



Policy Book 2023/2024

Miranda Bauer, Campaigns & Engagement Officer:
UCD Students' Union
2023/2024

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14/10/21

Provision of Food Bank

Council notes: the cost of living for UCD students is exponentially increasing.

Council further notes: these financial pressures have been exacerbated by the current student accommodation crisis and the far-reaching impacts of COVID-19.

Council further notes: the recent UCCSU food bank ran out of supplies in just 50 minutes and they were forced to turn away many students, highlighting a substantial need for such a provision which is likely reflected here in UCD.

Council acknowledges: current efforts to combat acute food poverty by the UCDSU, such as a limited number of food vouchers being made available for students on a case-by-case basis via a partnership with Gather & Gather, but this provision is insufficient to meet the needs of countless UCD students struggling with food poverty.

Council therefore mandates: That the UCDSU sabbatical team, particularly the President and Welfare Officer, work alongside relevant external and internal authorities to support the implementation and maintenance of a food bank.

Proposed by: Ronan Cloney (Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences College Officer)

Seconded by: Molly Greenough (Welfare Officer)

14/10/21

Boycott of the Irish Times

Council regrets: That The Irish Times has been platforming an anti-trans agenda, with numerous articles (26/01/19, 17/03/2021, 09/08/2021) and letters to the editor (13/03/2021, 30/06/2021) attacking the trans community being published by the national newspaper.

Council condemns: The spreading of medical misinformation and scaremongering (09/08/2021) which the President of the Irish Psychological Society rebutted as having no basis in fact by joining in a letter to The Irish Times, by the NXF(13/09/2021).

Council notes: That on the 21 August 2021 the Trans Writers Union called for a complete boycott of the Irish Times and made the following demands:

1. The Irish Times withdraw and apologise for their recent conversion therapy article, published August 9, 2021
2. The Irish Times take practical, committed steps to adopting a trans-inclusive editorial line
- 3.

Council believes: That an anti-trans editorial stance does not serve in the interest of debate or journalistic balance and only serves to harm transgender individuals simply because they exist.

Council therefore mandates: That UCDSU joins the boycott of The Irish Times.

Council further mandates: UCDSU will not share, promote or distribute any articles published by The Irish Times including on social media.

Council also mandates that: UCDSU will not stock, advertise or work in any commercial way with The Irish Times.

Council also mandates: "That the Sabbatical Officers consider the effect The Irish Times has had on trans students when providing any future comment to them and that they work with other Student Unions on a coordinated approach to this issue."

Council also mandates: That the President revert to council should the rhetoric in The Irish Times deteriorate.

Council further mandates that: with respect to the provisions of the UCDSU constitution (i.e. section 7.7), if the Trans Writer's Union's demands are met an item for approval may be brought to council by the President to end the boycott.

Council also mandates: That the Sabbatical Officers write to Paul O'Neill, the editor of The Irish Times, to communicate UCDSU's stance.

Proposed by: Cillian Murphy (Stage 2 Mechanical Engineering) he/him

Seconded by: Ruáiri Power (President)

08/11/2021

Support for the decriminalisation of the recreational use of drugs and legalisation of cannabis

Council acknowledges: That the UCDSU is mandated to support the UCD Chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) in their formation and their establishment of awareness campaigns.

Council notes: That Cannabis in Ireland is illegal for recreational purposes and case-by-case approval is required for medical purposes. Despite this, approximately 28% of people in Ireland aged 15-64 years have used cannabis at some point in their lives.

Council also notes: That according to the National Student Drug Survey (2015), 82% of students had tried illicit drugs at least once.

Council further notes: That if a student gets a criminal conviction for personal use, it can have lifelong implications. It can prevent students from accessing visas to certain countries, jobs that require Gardaí vetting, and certain types of insurance.

Council also notes: That in 2001, Portugal decriminalised the possession of all drugs for recreational use as part of a wider change in policy towards a public health approach. Following the reform, the drug death rates in Portugal fell significantly, which still remain some of the lowest in the EU.

Council believes: That anything can be abused, including cannabis or drugs, and irresponsible use should be discouraged with honest, credible, and factual education like provided by the UCD Chapter for Students for Sensible Drugs Policy (SSDP). However, the consumption of cannabis or drugs should be viewed from a public health perspective, instead of a criminal justice perspective.

