

**April 25<sup>th</sup> 2013:**

**Council notes;**

That UCDSU strive for equality in all aspects of its work.

**Council further notes;**

That UCDSU currently does not have an Equality Policy protecting the equality of its members, staff and officers.

**Council requests;**

That the Equality Policy as drafted in Appendix I is adopted by UCDSU.

**Council notes;**

That over the past number of years, council has consistently been made up of a majority of male representatives.

**Council further notes;**

That in light of motions discussed at USI Congress and a recent feature in the University Observer, it is time for action to be taken in this area.

**Council mandates;**

The incoming Gender Equality Coordinator to actively investigate why women are less likely than men to put themselves forward for Union positions, by means of a survey.

**Council further mandates;**

The incoming Undergraduate Education Officer to utilise the results of the above survey and the findings of the Gender Equality Report when formulating the "Run for Rep" campaign.

**Council further mandates;**

The Gender Equality Coordinator to link up with Women4Election and provide seminars and workshops for women who wish to get more involved in the Student's Union.

**Council notes;**

That a Gender Equality Report is being prepared by the current Gender Equality Coordinator and will be released in June

**Council further notes;**

That this report will examine the ratio of male to female students in each faculty and compare this with participation within the SU.

**Council further notes;**

That this report will be a great resource to the Union as it will analyse the interest of each sex in becoming involved and will give a good overview of participation in each faculty.

**Council mandates;**

The incoming Gender Equality Coordinator to draw up a Gender Equality Report representing the statistics for their year, so that changes and progressions can be monitored within participation.

**Council Notes;**

That gender encompasses more than the binary male and female and is in fact a spectrum.

**Council Further Notes;**

That those students who do not identify as either binary male or binary female have no bathrooms provided on campus of which they can avail of.

**Council Mandates;**

The Gender Equality Coordinator, LGBT Coordinator and Welfare and Equality Officer to work together to lobby the University to provide at least one gender neutral bathroom on campus for students that need it

**Council notes:**

That under a 2012 Freedom Of Information request acquired by the Student Legal Service UCD has shown that thousands of euros of deposits are being retained by student residences annually.

**Council further notes:**

That the UCDSU Executive Sub-Committee Report on UCD Residences (Breslin, 2011) comprehensively outlined the various problems on residences and proposed a series of recommendations.

**Council therefore mandates:**

The UCDSU Executive to enter negotiations with UCD Residences with the ultimate aim of renegotiating the "Licence to Reside", in line with the recommendations of UCDSU Executive Residences Report.

**Council further mandates:**

That UCDSU Executive campaign to have these three residents rights implemented before the end of academic year 2013/14:

- Right to appeal your fine without threat of original fine increasing.
- Right to recognised representation within residences.
- Right to know where student money from fines and withheld deposits are being spent.

**Council Notes:**

The Confusion created when advertising the UCR and Class Rep positions as described in the constitution.

**Council Further Notes:**

The desire of the Constitutional Review Group to change these terms was minuted and noted at its meetings.

**Council Mandates:**

The SU Executive to run a campaign in September 2013 to recruit these representatives and grants permission to use the terms:

- "Class Rep" to describe the UCR role
- "Stream Rep" to describe the Class Role exclusively throughout the campaign.

**Council further notes:**

The importance in organising social events for classes so students can meet their classmates and make friends.

**Council further mandates:**

That UCR's shall also be responsible for organising class parties, social events and trips. The relevant Convener will monitor and assist the elected UCRs with this.

**Council notes;**

That it is of the upmost importance that students feel comfortable and safe at SU events.

**Council further notes;**

The results of a survey conducted by Dublin Rape Crisis Centre show an increase in instances of sexual harassment in Ireland.

**Council requests;**

That UCDSU take a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment and produce a poster similar to that in Appendix I.

**Council mandates;**

All Sabbatical and Executive Officers to ensure that such a poster is displayed at all events hosted by UCDSU.

**April 11<sup>th</sup> 2013:****Council notes**

The vital importance front line services are to society and that every measure should be taken to support our members studying to work in this profession. Council recognizes the recent public pressure from the "Right pay or No way campaign."

**Council further notes**

That students undertaking training in general midwives and children's nursing should have their rights protected.

**Council believes.**

That the proposed graduate jobs which the HSE have sought to implement is tantamount slave labour. It should be wholeheartedly boycotted and every effort should be made to protect graduate nurses and midwives pay.

**Council mandates**

That UCD Students' Union work with the INMO and PSA and condemn any attempted pay cuts to graduate nurses.

**Council further mandates**

Furthermore UCDSU will work with the HSE and other lobbying groups to find the best solution for our members.

**February 21<sup>st</sup> 2013:**

**Council notes:**

The importance of the USI and Ents referendum to ucdsu and it's members

**Council further notes:**

That it is a matter for members of the union.

**Council believes:**

That the opinions and representations of non-students with expertise on USI or Ents are welcome and beneficial, but that on the day of polling the referendum canvassing should be restricted to UCD students in order to minimise intervention by those with a financial or personal material influence

**Therefore council affirms,**

That only ucd students shall be allowed to participate in the referendum campaign on both sides on the day of polling. This includes approaching students in order to influence their vote or the display or distribution of election materials.

