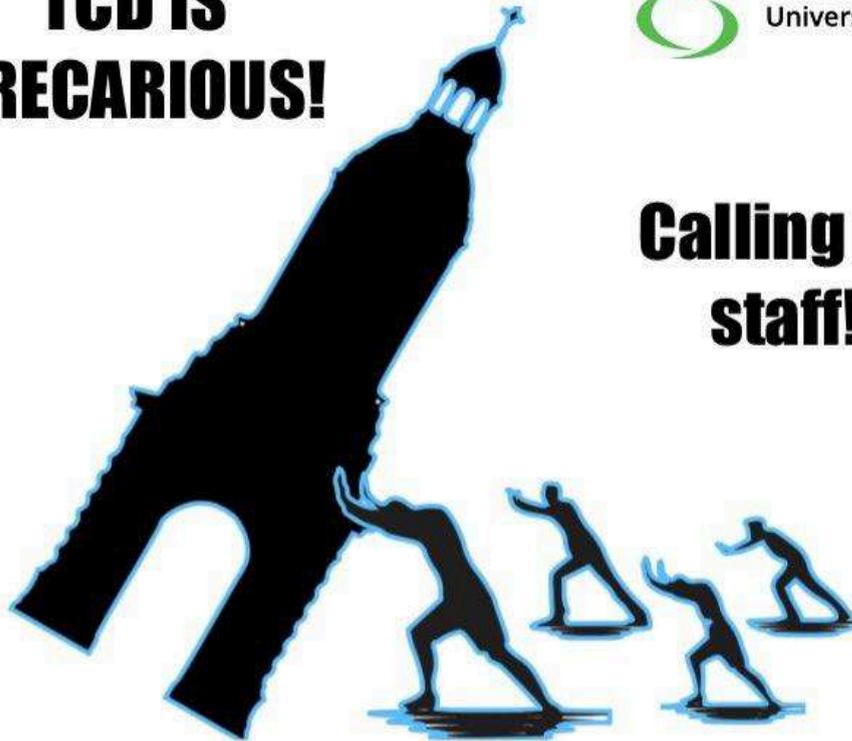
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**TCD IS  
PRECARIOUS!**



Irish Federatic  
University Tea

**Calling all  
staff!**



**Meeting on Precarious Work in  
Academia**

**Synge Theatre, Arts Building  
Tuesday 28 November**

**5pm**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Frank Jones, Rob McNamara, IFU1**



- I attended alongside other students the launch of the IFUT Precarity Report on the 28th of November 2023 and I expressed the TCDSU's support for our teachers.
- I launched the #AskYourTeacher campaign on the 11th of December in solidarity with teachers, postgraduate researchers and university workers as well as highlighting the neoliberalisation of academia and its negative effects. I did flyering as well for this on the 26th of January 2024.
- I attended, alongside the USI, the ICTU (trade unions) anti-racism protest on the 27th of November 2023.
- Working with ASTI to hold information sessions for P.M.E students.



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- Motion with Education Officer Catherine Arnold on P.M.E students is coming to February 6th Council.
- I attended the PWO meeting on the 26th of January 2024.
- I attended the PWO complainathon on the 30th of January 2024.

## **TCD Sense Launch**

- I gave a speech at the TCD Sense Launch on the 29th of November 2023.

## **STEM Spaces**

- I met with student representatives on the 4th of December to discuss an issue with lack of spaces in certain STEM buildings. The issue has been escalated. A motion was subsequently [passed](#) at the 21st of November 2023 Council.