Council also believes: That the decriminalisation of the recreational use of drugs and legalisation of the cannabis industry would help conserve money, time, and resources on Gardaí, courts, solicitors, and jails, that could be better allocated elsewhere.

Council therefore mandates: That the President, Campaigns & Engagement Officer, and Welfare Officer actively lobby and campaign in support of decriminalisation of the recreational use of drugs and legalisation of cannabis for recreational and medical use along

with relevant organisations such as Students for Sensible Drugs Policy (SSDP) and NORML Ireland.

Proposed by: Rishi R. Kataria (Stage 1, Computer Science Class Representative)

Seconded by: Molly Greenough (Welfare Officer)

08/11/2021

Signing up to the National Housing & Homelessness Coalition

Council notes: For as long as UCD Students' Union has been in existence, good secure housing has always been a central issue for students. Since the financial crash in 2007, production of housing units floored and is still a fraction of production during the Celtic tiger.

Council Further notes: Students have been disproportionately affected by the lack of housing supply both in Dublin and nationwide. They are faced with discrimination from private landlords, insecure license contracts and extortionate purpose-built student accommodation.

Council Further notes: The National Housing & Homelessness Coalition exists today as the primary campaigning coalition around publicly affordable housing.

Council Further notes: The Coalition already has the support of the Union of Students in Ireland.

Council mandates: University College Dublin Students' Union will sign up the National Housing & Homelessness Coalition so long as they stand within the principles of UCDSU.

Council further mandates: The Campaigns and Engagement Officer and President will work with and promote the campaigns by National Housing & Homelessness Coalition.

Proposed by: Darryl Horan, (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

Seconded by: Ruairi Power, (President)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalHomelessandHousingCoalition>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/_HousingCrisis

08/11/2021

Raising Awareness on the Use of Segregated Waste Bins on Campus

Council notes: We are in the midst of a climate crisis, due to environmental pollution, to which poor waste management is contributing.

Council further notes: The majority of segregated waste bins are contaminated on campus daily, as students are not properly informed on what can and cannot be recycled. This leads to an inability of waste to be correctly disposed of in the most environmentally friendly manner (i.e. recycling cannot be recycled).

Council acknowledges: There are various groups on campus working to educate students on proper waste management, but these efforts are insufficient with regards to eradicating this problem.

Council therefore mandates: That the UCDSU sabbatical team, particularly the President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer, work alongside relevant external and internal organisations to educate students on the proper use of segregated waste facilities.

Council further mandates: That the Environmental Campaign Coordinator and Campaigns & Engagement Officer utilise the SU's social media to achieve this.

Proposed by: Billy Egan (Science College Officer)

Seconded by: Emily Bollard (MSc Environmental Policy Class Rep)

22/11/2021

The Right to Choose

Council Notes: UCD students affirmed their support for the repeal of the 8th amendment and access to abortion services through a referendum in 2016.

Council Acknowledges: While the legislation that followed the repeal of the 8th amendment provided for “unrestricted” access to abortion services up to twelve weeks, significant barriers of access to reproductive health services remain. Major legislative constraints also remain in effect for people seeking abortions in the North of Ireland.

Council Further Acknowledges: Commencement of the scheduled legislative review of the Health Bill (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) 2018 is yet to begin. Pledges from Govt. ministers to legislate against rogue crisis pregnancy agencies, and for the provision of safe access zones remain unfulfilled.

Council Believes: Barriers of access to free, safe, legal and local abortion services underscore failures to date of the Irish Government to create a robust reproductive healthcare programme for women, transgender and non-binary people.

Council Also Believes: Criminalisation of abortion services creates a “chilling effect” for service providers who fear prosecution (e.g. medical professionals who perform an abortion within the mandatory 3-day waiting period, or under certain grounds past the 12-week unrestricted period, may face up to 14 years in prison sentence). Regulation of healthcare provision should be evidence-based, not undermined through political interference.

Council Also Believes: Nobody should fear intimidation, harassment or attempts to misinform when accessing basic healthcare services.

Council Mandates: The UCDSU President and Campaigns and Engagement Officer to advocate for the following:

- Immediate commencement of a consultative legislative review into the Health Bill (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) 2018.
- Repeal of the 12-week limit on provision of abortion services.
- The full decriminalisation of abortion services.