**January 31<sup>st</sup> 2013:**

**Council notes:**

That the occurrence of gang violence and shootings in Ireland has been on the rise over the last number of years.

**Council further notes:**

The number of gangland shootings in Ireland has increased by over 50% between 2011 & 2012. Council also notes the worrying trends in gun crimes across the USA and world over the recent months

**Council believes:**

That USI should lobby the government to take a tougher stance on gang violence & gun control across Ireland before it spirals out of control and continues to rise.

**Therefore, Council Mandates:**

USI to lobby the government to take a tougher stance on gang violence and gun control across the republic.

**Council Notes;**

Many members of UCDSU use the single fare service, in and out of town, using various buses including the 39a, 46a, and 145. These members of UCDSU do not use the bus service frequently enough to avail of the Student Rambler Ticket, and the increase in bus fares to €2.40 by Dublin Bus puts an extra financial strain on its members.

**Council Further Notes;**

There is no Student Fare available for Students who wish to buy single fares and the adult leap fares are the same as the student leap fares, this is not acceptable.

**Council Mandates;**

UCDSU, through the C&C/Welfare Officers, to open a dialogue with Dublin Bus to try and work for a UCD Student Fare, whereby on production of a UCD Student Card, you get a discounted single bus fare.

**Council Notes;**

There have been many difficulties regarding the opening/closing of new and/or old licensed premises on campus in UCD, and that UCDSU has been working hard to sort out the situation.

**Council Further Notes;**

The biggest Students' Union in the country should endeavor to provide their members with information about one of the main services they desire, a licensed premises on campus, and that UCD Students have been left in the dark about the situation around the opening/closing of licensed premises on campus.

**Council Requests;**

UCDSU make a press release with regard to the situation around the opening/closing of new and/or old licensed premises on campus, while being sensitive to any outstanding legal issues we have, and fulfil its duty by keeping its members informed on the situation as it develops.

**Council Notes:**

That USI currently costs each Students' Union €5 per student This presents an annual cost of €120,000 to UCDSU.

**Council Notes:**

The current affiliation fee structure does not attempt to assess or account for the varying level of benefit students in different third level institutions accrue from USI depending on their size, location and student numbers

**Council further notes:**

The dependence of USI on affiliation fees, amounting to 99.8% of the organisation's income in 11/12.

**Council believes:**

That as part of UCDSU's necessary review of all expenditure it is prudent for the organisation, if it remains affiliated with USI, to seek a comprehensive review of affiliation fees and USI's financial strategy. It is equally important that UCD students feel that USI represents value for money.

**Council Mandates:**

UCDSU to bring a motion to USI Congress 2013 mandating the USI President to commence a financial review of the organisation and the production of a five year financial plan. This review must at a minimum:

- Aim to reduce dependence on affiliation fees through increasing other income sources
- Review the system of charging Member Organisations a charge per student regardless of size and student numbers
- Seek to reduce the affiliation fees charged by USI to Students' Unions/student members.

If the President determines that there is a better way of achieving the aims and spirit of this motion through other mechanisms of USI congress or National Council then they may do so provided that Council are updated with relevant information at the earliest opportunity.

**Council notes:**

That Ireland is seeing the systematic increase in negative social issues, such as gangland violence, and that they are related to an increase in the illegal drug trade.

**Council further notes:**

That countries such as Portugal, Czech Republic, Australia, The Netherlands and Norway have decriminalized narcotics in the past and have all reported a positive effect. Reports carried out by the 'Global Commission on Drug Policy' support this method and commissioner Richard Branson recently said they are 'pushing for drugs to be seen as a medical problem, rather than a criminal problem'.

**Council believes:**

That Irish laws on narcotics are quickly becoming out of date and that we need to take progressive steps to help address the issue & educate the youth of today and tackle drug problems once and for all.

**Therefore, Council Mandates:**

That USI should research the possible effects of decriminalization of narcotics in Ireland and perform a feasibility study on income it could possibly raise through taxes and fines.

### **December 6<sup>th</sup> 2012:**

#### **Council Notes**

That Union Class Reps are elected to represent the views of their class and be the link between their class and the Union.

#### **Council further notes**

That students often are unaware of what happens at Union Council and find it difficult to know where to find information on Council Agendas, motions, minutes etc.

#### **Council Mandates**

That all Convenors and the Postgraduate Officer ensure that all their Union Class Reps upload Council minutes, agendas and motions onto their class Facebook page (or alternatively email their class) prior to Council to ensure that all students have the chance to make their views clear to their class rep.

#### **Council Recognises with grave concern**

The rise in deaths of young people in Ireland and internationally in relation to bullying, in particular 'cyber' or online bullying. That our young people face torment and unwanted social pressure from more avenues than ever before in modern Ireland.

#### **Council notes**

That many, far many more than we may have realised of us, have all at some point faced or at least witnessed bullying in our journey through school and our youth.