## **Atrium Spaces**

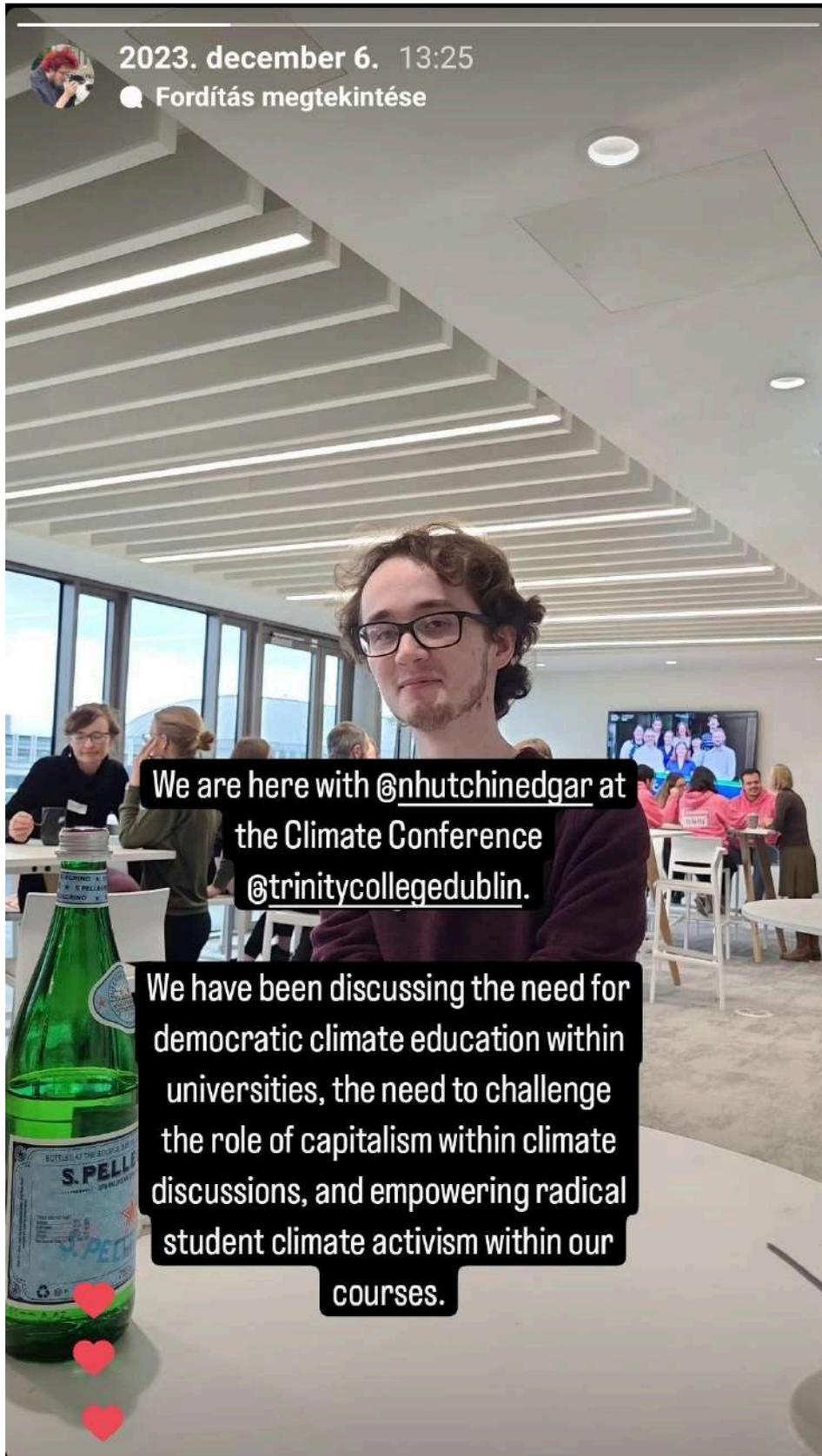
- Together with the Chair of CSC and Disability Service Director and DUNES we checked out the Atrium spaces for possible improvements.

## **Assisting Students4Change 'Democratize the University' Banner Drop**



- I assisted Students4Change with their 'Democratize the University' banner drop on December 5th 2023 in solidarity with the PWO Purple Tuesday.

## TCD Climate Assembly



- I attended the TCD Climate Assembly alongside Environmental Officer Nathan Hutchison Edgar on the 6th of December 2023.

## **PGR Pay**

- TCDSU and PWO TCD heard concerning reports regarding substantial pay cuts our postgraduate researchers received due to issues between their PhD stipend and the HEA Covid extension. Following conversations with the Dean of Graduate studies, such as a meeting on the 20th of December 2023, this has been solved. It affected around 7 postgraduate researchers.