- Removal of barriers of access for migrants and requirement for holding a PPS number to access services.
- Removal of the mandatory 3-day wait.
- Creation of safe access zones around medical facilities which provide abortion services.
- Ensured access to reproductive healthcare services across the country, and phasing out of the principle of conscientious objection in service provision.
- Rollout of universal contraception.
- Regulate the predatory practices of rogue agencies, which provide medically inaccurate and distressing information to pregnant people in vulnerable positions.

Proposed by: Ruairí Power (President).

Seconded by: Niamh Scully (Gender Equality Campaign Coordinator)

22/11/2021

Mask Wearing Requirement in Teaching Settings

Council acknowledges: That Covid-19 has brought about significant challenges for student and staff health in addition to major interruptions to the delivery of on campus teaching and learning.

Council notes: The success of national vaccination efforts to reduce severity of Covid-19 infection and the welcome corresponding reduction in hospitalisations and deaths.

Council also notes: Many students and staff members who are immunocompromised remain at increased risk to health as a result of contracting Covid-19.

Council also notes: The strong evidence base supporting mask wearing as an effective measure to further reduce transmission of Covid-19 as an airborne virus.

Council recognises: Recent NPHEt advice has provided for the removal of state mask mandates on public transport and congregated indoor settings. Mask wearing remains highly encouraged under current advice.

Council believes: That the requirement for mask wearing in teaching settings has played an instrumental role in preventing Covid-19 transmission on campus. The requirement for mask wearing in teaching settings should continue for the remainder of the academic year.

Council therefore mandates: UCD Students' Union joins calls by the IFUT trade union to support the continuation of the mask-wearing requirements for the remainder of the academic year in teaching settings.

Proposed by: Ruairí Power (President)

Seconded by: Molly Greenough (Welfare Officer)

24/10/2022

Supporting the #ebooksos Campaign

Council notes: the ebooks crisis is creating major issues for university and public libraries in regards to publishing practices, pricing and other licensing conditions.

Council recognises: that the current ebooks crisis is causing further inequality in third level education and creating issues surrounding accessibility.

Council therefore mandates: that the Education Officer and the Campaigns and Engagement Officer support the #ebooksos campaign.

Council further mandates: that the Education Officer and the Campaigns and Engagement Officer engage with management within UCD Library, and where they see fit with other Students' Unions and Librarian groups such as the Librarian Association of Ireland, to campaign for more sustainable ebook publishing practices and less onerous licensing agreements.

Proposed by: Martha Ní Riada (Education Officer)

Seconded by: Robyn O'Keeffe (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)

30/01/23

Anti-Racism and the Far-Right

Council notes: There has been an increase in anti-refugee, asylum seeker, and migrant sentiments in recent months, largely orchestrated by the far-right and in response to the housing and health crises.

Council acknowledges: Campaigns such as ‘#IrelandIsFull’ are racist and incredibly dangerous to already marginalised groups in Irish society; a small group of extremists and individuals are orchestrating hatred, violence, and disinformation within our communities.

Council argues: People should be enraged with the ongoing housing and health crises, but the far-right is channelling individuals’ understandable frustrations to the wrong people; Ireland’s housing and health crises are a direct result of successive years of failed Government policy, not our asylum seeking, refugee, or migrant communities.

Council believes: Refugees and migrants enrich our communities and country as a whole; Ireland should strive to be a country where everyone, irrespective of where they were born, can be safe, make a life for themselves, and ultimately thrive.

Council mandates: The President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer to engage with relevant political parties and anti-racist groups.

Council further mandates: The President to liaise with UCD Management to discuss how we can address these sentiments here on campus, especially given our diverse student body.

Proposed by: Molly Greenough, President

Seconded by: Robyn O’Keeffe, Campaigns & Engagement Officer

30/01/22

Motion on Plug Sockets into L023, Sutherland School of Law

Council notes: that the largest and most frequently used lecture theatre in the Sutherland School of Law building does not have plug sockets for use of students in the seats.

Council recognises: students' laptops lose power during lectures, impeding learning and the note taking process for many students.

Council further notes: that the cost of living crisis has a serious effect on many students' ability to have a fully charged laptop for a lecture, and that many students do not have brand new laptops with batteries which can last a full lecture.

Council therefore mandates: that the Law College Officer, with the support of Sabbatical Officers, lobby the relevant UCD bodies on a sufficiently regular basis, particularly UCD Estates Services, for the facilitation of plug sockets into L023, Sutherland School of Law.