### **Council further notes**

That we, as young people who have grown to learn to deal with and overcome this bullying, have a responsibility to the next generation to lend wisdom, a helping hand and hope for the future to the young people of Ireland. That as the generation closest to them to have survived our own adolescence we hold the most power to affect a change in our old schools, our former classrooms and across Ireland.

### **Council therefore mandates**

The Welfare officer and Campaigns officer to lend support to, and encourage this Union to back the 'I was there' campaign to help give hope to the young people of Ireland, that they may know things get better.

### **Council Notes**

That Union Council is a meeting which is open to all Union members.

### **Council further notes**

That often students are unaware as to where and when council is taking place and are unsure as to whether they may attend.

### **Council Mandates**

The Campaigns and Communications Officer to ensure that a Facebook event is created and circulated to all Reps for each Union Council and that details of the Council's time and location are included in the all student email.

**November 13<sup>th</sup> 2012:**

**Council Notes**

The amount of paper used in order to print Sabbatical officers reports and agenda for council.

**Council further notes**

This is a waste of paper and money that is taken from the Student Union's budget. Reports are provided online for all council members to read in advance, so it is not necessary for the reports to be printed.

**Council Mandates**

Sabbatical officers to print off no more than five copies of their report for council which may be used for reference by any council member who wishes to view a hard copy.

**October 25<sup>th</sup> 2012:**

**Council notes:**

That the new Students' Union constitution requires a referendum on USI affiliation every three years. That there has not been a referendum on USI in the last 5 years.

**Council notes:**

That this years President, Executive and Sabbatical team have all publicly called for a referendum.

**Council notes:**

That the costs of holding a referendum are significant (€5000 minimum +)

**Council agrees:**

That in a period where UCDSU is in significant debt expenditure must be minimised and efficiencies found where possible.

**Council Mandates:**

That the SU President table a motion to council calling for a Referendum to coincide with the next campus-wide polling day.

**April 6th 2012**

**Council Notes:**

The difficult financial situation that has befallen the Union in 2011/12.

**Council Further Notes:**

That due to inappropriate structures and financial management, the Union has been left with a significant debt burden, which is having direct impact on the membership.

**Council condemns:**

The lack of structures surrounding the Union finances, which have contributed massively to the current situation.

**Council recognises:**

That action must be taken to ensure that such a lack of financial oversight never occurs again.

**Council believes:**

That incorporation would add the burden of company law to the Union's financial management and accounts, to the direct benefit of the membership.

**Council therefore adopts:**

The memorandum and articles of "UCD Students' Union Ltd." as Schedule E to the constitution, as circulated.

**Council further adopts:**

The memorandum & articles of "UCDSU Commercial Services Ltd." As Schedule F to the constitution, as circulated.

**March 23rd 2012**

**Council notes**

that Sabbatical officers have been arriving late for council.

**Council therefore mandates:**

that Sabbatical officers, Chairperson and secretary should arrive for council at the very least 5 minutes before the time council is due to start

**Council notes:**

That union members do not know when or where council is.

**Council further notes:**

The tardiness of letting class representatives know where council is.

**Council therefore mandates:**

That the C&C officer will announce where the meeting will take place at least 3 days before council to give a chance to class representatives to tell their class where and when council takes place. Furthermore Class representatives should make it known where and when council is to their class and that the C&C officer makes the time, location and motions to be discussed at council known on the UCDSU Facebook page, at least 3 days before council.

**March 8<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Council notes** that Article 9 of the Union Constitution requires amendment.

**Council recognises** that the student body should be allowed to vote on the possibility of changing the title of Women's Office to Gender Equality Officer and two additions to the role of the Irish Language Officer.

**Council mandates** the Returning Officer to hold a constitutional referendum alongside President and Vice President elections with the question to be "Do you accept changes to Article 9 of the constitution?"

We propose the article read as attached.

### **Article 9 – The Union Executive**

1.(i) The Union Executive, to be known as “the Executive”, shall provide a forum for officers to discuss matters relevant to the Union.

(ii) The Executive shall take interim decisions as may become necessary between meetings of Council, subject to their ratification by Council and subject to previous mandates set by Council and/or a Union General Meeting and/or referendum.

2. The Executive shall consist of:

(i) The President and Vice-Presidents

(ii) The Directly Elected Executive Officers

(iii) The Programme Officers

(iv) The Council-Elected Executive Officers (non-voting).

3. The following Executive Officers shall be directly elected in accordance with Article 23:

(i) The Irish Language Officer, or Oifigeach na Gaeilge

(ii) The Women’s Officer **The Gender Equality Officer**

(iii) The Environmental Officer

(iv) The Postgraduate Officer

4.(i) No person shall simultaneously hold more than one position on the Executive.

(ii) The President shall act as chairperson of all meetings of the Executive. Where the President is not in attendance, s/he shall nominate one of the Vice-Presidents to act as chairperson for that meeting.

(iii) Each member of the Executive must produce an annual report which must include a continuity section. The continuity section must outline areas of their responsibility which they believe are in need of further development. This report must be presented to a Council meeting in the last four weeks of the second semester.