## **State of College Counselling and College Health Report**

- Have you ever wondered why it takes so long to get an appointment? Or if there's ever enough staff in our health services? The research paper authored by the TCDSU titled [State of College Counselling and College Health](#) contains never-before-seen statistics about these services, in terms of staffing, waiting lists and usage. We have listened to student voices about the issues of long waiting times and will be advocating for this in meetings. It is clear from the research that more investment is needed in these services.

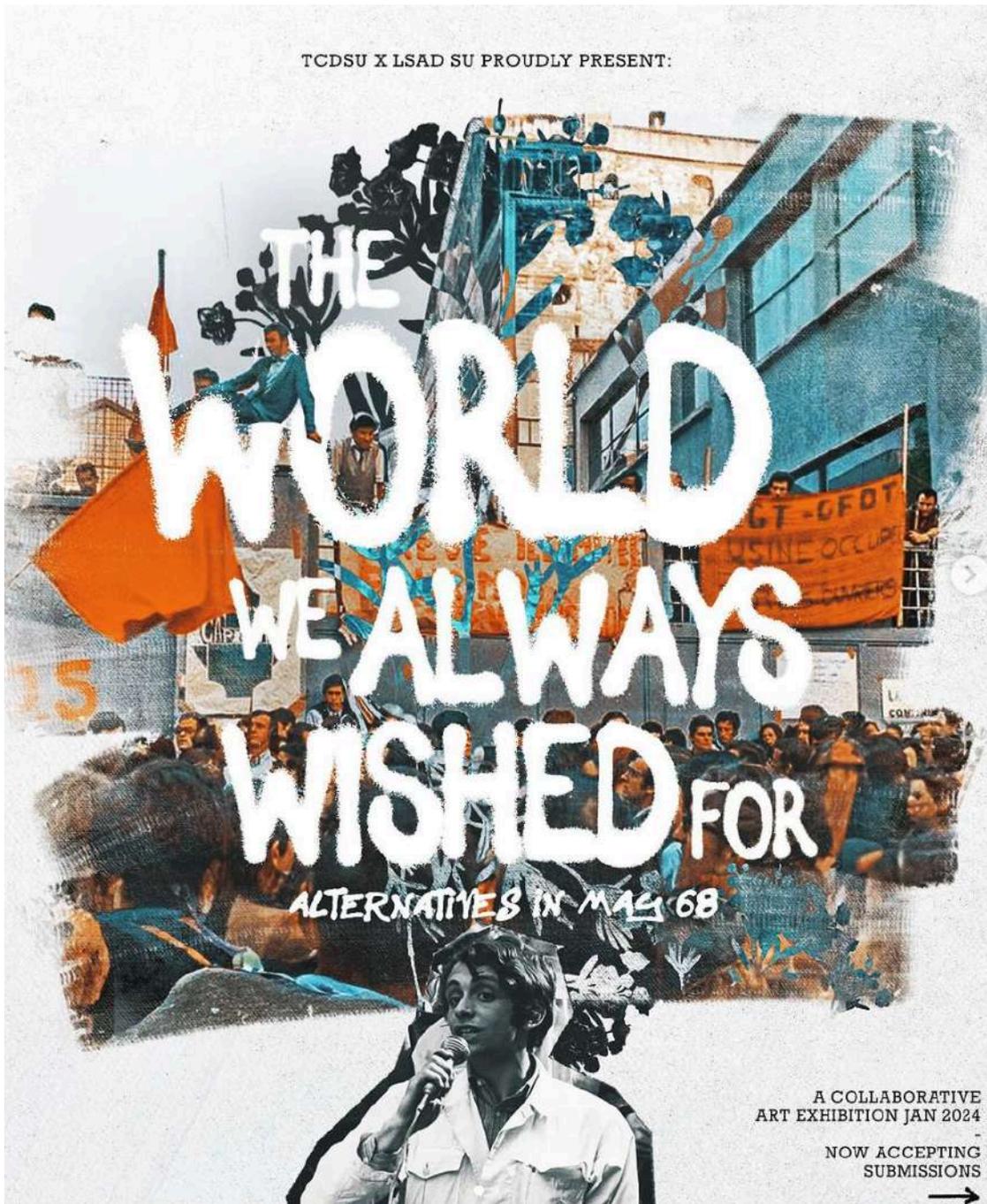
## **1.4 Referendum**

- In my manifesto I stated that I will reform 1.4, the apolitical bit, in the union allowing us to take more political action. After bringing it to Council on 21st November, it was defeated, so [we collected the required 500 signatures in less than 6 days](#), meaning that it will go to referendum. This will give a chance for students to decide if they want our union to be able to take more political stances.