Council further mandates that: in accordance with the nature of the College Officer Role, the Law College Officer pursues any other measures that they see fit to pursue the end of plug sockets in L023, Sutherland School of Law.

Proposed by: Robin Jowett (Law College Officer).

Seconded by: Martha Ní Riada (Education Officer).

27/03/2023

Implementation of Education for Sustainable Development in UCD

Council acknowledges: That the students of UCD have a responsibility to introduce more sustainable practices and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into our daily lives on campus.

Council recognises: That anthropogenic climate change has a devastating effect on our environment and requires action from active global citizens as stakeholders.

Council also recognises: The Union's involvement in talking issues detailed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as period poverty, food insecurity and other challenges.

Council also notes: That climate change is an issue facing many people in both the Global North and especially the Global South. The SDG's propose a number of targets to tackle climate change and other issues facing sustainable development. A great number of these issues affect our students.

Council further notes: The obligation of our country to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement (limiting the warming of the Earth to 1.5C by 2100) and how we are not on track to this.

Council further notes: The current opportunity to engage with experienced professionals, such as the new upcoming appointment of Vice President for Sustainability at UCD and the affiliation of UCD Professor, Patrick Paul Walsh, to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

Council believes: This is an issue facing all students going forward with their studies and careers. As the largest university in Ireland, UCD holds great power to change.

Council therefore mandates: The President, Welfare, Campaigns and Engagement Officer and the Education Officer to liaise with UCD regarding opportunities to progress Education for Sustainable

Development by specifically linking with student issues (period poverty, food insecurity, etc).

Council further mandates: UCDSU to advocate for UCD's support with the SDSN along with other leading universities in Ireland.

Proposed by: Will Ryan (BSc Sustainability Stage 3)

Seconded by: Erin Hoare (Environmental Campaign Coordinator)

17/04/2023

Motion on UCD Students' Union's Strategic Planning

Council notes: That the cyclical nature of Students' Unions presents challenges to the development of an organisation that can act as a vehicle of change and a strong voice of students, both here in UCD and at national level.

Council further notes: It is commonplace across both the non-profit and business world for organisations to set out a strategic plan which outlines a clear vision for their development.

Council believes: That many of the challenges facing students and young people, such as the accommodation crisis and the cost of tuition fees, as well as the development of a Students' Union that reflects the wider needs of the UCD students, all require long-term planning and their resolution is certain to involve successive Executive teams.

Council recognises: That UCDSU has undergone a period of strategic review.

Council mandates: That the President set in motion a strategic plan for UCD Students' Union and for this plan to be ratified by the first Council of the next Academic Year.

Council further mandates: That the President publishes a quarterly update on the progress of this strategic plan and circulates this to members of Council.

Proposed by: Molly Greenough (President)

Seconded by: Martha Ní Riada (Education Officer)

17/04/2023

Motion on Support of the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation

Council notes: The Postgraduate Workers' Alliance Ireland (PGWAI) and the PhD's Collective Action Union (PCAU) recently merged to form the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation (PWO) of Ireland.

Council believes: That the entire Irish higher education sector relies upon the work of PhDs in terms of teaching, tutoring, marking, demonstrating, and preparing course materials for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Council condemns: The current exploitation of PhD researchers in Ireland.

Council supports: The demands of the PWO, some of which include: ● Being granted worker status

- Being paid a minimum wage as defined by the Minimum Essential Standards (MES) system
- A fair working week of no more than 48 hours per week
- Removing the need to re-apply for residence every year for non-EU PhDs ● Removal of all extra immigration fees for non-EU PhDs
- Inclusion of time spent as a PhD towards permanent residency in Ireland ● That the spouses and dependents of PhDs be given full working rights in Ireland

Council mandates: The President, Graduate Officer, and Campaigns & Engagement Officer liaise with, support, and platform the PWO at a local and national level.

Proposed by: Molly Greenough (President)

Seconded by: Ciara Moroney (Entertainments Officer)

17/04/2023

Event Accessibility Information

Council notes: Events that happen in UCD Students' Union are diverse and can be of many different types.

Council further notes: Social inclusion takes many forms, and accessibility measures in place for events may benefit people without disabilities as well as those with disabilities.

Council recognizes: Generating accessibility information about events in advance (e.g. sound levels, if the event is standing/sitting, if the venue is wheelchair accessible, etc.) can better inform students of what to expect, and if any arrangements are needed to be made on their behalf.