5. The Executive shall meet at least once every week during term and at least once every two weeks out of term and shall be convened by the Union Secretary at the direction of the President or of a majority of members of the Executive.

6.(i)(a) The role of the Irish Language Officer, or Oifigeach na Gaeilge, shall be to promote the use of the Irish language within the Union and to foster the development of a bilingual culture within the University environment.

(b) S/he shall be responsible for the running of Seachtain na Gaeilge.

(c) S/he shall be responsible for maintaining good relations with societies promoting the Irish language within the University.

**d) S/he will organise at least one event and one campaign of significant importance per semester, to promote the use of the Irish Language throughout the college.**

**e) In the event of the Irish Language Officer not being a resident on Bord na Gaeilge Irish Language scheme, s/he would establish and maintain a relationship with the residents on the scheme, in order to ensure cooperation in promotion of the Irish Language throughout campus.**

(ii) (a) The role of the Women's Officer **Gender Equality Officer** shall be to assist the Welfare Vice-President with campaigning and lobbying on women's **gender equality** issues.

(b) S/he shall organise a **series of days or** publicity week pertaining to women's rights **gender equality** issues, with assistance from the Welfare Vice-President and the Campaigns & Communications Vice-President.

(c) S/he shall encourage **equal** involvement of women **all genders** in all aspects of Union activity, and work with the Campaigns & Communications Vice-President to encourage female **equal** participation at Council and the Executive.

(d) S/he shall lobby for equality of opportunity and gender equality within the University environment.

(iii) (a) The role of the Environmental Officer shall be to promote environmental awareness and issues within the Union and the University.

(b) S/he shall be responsible for the organisation of a publicity week to highlight environmental issues and to promote environmental awareness, with assistance from the Campaigns & Communications Vice-President.

(c) S/he shall promote recycling on campus and ensure such facilities are maintained.

(iv) (a) The Postgraduate Officer shall be responsible for servicing the needs of postgraduate students and shall represent them on the appropriate committees.

(b) S/he shall deal with relevant personal cases in liaison with the relevant Vice-President and establish and develop an effective referral service.

(c) S/he shall maintain not less than four office hours per week.

(d) S/he shall liaise between the President and Vice-Presidents with a view to furthering the cause of postgraduate students; however, s/he shall primarily focus on postgraduate education, welfare and entertainments issues.

(e) His/her role shall in no way diminish the responsibilities or authority of the President and Vice-Presidents to postgraduate students.

(f) S/he shall contest the postgraduate student seat on the Governing Authority of the University, if eligible to do so.

(g) S/he shall endeavour to become a member of the following:

(i) Academic Council

(ii) Teaching and Learning Board

(iii) University Graduate Programme Board

(iv) Any other relevant boards.

(v) (a) The role of the Mature Students' Officer shall be to represent and address the needs of mature students.

(b) S/he shall encourage the involvement of mature students in all aspects of Union activity.

(c) S/he shall, alongside the Campaigns & Communications Vice-President, advertise the services of the Union to his/her constituents.

(vi) (a) The role of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Officer shall be to work with the President and Vice-Presidents on any matter pertaining to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender issues.

(b) S/he shall arrange and maintain at least one hour a week in a Union Office for the purpose of consultancy.

(c) S/he shall be responsible for maintaining good relations with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community within the University.

(d) S/he shall, in conjunction with the Welfare Vice-President and the Campaigns & Communications Vice-President, organise a publicity week for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender campaigns and issues.

(e) S/he shall promote and defend the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students.

(vii) (a) The Disability Rights Officer shall work with the President and Vice-Presidents on all matters pertaining to students with disabilities.

(b) S/he shall promote the integration of students with disabilities into all aspects of the University environment.

(c) S/he shall be responsible for ensuring that all Union events are wheelchair accessible, as far as is practicable.

(d) S/he shall be a member of the committee which governs the Student Volunteer Scheme.

(e) S/he shall be responsible for maintaining good relations with societies promoting disability rights within the University.

(f) S/he shall assist the President and Vice-Presidents in the organisation of a publicity week to promote disability rights and awareness.

(viii) (a) The International Students Officer shall foster links with all organisations representing international students within the University.

(b) S/he shall liaise with the University International Office and shall represent international students on any committees s/he sit on.

(c) S/he shall assist the President and Vice-Presidents in the organisation of a publicity week to promote cultural diversity within the University.

7. The resignation of any Executive Officer shall take effect upon notification of same by personal letter to the Chief Returning Officer. Acceptance of the resignation shall not be required.
8. Members of the Executive shall give written reports of their work to at least every second meeting of Council. Council may direct, by a simple majority vote, any Executive Officer to provide reports at any Council meeting.
9. All of the aforesaid officers of the Union are obliged to act in accordance with policies or mandates enacted by a policy referendum, a Union General Meeting or Council.
10. The Union Secretary shall take minutes, and publish same and the attendance list, of each meeting of the Executive.

