

Motion on gender recognition for transgender people

Council notes

- That transphobia and the lack of gender recognition and support for transgender and intersex people particularly impacts upon young people and students, who may face harassment, bullying and assault, as well as being unable to access appropriate facilities such as bathrooms and changing rooms or facing difficulties dealing with forms and records which record their assigned gender, both at secondary and third level.

Council acknowledges

- Publication of the Gender Recognition Bill by Minister Joan Burton and the Department of Social Protection, and the government's commitment to introduce the bill into the Oireachtas in the new year.

Council regrets

- That it has taken a 21 year legal battle by Dr Lydia Foy to achieve this, as a result of the Department's lack of consultation with, and support for, the transgender and intersex community, as well as the Department's refusal to moderate their position, inflexibility and disregard for input from the trans* community. This has necessitated a lengthy campaign seeking to transform the government's regressive proposals beginning with the GRAG (Gender Recognition Advisory Group) recommendations into a progressive bill based on human rights and self-determination.

Council further regrets

- That the proposed bill falls far short of human rights standards and the models of best practice already in place in Argentina, Denmark and under consideration in Malta. The bill includes several extremely negative aspects such as:
 - o The requirement for a person in a marriage or civil partnership to dissolve their union in order to access basic human and civil rights under the legislation.
 - o The requirement for a physician's statement for someone to have their gender recognised, following a harmful pattern of medicalisation and pathologisation of transgender and intersex identities, which has historically treated trans people as mentally ill.
 - o The requirement that a person be over 18 to access gender recognition, and additional, onerous obstacles placed in the way of those between 16 and 18. This will negatively impact upon transgender and intersex students both in secondary school and when they make CAO applications for third level education.

- The omission of non-binary people from the legislation altogether, even though they make up one third of the transgender community, and failing to follow the example set by Australia, Denmark, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Argentina and New Zealand.

Council mandates

- The President, Welfare and Equality officer, Gender Equality Coordinator and LGBT Coordinator to campaign and take part in protests for gender recognition legislation which protects the human and civil rights of all transgender people, including:
 - Those in marriages and civil partnerships
 - Those under 18 year of age
 - Those with non-binary gender identities
 - without the requirement of any pathologising or stigmatising medical diagnosis or documentation.
- Council also mandates union officers to lobby TDs, encourage students to do so as well.

Council calls on

- Minister Joan Burton to amend the proposed bill so that young people age 16 and older can independently apply for gender recognition, and parents and guardians may apply for gender recognition on behalf of people under the age of 16 years; that access to gender recognition is not conditional on a person's civil status being single; that the process of legal gender recognition should be separate from and not dependent on any medical treatment, diagnosis or physician's statement; and that the bill be expanded to include non-binary identities.

Proposed by: Sam Blanckensee – LGBT Coordinator

Seconded by: Grace Williams – Gender Equality Coordinator

Rain Shelter Motion

Council Notes:

The existence of cloister type rain shelters covering a large portion of the Concourse pathway from arts to the student centre.

Council further notes:

The lack of these shelters serving other building such as Engineering, Health Science etc. This leads to Students having to walk through the rain and unnecessarily getting soaked which can lead to sickness and general discomfort.

Council therefore mandates:

UCDSU to lobby and campaign to the University to extend shelters to every building.

Council Further Mandates:

UCDSU to also campaign for increased level of drainage along concourse to dispel the flooding that occurs during heavy rainfall.

Proposed : Conor Rock - Arts & Celtic Studies Convenor

Seconded : Thomas Williams Stage 4 Engineering

Resit Fees Motion

Council notes:

That cost of repeating/resitting an exam in UCD is considerably high. In some cases twice as high as other Universities. This places a heavy financial burden on students who pay need to repeat exams.

Council further notes:

That ensuring the financial well being of students is an SU priority.

Council therefore mandates:

The Student Union President and Education Vice-President to lobby, campaign and use any resources available to get the resit fee reduced, or the system changed to be less burdensome on students.

Proposed: Thomas Williams Stage 4 Engineering

Seconded: Conor Rock - Arts & Celtic Studies Convenor

Voting on Erasmus

Council Notes:

That the SU represents all UCD students equally and thus all students, regardless of course, have an equal right for elected representation.

Council Also Notes:

That voted elections have little or no effect on the academic semester that they were cast in, but rather the following year, and thus affect students in the subsequent year.

Council Also Notes:

Students that have gone abroad for a year, as part of their course, are still part of the SU and represented by the SU.

Council Also Notes:

That there is a sufficient number of Students abroad to affect the results of SU elections.

Council Recognises:

That Students on a year abroad are at a disadvantage in that they have no voice in who will be representing them in the prospective year, as they cannot vote.

Council Recognises:

This is a problem for a number of reasons; firstly lack of democratic endeavour by the SU and the possibility of apathy towards the SU by affected students.

Council Therefore Mandates:

That the President and Exec work with the returning officer to address this issue and come up with a number of proposed solutions to this dilemma.

Proposed by: Conor Rock, Arts and Celtic Studies Convenor

Seconded by: Laura Brohan, Business and Law Convenor

Voting on Placement

Council Notes:

That the SU represents all students equally in UCD and thus all students, regardless of course, have an equal right to elected representation and of opinion in case of an official referendum or preferendum.

Council Also Notes:

Comparatively the progression of a student's degree should take precedence over any inconvenience (Monetary or otherwise) incurred by the SU to ensure fair representation and voting rights.

Council Recognises:

That at the moment the SU election ballot boxes are only on Campus and are not at primary placement locations. Therefore in the forthcoming semester two election(s) and referendum(s)/preferendum(s) as well as for all thereafter, students on placements ability to vote, and thus be represented, is hindered and mostly null and void.

Council Therefore Mandates:

That the President and Exec work with the returning officer to ensure that there are voting ballot boxes made available at all primary placement locations for students who are on placement during this and any elections hereafter.

Council Also Mandates:

That the President and Exec work with the returning officer to look into an alternative method of casting votes for students who are not in a primary placement location.

Proposed by: Conor Rock, Arts and Celtic Studies Convenor

Seconded by: Mollie Bruton, Health Science Convenor