Council therefore mandates: Events published on the UCD Students' Union website should include accessibility information in their details.

Proposed by: Ciara Moroney (Entertainments Officer)

Seconded by: Kiely McArdle (Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator)

17/04/2023

Emergency Motion on Campaigning Against Greystar Build to Rent Scheme in Monkstown

Council recognises: That community members in Monkstown are campaigning against a Build to Rent scheme proposed by the American Real estate giant Greystar.

Council notes: The community's campaign believes that the proposed development, on a pristine green space with over 200 mature trees poses a grave and immediate threat to the environment and to the biodiversity of the Monkstown Valley.

Council further notes: That corporate 'build to rent' will not provide the type of homes that people in the community need.

Council highlights: That there is an ongoing petition to give the entire community and its supporters the chance to voice their opposition to these plans and to demand the political change necessary to stop development of this nature. The petition calls for:

- The developer to immediately withdraw their plans and consult with the community.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to refuse permission for the proposed development.
- Elected representatives to stand with the community and to sign the petition.
- The Minister for Housing to legislate for proper sustainable development that provides real homes and to ban corporate owned Build to Rent developments.
- The Minister for Finance to end the tax-free status of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) that incentivise the corporatisation of housing.

Council believes: That the values expressed in the petition, and its demands chime with our values for development to be sustainable and for homes to be affordable especially for students.

Council further notes: That Greystar (the company behind the plans) is linked to the tragic balcony collapse in Berkeley, where UCD students suffered grievous and fatal injuries; as such, we do not welcome them into our community.

Council mandates: The President to sign the petition (change.org/nohighrisemonkstown) on behalf of UCD Students' Union and to leave a message of support in line with this motion.

Council further mandates: The President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer to liaise with and support the ‘Stop the High-Rise’ campaign.

Proposed by: Molly Greenough (President)

Seconded by: Martha Ní Riada (Education Officer)

17/04/2023

Support for the Decriminalisation of the Recreational Use of Drugs and Legalisation of Cannabis

Council acknowledges: That the UCDSU is mandated to support the UCD Chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) in their formation and their establishment of awareness campaigns.

Council also acknowledges: That the UCDSU is mandated to advocate for the legalisation of all drugs, in accordance with the relevant motion brought to Council 7 this year (27/2/23), and to make a submission to the upcoming Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use.

Council notes: That Cannabis in Ireland is illegal for recreational purposes and case-by-case approval is required for medical purposes. Despite this, approximately 28% of people in Ireland aged 15-64 years have used cannabis at some point in their lives.

Council also notes: That according to the National Student Drug Survey (2015), 82% of students had tried illicit drugs at least once.

Council further notes: That if a student were to get a criminal conviction for personal use, it can have lifelong implications. It can prevent students from accessing visas to certain countries, jobs that require Gardaí vetting, and certain types of insurance.

Council highlights: That in 2001, Portugal decriminalised the possession of all drugs for recreational use as part of a wider change in policy towards a public health approach. Following the reform, the drug death rates in Portugal fell significantly, which still remain some of the lowest in the EU.

Council recognises: That a recently held consultative referendum on the UCDSU drug policy indicated a majority support from UCD students for the decriminalisation of the recreational use of drugs and the legalisation of cannabis.

Council believes: That although the consultative referendum is not binding, the UCDSU should make a concerted effort to listen to and to work in accordance with the indicative majority opinion of students in the university.

Council also believes: That the decriminalisation of drugs would shift the societal view and approach of the consumption of drugs to that of a public health perspective, rather than that of a criminal justice perspective, whereby users can access safe and regulated drugs.

Council also believes: That anything can be abused, including cannabis or drugs, and irresponsible use should be discouraged with honest, credible, and factual education like provided by the UCD Chapter for Students for Sensible Drugs Policy (SSDP). However, the consumption of cannabis and other drugs should be viewed from a public health perspective, instead of a criminal justice perspective.

Council also believes: That the legalisation of cannabis could create a new revenue stream for the government through taxation, and reduce the costs associated with enforcing cannabis prohibition. This new revenue could be spent on research on the reported benefits of the drug in the fields of chronic pain treatment and therapy.