**Council notes:**

That there are currently two Arts, Human Sciences and Celtic Studies Programme Officers.

**Council further notes:**

This is outdated and is not the best arrangement for this huge faculty.

**Council mandates:**

the Union Returning Officer to prepare a feasibility report on dividing the posts of Arts Programme Officers into two separate positions of Arts Programme Officer and a Human Sciences and Celtic Studies Officer for the next council.

**February 20th 2012**

**Council Notes:**

The Water Fountain in the Quinn Building is not working nor has it been for some time.

**Council Further Notes:**

The vast majority of other buildings have water fountains to save students purchasing water on campus which can be a costly affair. bottles students in the Quinn building are annoyed that this tap has not been working for some time now.

**Council Believes:**

A water fountain is a simple necessity in a faculty building and the instalment of a water bottle tap would greatly improves everyday life for the students of Quinn.

**Council therefore mandates:**

The President and/or The Campaigns and Communications Vice President to lobby the relevant campus services/college department for the fountain to be fixed.

**Council Notes** that students have never been given the opportunity to decide on the Union's policy on 3<sup>rd</sup> level funding.

**Council Further Notes** that the current 'Free fees' policy was decided by the Union Executive.

**Council Notes with Concern** that many students feel unrepresented on this issue.

**Council Therefore Directs** the holding of a Consultative Referendum, in the form of a preferendum, regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Funding, to be held alongside the executive elections.

**Council Further Directs** that the question to be put shall read as follows:  
"What should be the Students' Union policy on 3<sup>rd</sup> level funding?"

**Council Further Directs** that the options on the ballot should read:

- Graduate Tax
- Student Loan scheme
- Full Up-front Fees
- Student Contribution / Registration Fee
- Continue Current Policy

### **February 7<sup>th</sup> 2012**

#### **Council Notes:**

The constitutional requirement for a Constitutional Review to occur at least every 5 years.

#### **Council Further Notes:**

The work of the Constitutional Review Group in preparing the final draft of the proposed new Union Constitution.

#### **Council therefore directs:**

The holding of a constitutional referendum, which would replace the current constitution in its entirety, with the final draft constitution as circulated & attached.

**Council notes:**

That water fountain in the Newman building was removed in the recent fighter safety works that were carried out in the Newman building.

**Council further notes:**

That the water fountain wasn't relocated despite being used by a large number of people on a daily basis.

**Council believes:**

That the water fountain should be relocated in the Newman building in a new location that will serve the needs of the students.

**Council therefore mandates:**

The President and / or Campaigns & Communications VP to lobby campus services for the relocation of the water fountain in the Newman building.

**Council notes:**

The right of students to form clubs and societies

**Council further notes:**

There is currently a moratorium on the University recognizing newly formed or existing societies and clubs applying for membership of the student forum.

**Council mandates:**

The executive of the union to seek to end this moratorium and allow new clubs and societies to apply for recognition.

### **January 27<sup>th</sup> 2012**

#### **Council notes:**

The huge impact of Budget 2012 on students & families across Ireland, in particular the increased student contribution, further cuts to the maintenance grant & the abolition of Postgraduate supports.

#### **Council further notes:**

That many UCD students do not necessarily agree with the current UCDSU stance on 3rd level funding.

#### **Council believes:**

That students should be given the choice to set Union policy on 3rd level funding.

#### **Council therefore mandates:**

The President to form a working group of 5 members from Union council, with the task of:

- (a) Researching the various funding models which are on offer;
- (b) Proposing a policy referendum with these options, to coincide with the Executive elections;
- (c) Running a non-biased informational campaign outlining the pros & cons of each option

**November 24th 2011**

**Council Notes:**

That the current council standing orders do not foster inclusive discussion among council members.

**Council Further Notes:**

That there is nothing among the current standing orders which allows individual topics of interest to be noted, discussed, or decided upon, apart from officer mandates.

**Council Therefore Proposes:**

**To delete the following section of standing orders:**

*“Order II*

*The Order of Business at such a meeting of Council shall be as follows:*

- (a) The declaration of a quorum by roll call.*
- (b) Minutes arising of the previous meeting.*
- (c) Matters arising.*
- (d) Motions on notice.*

- (e) *The reports of each Sabbatical Officer*
- (f) *Questions on notice.*
- (g) *Questions not on notice.*
- (h) *The reports of each Executive Officer.*
- (i) *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.*
- (j) *Motions not on notice.*
- (k) *Submission of motions to be on notice for next meeting.*
- (l) *Any Other Business.”*

**And replace it with the following text:**

*“Order II*

*The Order of Business at such a meeting of Council shall be as follows:*

- (a) *The declaration of a quorum by roll call.*
- (b) *Minutes arising of the previous meeting.*
- (c) *Matters arising.*
- (d) *Motions on notice.*
- (e) *Items For Discussion***
- (f) *Items For Noting***
- (g) *Items for Approval***
- (h) *The reports of each Sabbatical Officer*
- (i) *Questions on notice.*
- (j) *Questions not on notice.*
- (k) *The reports of each Executive Officer.*
- (l) *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.*
- (m) *Motions not on notice.*
- (n) *Submission of motions to be on notice for next meeting.*
- (o) *Any Other Business.”*

**Council Further Proposes:**

**To delete the following section of standing orders:**

*“Order III*

1. *Motions on notice shall have been submitted at the previous Council meeting or within one week of the relevant meeting. They shall be in writing and be signed by the proposer and seconder, who shall be members of Council and in attendance at the relevant meeting.*

I am proposing this change as I believe it will make Council more interactive. Many class representatives do not currently have the opportunity to raise particular issues or to address particular concerns, unless they relate directly to officer reports. Many class representatives also feel that certain issues do not merit submitting a motion to council, or that it is an appropriate vehicle for discussion.”

