



Agenda:

UCDSU Council Meeting 3

Monday, 8th November 2021, 6pm

Venue: Hybrid - Online and Fitzgerald Chamber

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(Presentation from Catherine Tormey, Dignity & Respect)

(a) The declaration of a quorum by roll call.

Council was declared quorate by the chair.

(b) Minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes were put to a vote - and passed with a majority vote.

(c) Matters arising.

No matters arising were raised

(d) Motions on notice.

Motion 1.) - Support for the decriminalisation of the recreational use of drugs and legalisation of cannabis

Rishi R. Kataria (Stage 1, Computer Science Class Representative)
Seconded by Molly Greenough, Welfare officer

R.K. - The motion is laid out in detail. Drugs are not a criminal issue, they are a health issue. Therefore the motion calls for decriminalisation of drugs, and for legalisation of cannabis. We are not calling for the promotion of drugs, but we believe that drug use should be treated as a health care issue and not a criminal issue.

CHAIR - any speakers against?

Yousef... Stage 1 Architecture - this motion is in 3 parts. I agree on the first and third points, but not on the second. So yes to decriminalisation and legalising cannabis for medical use, but disagree on legalising cannabis for recreational use. Alcohol isn't a good benchmark for this, and I have friends who have had negative experiences and we know that cannabis is a harmful substance, so I don't believe we should be promoting its recreational use.

- Called for a 9 (m), to have the motion taken in parts, and not to include the part on legalising cannabis for recreational use.
- 9(m) was seconded by Darragh Kane-O'Toole.



CHAIR - Vote to consider the 9 (m) procedure to go ahead. 30 in favour of applying the 9 (m) procedure. 11 against the 9 (m). Now, the proposer of the 9 (m) will speak on the parts of the motion.

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Yousef - The part on decriminalising recreational use of drugs, it's great!

CHAIR - we will have a vote on the first part of the 9 (m) so, to keep the part on the decriminalisation of the recreational use of drugs.

Well passed, that will remain included.

CHAIR - on the recreational use of cannabis now.

Yousef - I am against the inclusion of an SU campaign to lobby for the legalisation of cannabis for recreational use. It is a harmful substance, and the SU with a healthy UCD policy should not lobby for a harmful drug to be made legal for recreational use.

QUESTION - what is the difference between legalisation and decriminalisation?

Carla Gummerson: one is for legalising the substance, the other is for decriminalising the user of the substance, so users of the substance would not get a criminal conviction.

CHAIR - speakers in favour of including this second part of the motion.

Molly Greenough - the issue here is if we want the Union to campaign for the decriminalisation or the legalisation of cannabis for recreational use. One point which we didn't include in the motion, which we should have, is the racist roots of the criminalisation of marijuana. My American roots are showing here - and I know that smoking weed is bad for you, but the social implications and racist roots of this criminalisation is also hugely damaging. So I would encourage Council to include this part of the motion.

CHAIR - does anybody want to speak against this section? No? So now we will vote - does anyone want to EXCLUDE the section?

2 votes to exclude. Passed by a landslide.

CHAIR - now, to the third part of the amendment, the bit on medical use. I will ask the proposer of the 9 (m) to explain their position on this part.

Yousef - I am happy to keep this! Let's trust doctors.

CHAIR - anyone wish to oppose that? No? So, any speakers for? All those in favour of including

CHAIR





Motion 2.) - Maximum final weight of 70%

Proposed by Aoife Bracken, Education Officer
Seconded by Carla Gummerson, Graduate Officer

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CHAIR - speaker..

Aoife Bracken - Myself and the Graduate Officer are asking for the removal of this mandate. The goal of it is almost impossible to achieve, as a result of the decentralised decision making in UCD schools, and some exams are also accredited by professional bodies so module coordinators cannot reduce the weighing of exams. I investigated this thoroughly over the summer and since the exams or exam components worth over 70% are highly specialised and vary across UCD, this would be a hugely challenging project to lobby on. Also, because assessments change a lot. That said, the school of law and school of medicine are grossly over-represented among the exams which have heavy weighing for the end of semester exam. This is an issue that I am working on. However, the mandate itself is not possible to achieve at this point in time.

CHAIR - if this was the only document submitted, we cannot call a vote now, because the document itself is just the motion and we need a document calling for the removal of the mandate, similar to the one that Darragh submitted for the next motion.

Motion 3.) - Removal of zero COVID motion (no seconder on file)

CHAIR - can the proposer or seconder speak on the motion?

Darragh Kane O'Toole - I believe that zero COVID as a policy objective does not affect positive change, and the motion is no longer sufficient considering what we now know about the nature of COVID as a disease which is very difficult to completely eradicate.

CHAIR - if anybody wishes to oppose this and keep the motion on the book, please speak now.

No speaker against the motion to remove.

CHAIR - we'll move to a vote, all those who wish to remove the mandate?

Passed by a large majority.

CHAIR - so that motion can now be removed from the policy book.



Motion 4.) - Signing up to the National Housing & Homelessness Coalition

Darryl Horan (proposer) - at the end of September, we had mobilised a large number of students to a rally and we still couldn't speak at it, because we were not members of the group. So this motion is to sanction correcting that!

CHAIR - any speakers against? No? So to a vote. All those in favour?

Passed with a large majority.

Motion 5.) - Education on the use of segregated waste bins

Billy Egan (proposer) - we want to put forward a mandate for the campaigns and engagement officer, the president, and the sustainability officer to improve education on the use of segregated bins. Science have finally added segregated bin signage to the bins in the building, however they were hesitant about waste segregation, because surveys on campus show that students don't know how to use segregated bins. This leads to spoiling of segregated waste bins, and the rubbish all ends up in the same landfills. So, we wanted to put this motion together to improve education around this.