Council therefore mandates: That the President, Campaigns & Engagement Officer, and Welfare Officer actively lobby and campaign in support of decriminalisation of the recreational use of drugs and legalisation of cannabis for recreational and medical use.

Council further mandates: The President and Welfare Officer make a submission to the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use on behalf of UCD Students' Union, in support of the position outlined in this mandate.

Proposed by: Ryan Corley, Science College Officer.

Seconded by: Caillum Hedderman, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences College Officer.

17/04/2023

Training for UCDSU Council

Council recognises: that all members of UCDSU Council currently receive Union Training after the Class Rep Elections.

Council notes: that all members of UCDSU Council are representatives of the Union and therefore should be equipped with all the tools to carry out their roles to the best of their ability.

Council further notes: the value of training such as LGBTQ+ and Anti-Racism for anyone, particularly those in leadership roles.

Council therefore mandates: that the Campaigns and Engagement Officer organise the appropriate training such as, but not limited to, Anti-Racism and LGBTQ+ Training for UCDSU Council Members.

Proposed by: Robyn O’Keeffe (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)

Seconded by: Molly Greenough (President)

17/04/2023

Sabbatical Officer Training

Council recognises: that the current mandate on Sabbatical Officer Training is due to expire.

Council notes: that Sabbatical Officers interact with large numbers of students and are tasked with a wide range of issues, including student cases which can be of a sensitive nature.

Council recognises: that while the role of a Sabbatical Officer is not that of a counsellor, situations of a sensitive nature do arise and it would be irresponsible not to be prepared for such a situation.

Council therefore mandates: that Sabbatical Officers receive suicide prevention, LGBTQ+, Anti-Racism and Sexual Assault Disclosure Training during the summer. Exceptions may be made in circumstances where Officers do not meet criteria of the training. It shall be the responsibility of the President to ensure that, where appropriate, all Sabbatical Officers undergo the aforementioned training.

Proposed by: Robyn O’Keeffe (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)

Seconded by: Molly Greenough (President)

17/04/2023

The Great Donate

Council recognises: that the current mandate on the Great Donate is due to expire.

Council notes: that UCD Residences do not supply kitchenware for its residents.

Council further notes: that there is a large amount of waste generated in UCD Residences particularly given the high number of international students who live on campus and for whom it is not feasible to bring kitchen items home.

Council further notes: that the Great Donate initiative has been run by UCDSU's Campaigns and Engagement Officers, Environmental Campaign Coordinators as well as many other SU Officers and volunteers since May 2019.

Council further notes: that the Great Donate continues to reduce the number of items that would have otherwise gone to landfill, by collecting kitchen items from students moving out of Residences to then be redistributed to students the following trimester. This also immensely reduces unnecessary costs for incoming students.

Council therefore mandates: that the Campaigns & Engagement Officer, Environmental Campaign Coordinator, Student Residences Coordinator, International Students Coordinator, and the other sabbatical officers continue working on this initiative and continue to work with UCD Global, UCD ResLife and UCD Green Campus to ensure that as little waste is generated as possible.

Proposed by: Robyn O'Keeffe (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

Seconded by: Molly Greenough (President)

The purpose of the initiative is to facilitate the donation of items of kitchenware from UCD Residences to give them back to new residents the following trimester and to save them from going to landfill. So far, it has saved thousands of items of kitchenware from going into landfill.

16/10/23

UCDSU Second Hand Clinical Uniform Sale

Council notes: Students studying health science degrees that undertake clinical placements often have to purchase uniforms which can be expensive, contribute to unnecessary overconsumption and an increase in the individual's carbon footprint. This is an unsustainable practice given the current cost of living and climate crises.

Council believes: That students who have to undertake clinical placements should not be financially disadvantaged by having to purchase expensive uniforms at the beginning of their degree. Council also believes that recent graduates should have the opportunity to sell or donate their uniforms that they no longer need to current students.

Council recognises: The Education Officer and the Health Science College Officer provided a Second Hand Clinical Uniform Sale this year for students which was successful and appealed to the needs of students. The Union accepted donations of uniforms from alumni over the summer, the profits from which were donated to the Unions charity partner. Alumni were also encouraged to come and sell their uniforms on the day for their own profit.

Council therefore mandates: The Health Science College Officer with the support of one or more of the Sabbatical Officers to organise a second hand clinical uniform sale during the Autumn trimester each year where possible to do so.