**And replace it with the following text:**

*“Order III*

***Orders II (d), (e), (f) & (g)** shall have been submitted at the previous Council meeting or within*

*one week of the relevant meeting. **Motions on notice** shall be in writing and be signed by the proposer*

*and seconder, who shall be members of Council and in attendance at the relevant meeting.*

*Items for discussion, items for noting, and items for approval shall be in writing and signed by a proposer only”*

**10th November 2011**

**Council notes:** The Garda Age Card is the prevailing ID card accepted everywhere in Ireland. Council also notes that many students haven't registered to vote and therefore missed the opportunity to vote in the recent elections.

**Council further notes:** That Fresher's Week connects with a huge number of students who need to use the age card weekly and so it makes sense to bring the application process to them as opposed to the hassle of having to go to their local Garda Station.

**Council also notes:** That Fresher's Week gives a similar opportunity to connect with student who need to register to vote.

**Council mandates:** The relevant sabbatical officers to organise both Garda Age Card and Register to Vote stands for Fresher's Week next academic year (2012/2013)

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**Council mandates:** The relevant sabbatical officers to organise both Garda Age Card and Register to Vote stands for Fresher's Week next academic year (2012/2013)

## **October 27th 2011**

### **Council Notes:**

The use of VIP areas & guest-lists at SU events.

### **Council Further Notes:**

The use of a guest-list and queue-skipping by those on the list regularly occurs in the student bar.

### **Council Notes with Concern:**

That this practice looks elitist and furthers the perception that the Union is a 'Clique'.

### **Council Believes:**

That the Union should strive to be as inclusive as possible, and do all it can to connect with the Student body.

### **Council Suggests:**

That volunteers may still be rewarded by being given complimentary / discounted tickets where deserved, but that these tickets must be collected and those in receipt of said tickets must still queue.

### **Council Mandates:**

The President and Entertainments Vice-President to abolish this practice for all future Union events.

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 2011:**

**Council recognises:**

The importance of money management and in particular, the relevance of financial advice and campaigns to students, especially in the current economic climate.

**Council notes:**

The lack of student-specific money management campaigns.

**Council mandates:**

The Welfare Officer to run a money management campaign and to establish formal links between the College and financial bodies such as MABs.

**Council notes:**

The lack of a mental health policy within UCD, a situation which does not exist in other colleges e.g. NUI Galway

**Council recognises:**

The importance of a campus-wide mental health policy in order to ensure and increase effectiveness of the mental health support services in UCD.

**Council mandates:**

The Welfare Officer to continue and complete the Mental Health policy currently in development.

**Council notes:**

The success of the emergency support fund which is jointly operated by UCDSU and SVP.

**Council recognises:**

That its ability to help students on large scale is limited owing to budgetary constraints.

**Council mandates:**

The Welfare, Ents and Communications officer to run a fundraising event each semester, in conjunction with UCD SVP specifically to raise money for this fund.

**22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011:**

**Council Notes:**

That representation of Postgraduate students at national level is weak or non-existent

**Council further notes:**

That post graduate students represent a substantial percentage of the national student body.

**Council therefore mandates:**

The president to propose to the constitutional review the upgrading of the post graduate officer's position to full time paid.

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011:**

**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 the ensuring the financial well-being of students is an SU priority

**Council therefore mandates:**

The Student's Union President and Education Vice-President to get the resit fee reduced, or the system changed to be less burdensome on students.

**October 21<sup>st</sup> 2013:**

**Council notes:**

That through the highly successful Erasmus Programme, around 3,000,000 students are currently participating in an academic exchange. In UCD, there are 440 students currently present on Erasmus exchanges, and 230 UCD students are currently studying abroad under the programme, with over 100 poised to join them next semester. These exchanges allow an unprecedented opportunity to learn from and in new cultures and societies.

**Council further notes:**

That in an effort to reduce the European Union's budgetary deficit, a cut of 15% to Erasmus Programme funding is to be considered from 2014 – 2020. Such a cut to the funding would see a loss of financial support, via the Erasmus Grant, to around a million students.

**Council believes:**

That as an initiative of the European Union which directly benefits students and young people, and one which is invaluable in forming an understanding of a more globalised Europe, the Erasmus Programme should be supported fully in its funding.

**Council recognises:**

The work of the European Federalist Party and the European Students Union in defence of Erasmus Programme funding.