CHAIR - any speakers against?

Comment from Darryl - just to say thank you, it's a fantastic motion, and fair play on getting the segregated bin signage in science.

CHAIR - We'll move to a vote, all those in favour?

Unanimously passed.





(e) Items for Discussion

Item for Discussion 1.) - Darragh Kane O'Toole: Should the SU have a grocery shop on campus?

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Darragh Kane O'Toole - living in UCD is expensive. So, I am curious to know what people will think about an SU grocery shop?

CHAIR - any speakers?

Ruairí Power - we can definitely look into it. To put it in context, we have had a discussion about implementing a food bank as well, so it is on our agenda. We are having difficulty with re-opening our engineering shop, we hope to re-open after Christmas. An important question is where we could open this shop, and would it be viable considering the student vision will also have a supermarket in it? Not against it in principle - but I don't think it will be commercially viable.

Carla Gummerson - more of a question, don't you think it would be better to lobby for the likes of Lidl/ Aldi to be on campus? Considering our third shop is not viable at the moment.

Ruairí Power - as a point of information, Lidl and Aldi did not tender for the student village, so if they don't see it as viable to be on campus, then it will definitely be tough for us.

Carla Gummerson - maybe we need to push UCD to explore affordable food instead, work more with Healthy UCD?

Ryan Horley, Science Stage 3 - I think ensuring that workers get the living wage would be a better use of campaign money than this motion.

Rashi, Computer Science - I think it would be cool, but the SU doesn't have the resources to sustain it. Maybe instead, we could start stocking some groceries in the SU shop and see how it works?

Ruairí Power - we can look into that with shop management.

Aoife Bracken - just in relation to bringing in groceries to the current shops - we are so restricted on space in the shops, and some groceries need specific types of fridges etc, so that might also not be feasible, since we would need to buy special fridges.

Darragh Kane O'Toole - I just wanted to explore how expensive food is on campus and in Dublin. Perhaps a better discussion would be around more affordable food on campus in general, because right now things are very expensive. So I would be interested in more views on this with Council.

(f) Items for Noting

Item for Noting 1.) - Darragh Kane O'Toole: The existence of a mandate about a class rep handbook.

Darragh Kane O'Toole - just wanted to note that there is a mandate to produce a class re handbook, but I have not seen one recently. It is an important resource and it should be shared to assist class reps.

CHAIR - would anyone like to speak on this item?

Darryl Horan - it is in development at the moment! This year it will be more than just a document, because we also have videos which were recorded at class rep training. So we are just waiting for all of those materials to be compiled so we can share the full pack with you.

Eoghan Ryder, 1st year Politics and International Relations - just wanted to note the low promotion of class reps in general, so an info pack on the role of the rep should be brought in in the future.

CHAIR - the latter point is less connected to the item for noting here, but it is a valid point which might be better covered by a separate item for discussion or AOB.

(g) Items for Approval

- Mature Student Campaign Coordinator.

CHAIR - yes, this can be approved by Council today. With advice from the Returning Officer, where positions cannot be filled when elections are held by the RO, the Constitution allows for Council to approve individuals to roles. So, today, we will have an individual interested in becoming the mature student campaign coordinator. I will give them one minute to speak, and then Council will vote. There is no opposition for the role today.

Eoghan Ryder - 1 min presentation.

CHAIR - so unless we have a speaker, the item will be put straight to approval.

Unanimous approval.



(h) The reports of each Executive Officer

(Received)

Sabbatical Officers:

President - Ruairí Power

Report taken as read.

CHAIR - any questions for Ruairí? We'll put it to a vote so.

Approved.

Campaigns and Engagement Officer

Highlighted a few things. robyn.okeefe@ucdsu.ie

CHAIR - any questions for Darryl?

Aoife Bracken - can you talk about the roadshows? In Engineering, 10:30 - 12:00, and in Newman, 12:30 - 14:00 on Tuesday (tomorrow).

Emily Bollard - Is the eco UCD facebook page still in operation?

Robyn O'Keefe - No, just the instagram!

CHAIR - And now we'll move to a vote.

Approved.

Ents Officer

Short report!

CHAIR - any questions for Sarah?

Molly Greenough - more of a comment, just wanted to say that Sarah put in SO much work for the big sexy comedy quiz and it was so good! Our first big in person event post covid, so can we have a round of applause?

CHAIR - We'll go to a vote.

Approved.

A decorative geometric pattern at the bottom of the page, consisting of various colored triangles and polygons in shades of purple, blue, green, and red.

Grad Officer

Highlighted a few items.

CHAIR - any questions for Carla? On to a vote.

Approved.

Education Officer

Quick run through...

CHAIR - any questions for Aoife? Moving to a vote.

Approved.

Welfare Officer

Highlighted a few quick things.

CHAIR - any questions for Molly? Move to a vote.

Approved.

Executive Officers:

AHSS College Officer (apologies from Ronan Cloney)

Vote deferred to the next meeting.

AHSS College Officer (Miranda Bauer)

Taken as read.

Approved.

Health Sciences College Officer

Taken as read.

Approved.

Law College Officer

Taken as read.

Approved.





Science College Officer

Taken as read.

Approved.

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Late Reports

- **Some reports were only sent to the Chair email. They will be heard in the next Council meeting, and considered submitted online.**

(i) Questions on notice.

(j) Questions not on notice.

(k) All discussions deferred to the instant meeting from any previous meeting, which discussions shall include the hearing of the report of any committee of Council and the taking of any vote consequent upon such report or discussion.

(l) Motions not on notice.

(m) Submission of motions to be on notice for next meeting.

(n) Any Other Business.