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## The World We Always Wished For: Alternatives in May 68





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- The first ever collaborative exhibition between TCD and LSAD, this project is inspired by the student-led protests in France in May 1968 against capitalism, consumerism, American imperialism and traditional institutions. We are inviting students from both universities to submit visual art, poetry, essays, performance pieces and prose that develops the themes of “The World We Always Wished For”; using your voice as students to express the diverse and rich ideals we have for our future, whether that be through diversity and equality, social justice, climate change, war, LGBTQ+ issues, and more. What does the world you’ve always wished for look like? [Tell us through your creativity by submitting to this exhibition. Deadline for Submissions is January 16th, 2024.](#)

## **Trans Healthcare Letter to the HSE**



László Molnárfi (SU) @TCDSU\_President · 45m

Trans healthcare NOW! @tcdsu @TheUSI @transhealthie @DubTrans



- Together with Welfare Officer Aoife Bennett and LGBTQ+ Officer Nina Crofts and Director of the College Health Service Dr. David McGrath, we sent a [letter](#) to the HSE on waiting times at the NGS.
- We met Transgress the NGS on the 30th of January 2024.
- We did a [protest](#) with Transgress the NGS on the 2nd of February.



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## Proctoring

- At the 25th of January 2024 USI National Council the Proctoring motion proposed by TCDSU and the VP for Academic Affairs passed unanimously. Motion [here](#). TCDSU also created a research document on a specific type of Proctoring which can be found [here](#).

## Sports and Student Parent Bursaries

- Motion to set up a student parent bursary with Student Parent Officer Sheila Keegan is coming to February 6th Council.
- Motion to set up a sports bursary with Sports Union is coming to the February 6th Council.

## Seomra na Gaeilge Accessibility

- Met with Disabilities Officer Keely Jenkinson, Disability Service Director Declan Treanor, Secretary to the College Victoria Butler, College Irish Language Officer Áine Ní Shúilleabháin and the Senior Common Room to discuss this issue on the 30th of January 2024 and we are working on a compromise.

## 5. MEETINGS ATTENDED

Meeting	Frequency
USI Palestine Activities Meeting	2 x 1hr
Racial and Ethnic Equality Working Group	1 x 1hr

TUDSU FOI Meeting	1 x 1hr
Provost	1 x 1hr
Sabbat Board	9 x 1hr
UF	1 x 3hr
Campaigns Committee	1 x 1hr
STEM Spaces	1 x 1hr
Accommodation x Junior Dean x Welfare Officer for Overnight Guests Policy	1 x 1hr
CSC USI	1 x 2hr
PWO x TCDSU	1 x 1hr
USI Electoral Reform	1 x 1hr
EWG	1 x 1hr
Student Life Committee	1 x 1hr
Board	1 x 1hr
Consent Framework Implementation Group	1 x 1hr
Dean of Graduate Studies	1 x 1hr
Presidential Candidates	2 x 1hr
TUD	1 x 0.5hr
CSC and Disability Service	1 x 1hr
Seomra na Gaeilge Accessibility	1 x 0.5hr



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**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!*

## 6. **MANIFESTO PROGRESS**

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

## 7. **MANDATE TRACKER**

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

## 8. **HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?**

- Join the housing campaign group, just let me know your WhatsApp and I will add you!
- Join the [TCD Renters' Solidarity Network](#) if you are a campus or Halls resident!
- 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.

## 9. **VOTER REGISTRATION**

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



# SABBAT REPORT

Two constitutional referenda on the role of the mother and of the family are scheduled for March 8th 2024, 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, 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.

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