**Council mandates:**

That UCDSU Undergraduate Education Officer and International Students Coordinator work with the aforementioned (and any other requisite) organisations to campaign for maintenance of the current level funding for the Programme.

**Proposed**

Bill Thompson

International Students Coordinator

**Seconded**

Adam Carroll

Undergraduate Education Officer

**April 14<sup>th</sup> 2014:**

**Council Notes:**

That the advice and support of Sabbatical Officers or Directors of the Company is often sought by candidates for their positions in the run-up to the Executive elections in Semester 2, especially during the campaigning weeks.

**Council Further Notes:**

The influence which public allegiance from any Sabbatical Officers or Directors of the Company may hold over voters.

**Council Believes That:**

In order for the Students' Union to remain impartial and stay true to its ethos of fair and equal democratic elections, the following rule must be put in place:

- No Sabbatical Officer or Director of the Company may be allowed to campaign for any candidate running for any position in the Executive Elections; apart from themselves should they be running for election at the same time.

**Council Therefore Mandates:**

1. The President to communicate council's view to the Returning Office and request that the official rules governing the elections be amended to reflect these views.
2. The full time Sabbatical Officers to abstain from campaigning for anybody but themselves in the Executive Elections.
3. The President to communicate the views of Council to the Board of Directors and request them to change their policies in accordance with the above views.

**Proposed by:**

Dylan Gray

**Seconded by:**

Adam Carroll

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014:**

#### **Council Notes:**

That the advice and support of Executive Officers is often sought by candidates for their positions in the run-up to the Executive elections in Semester 2 especially during the campaigning weeks.

#### **Council Further Notes:**

The perceived influence which public allegiance from any online presence administered by the Students' Union, for example Twitter or Facebook etc., either by Officers, elected Coordinators, or volunteers may hold over voters.

#### **Council Believes That:**

In order for the Students' Union to remain impartial and stay true to its ethos of fair and equal democratic elections, the following rules must be put in place:

1. Officially branded SU clothing may not be worn by campaigners as it may be perceived as the official support of the candidate by the SU, with the exception of clothing distributed by the Returning Office.
2. People administering official SU pages on social media i.e. 'crew' (Environment, International, LGBT etc.) Facebook pages or Twitter accounts not be allowed to post election material as those pages unless it is basic information like where and when to vote etc.
3. No Twitter account with UCDSU in the handle (i.e. @PresidentUCDSU) may be used to promote any candidate for any position in the run-up to, or during the elections (from the close of nominations until the announcement of the successful candidate).

#### **Council Therefore Mandates:**

The President to communicate council's view to the Returning Office and request that the official rules governing the elections be amended to reflect these views.

#### **Proposed & Seconded by:**

UCDSU Executive

### **May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014:**

#### **Council Notes:**

That maternity leave is currently only offered to female members of staff and that there is currently no specific policy for pregnant students to take maternity leave. This forces pregnant students to use the regular Leave of Absence policy. This lack of a specific maternity leave policy leaves students with the option of either a.) Taking a retrospective leave of absence from the start of the semester/term, which means all the work and assignments they would have completed will have to be repeated, b.) simply taking X amount of weeks off at the end of the semester if they can receive a medical note and then applying for extenuating circumstances in the hope of receiving an IX grade. This causes undue amounts of stress for students during their pregnancy.

**Council Further Notes:**

That the Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) policy only extends to course work for which academic credits have been previously awarded; a completed module. This means that students who need to apply for a retrospective leave of absence in the middle of an academic term and/or module are forced to re-submit work already completed once re-registered, placing undue stress and workload on students who may already be in a vulnerable position following pregnancy.

**Council Also Notes:**

The lack, both institutionally and nationally, of a framework of assistance for partners of pregnant individuals (external to UCD) and the opportunity for UCD to become a figurehead of academic equality in this area.

**Council Believes:**

That maternity rights, including maternity leave, are a hard won and fundamental right for all women, enshrined in Irish law, for example the Equality Act 2004 and this right should apply equally to students as well as employees.

**Council further Believes:**

That UCD's position as a champion of human rights and social justice is undermined by its current policy of not granting maternity leave to female students.

**Council Therefore Mandates:**

The President and Welfare & Equality Officer to put the issue before the UMT and Academic Council and to request a review of both policies (RPL and LoA) in relation to maternity leave. This review would also present updated policy documents incorporating maternity leave thus allowing pregnant students to take their maternity leave at times appropriate to their pregnancies without having to sacrifice assignments they would have already completed up to that point. The officers named shall include an update in their report for Council at every session until an appropriate policy has been formed and adopted by the university.

**Council Further Mandates:**

The President and Welfare & Equality Officer to work with the UCD to explore the feasibility of a separate policy or to incorporate into any updated policies, mechanisms

which will aid students who are partners of pregnant individuals in relation to Leaves of Absence and RPL.