Council further mandates: The Sabbatical Officers to engage and liaise with alumni/recent graduates to encourage them to donate or participate in the Second Hand Clinical Uniform Sale during the Autumn trimester.

Council acknowledges: That the responsibility of purchasing the correct uniform for clinical placement lies with the individual student and they should adhere to their individual schools/clinical sites' own uniform policy. The union can't guarantee that the most up to date version of uniforms are being sold at the Second Hand Clinical Uniform Sale.

Proposed by: Tia Cullen, (she/her) Health Science College Officer

Seconded by: Sarah McGrath (she/her) Education Officer

16/10/2023

Smurfit Community Survey

Council recognizes: that the UCD Michael Smurfit Business School needs dire community and student experience improvement.

Council notes: that at least 1,300 students attend Smurfit, of which 409 respondents to the first Smurfit Community Survey (22/23) responded with a high dissatisfaction rate for all Smurfit Campus' amenities, transport, societies, clubs, facilitation and student culture.

Council further notes: The survey results have brought about necessary impactful change, which will be implemented during the summer and 23-24 term.

Council reaffirms: the need to push University Management and Smurfit consistently for these changes as promised to be implemented for current and future generations of students.

Council repeats: that the Smurfit campus is isolated, neglected and vastly outdated and that UCD students should avail of a vibrant college experience that is well-rounded, social and developmental.

Council therefore mandates: that the Graduate Officer, Campaigns and Engagement Officer, International Students Coordinator, and any other current or proposed SU positions relating to Smurfit and student experience continue the Smurfit Community Survey as an annual duty to ensure that the campus is included and kept in high standard in the student experience.

Proposed by: Marc Matouc (Graduate Officer)

Seconded by: Miranda Bauer (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)

**The purpose of this survey is crucial in improving our college experience especially after the pandemic, community-building is vital after 2 years of social isolation and it's important to instill a sense of empowerment and connection to students by making college a fun, safe and explorative environment.*

06/11/2023

Palestinian Solidarity

Council notes: The deeply concerning nature of the escalation of violence in the occupied Palestinian territories and in Israel in recent weeks, the resulting loss of innocent lives, and the potential for further escalation in the Middle East.

Council further notes: These developments are a direct outcome of Israel's blockade and restriction of Gaza and the West Bank, along with its policies of apartheid and the forced displacement it enforces in the West Bank and within its own boundaries.

Council believes: Calls that Gaza maintains access to essential necessities such as food, medicine, fuel, and humanitarian aid should immediately be heeded, but they do not go far enough. The plight of the Palestinian people has been fastened by the role played by the international community, in particular the United States and the European Union, both of which have been active participants on the perpetuation of war crimes against the Palestinian people.

Council further believes: The raid carried out by Hamas on October 7th has been rightly condemned. It is still vital that the broader context and root cause of this violence, decades of hostile military rule over an entire civilian population, is not forgotten. Therefore, we also condemn elements within the media which seek to offer propaganda cover for the colossal damage being done to Gaza, as well as the world's largest social media platforms, which appear to be curtailing the reach of content that is critical of the actions of the Israeli Government.

Council acknowledges: The deep emotional toll of the violence on students from impacted communities and stands in solidarity with students facing heightened levels of Islamophobia and antisemitism.

Council recognises: Since 2018, UCD Students' Union has been a supporter of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign and in line with policy set by Union Council, has organised Palestine Awareness initiatives both on campus and online.

Council therefore mandates: The President and the Campaigns & Engagement Officer to lead UCD Students' Union in calling upon international powers and the Israeli Government to bring about an immediate ceasefire and bring the campaign of genocide to a halt.

Council further mandates: UCD Students' Union, as previously mandated in 2021, to continue to hold Palestine Awareness week events each year in conjunction with relevant societies, interest groups, and the wider student body. This will fall under the remit of the Campaigns & Engagement Officer.

Proposed by: Martha Ní Riada (she/her, UCDSU President)

Seconded by: Miranda Bauer (she/her, UCDSU Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

06/11/23

Lecture Recordings

Council recognises: Rights of students with disabilities are still heavily unsupported by lecturers campus-wide.

Council notes: Access to a "University for All" requires that learning must be accessible and equal for all students, regardless of their ability to be physically present in every lecture.

Council further notes: The requirement for lecturers to provide either lecture recordings or legible, typed lecture notes (or both, if they wish) would be an invaluable resource for students unable to attend some or all lectures due to their personal circumstances.