**Proposed by:**

Dylan Gray

**Seconded by:**

Cian Dowling

**May 1<sup>st</sup> 2014:**

**Council notes:**

That there has been an increase in the price of residence fees for the coming academic year, by 11 % across the board. This will result in an increase of 1.6 million euro income next year for UCD Residences. This was not communicated to students in a timely or fair manner.

**Council also notes:**

That the SU President sat on FRAMC (Financial Remuneration Asset Management Committee) and knew of the proposed increases back in September.

**Council recognizes:**

That there is to be new buildings constructed to increase the amount of beds available on campus and that this may account for the increase in prices.

**Council also notes:**

That prices for UCD residences are coincidentally being increased in line with inflation (11%) for rented accommodation in the South County Dublin Area. (See Daft.ie rental report December 2013)

**Council therefore mandates:**

That the SU President abstain from approving any increase in prices that will directly affect students until he/she has consulted with their sabbatical team, who are members of Governing Authority, as they are not members of FRAMC so they would not have been present when the initial discussion took place, and attempt to arrange a meeting with the UMT (University Management Team) to discuss whether or not the SU can accept said increase in prices and if it can, what increase in services will be given in exchange for approving the increases.

**Proposed by:**

Becky Gilmore (Health Sciences Convenor)

**Seconded by:**

Cian Dowling (Welfare and Equality Officer)

**Council Notes:**

That this year the "SU Environment" far exceeded the preceding standards set by the previous environmental coordinators and has outshone other branches of the Campaigns forum this year and this has been due to a genuine interest in environmental issues within the student body and the innovative campaigns that were organised.

**Council further notes:**

That despite being the largest campus in the country, UCD does not have an official environmental society and thus deprives its student their right to a full rounded education, of which social responsibility is an integral part. The only current options to address environmental concerns and part take in environmental responsibility are a) the SU's Environment branch within the Campaigns' Forum and b) the possibly inactive Young Greens. It is important that students be given the option of pursuing this part of their social education using a platform that is not necessarily politically driven.

**Council therefore mandates:**

That the incoming President and Welfare and Equality officer work with the existing committee of the unofficial ECO-Society to cater for all of the student body that the

Union represents, to drive the recognition process for a UCD Society and official status in UCD societies Council and report back to Council at 1<sup>st</sup> council of the next term.

**Proposed by:**

Maria Jacob

**Seconded by:**

Cian Dowling

**Council Notes:**

Members of Union Council may not always read sabbatical officers' reports to council before attending.

**Council Further Notes:**

Sabbatical officers are not being held accountable for their work when they "take their reports as read", as some members of council are voting through a report which they have not read.

**Council Therefore Mandates:**

Sabbatical officers brief council on their reports before council votes on said reports in order to be held fully accountable for their work.

**Proposed By:**

Clare O'Connor, Internal Promotions Coordinator

**Seconded By:**

Aaron D'Arcy, Non Alcoholic Events Coordinator

**Council notes:**

There is a need for a Mental Health Co-ordinator on the campaign forum which currently does not exist.

**Council further notes:**

That the introduction of a SU Mental Health Co-ordinator would greatly benefit the students of University College Dublin.

**Council believes:**

This role will be an integral part of the campaigns forum.

**Council therefore inserts provision for a new campaigns forum member, as provided for in article 21.4 (Council may form not more than two additional Campaign Co-ordinator positions.)**

**The Mental Health Co-ordinator:**

- The role of the Mental Health Co-ordinator shall be to assist the Welfare & Equality (hereafter known as W&E) officer in campaigning and lobbying on mental health issues, especially those issues that are pertinent to UCD students.
- They shall organize events relating to positive mental health and the promotion of support services available, with the assistance of the W&E Officer.
- They shall promote awareness of the issues that effect students' mental health.
- They will endeavour to be Please Talk Ambassador and "safeTalk" trained.
- They shall work alongside student advisors and Peer Mentors and develop a positive working relationship with them to ensure that they work together as appropriate.
- They will work to assist the W&E Officer to promote and publicise all events run by the Office.

**Proposed by:**

Mícheál Gallagher  
SU President

**Seconded by:**

Adam Carroll  
Undergraduate Education Officer

**November 24<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Council Notes:**

The findings of the Moriarty Tribunal published in 2011, in which businessman Denis O'Brien was found to have made "legally corrupt" payments to a government minister.

**Council further notes:**

The recent naming of the new UCD Science Centre as 'The O'Brien Centre for Science'.

**Council believes:**

That UCD and UCD Students' Union should take a stand against corruption in all aspects of public life.

**Council notes with appreciation:**

The generous contributions of the many donors to the science project.

**Council believes:**

That it is appropriate and sufficient to recognise these contributions by way of the plaque placed inside the entrance of the building.

**Council notes with concern:**

The complete lack of consultation with students and staff regarding the naming of the science centre.

**Council therefore mandates:**

The President:

- 1) To investigate the procedures and consultation processes regarding the naming of the science centre;
- 2) To report back to council regarding progress at all relevant intervals

**Proposed By:**

Chris Wong,  
Masters Eng, Math & Physical Sci.

**Seconded By:**

Aine Mooney,  
Human Sciences Convenor