Council also notes: Some professors may face strong reluctance to provide lecture recordings (due to concerns of job security or intellectual property protection, for example), and the option to solely provide legible lecture notes is paramount to ensuring university-wide compliance with this motion.

Council reaffirms: The rights of disabled students and their access to their course material is heavily infringed by the lack of a general requirement to provide such resources, and it would be to the student body's benefit to request the same.

Council therefore mandates: That the Education Officer, Welfare Officer and Disability Campaign Coordinator lobby every college in UCD to ensure that lecturers provide either lecture recordings or lecture notes as these resources would provide an invaluable access to education that is currently lacking for many disabled students.

Proposed by: Kylie McCardel (Disability Rights Campaigns Coordinator)

Seconded by: Jill Nelis (Welfare Officer)

20/11/2023

Motion to ban the sale of disposable vapes

Council notes: the increasing trends of disposable vape use among young people. This issue has been mentioned a lot in the media in recent weeks as the Minister for Health debates how to tackle this problem.

Council acknowledges: the negative public health benefits associated with the use of nicotine in e-cigarettes and the significant long-term health effects associated with it. These include respiratory issues, exposure to unknown chemicals, headaches, and nausea. These are problems that could be avoided in a time where our national healthcare system is already under pressure.

Council believes: that young people are not aware of the environmental hazards associated with disposable vapes. Single use vapes create large amounts of hazardous waste that is littering our streets. An estimated 5 million vapes are thrown away in the UK each week (Greenpeace, 2023). They are not widely recyclable and include a mix of important finite resources such as copper and lithium which are mined from developing nations where the communities and wildlife face serious injustices due to these Western endeavours.

Council recognises: the Irish Government's interest in banning disposable vapes following the proposal from the Minister for the Circular Economy.

Council further recognises: that the government has also discussed a "crackdown" on the colours and advertising used but no legislation has been brought about yet.

Council therefore mandates: the Campaigns and Engagement officer and the Welfare officer to lobby the Irish government to create legislation to ban the sale of disposable vapes.

Council further mandates: the Union to increase awareness about the negative public health and environmental health effects on this issue.

Proposed by: Erin Hoare (Science College Officer)

Seconded by: Ellen Curran (Environmental Campaign Coordinator)

20/11/23

Motion on data collection for accessibility purposes

Council recognises: Rights of students with barriers to education are still heavily unsupported by lecturers campus-wide, and the support of college officers to collect information on particular issues facing students is paramount to overcoming these obstacles.

Council notes: College officers and their unique position would provide invaluable access to information through their relationships with class reps regarding any failings in the classrooms, from the perspective of individual colleges' students, to provide access to taught materials.

Council reaffirms: The rights of students facing barriers to education and their access to education is paramount to ensuring the "University for All" motto is factually upheld.

Council therefore mandates: The Welfare officer and the Disability Rights Campaigns Coordinator to create a survey on accessibility issues and barriers to education in the classroom drawing from the survey launched in 2023 by the HEA.¹

Council further mandates: College Officers to work on the distribution of this survey to class representatives, and, where applicable, the general student body.

Council also mandates: College Officers must present the survey in one of their College Councils throughout the semester and open the floor to discuss the topic at hand.

** The data collected from this survey will allow the Welfare Officer and the Disability Rights Campaigns Coordinator to effectively communicate information on accessibility, specifically areas of note where access is limited, to ALL/EDI to find a suitable remedy where current accessibility remedies fail. **

Proposed by: Kylie McCardel (Disability Rights Campaigns Coordinator)

Seconded by: Erin Hoare (Science College Officer) and Jill Nelis (Welfare Officer)

¹ <https://hea.ie/statistics/data-for-download-and-visualisations/students/widening-participation-for-equity-of-access/student-disability-data-2023/>

20/02/2023

Alumni Memory Benches

Council notes: That UCD lacks benches in the outside and garden areas of both campuses (Belfield and Blackrock).

Council also notes: That UCD has a strong alumni network.

Council recognises: Trinity College already has benches sponsored by their alumni network, which would solve the funding question.

Council acknowledges: That the organisation of memory benches at UCD is easily feasible by contacting the responsible persons at Trinity College to take them as a benchmark to realise this vision for UCD as well.

Council therefore mandates: That one or more members of the Sabbatical Team builds up a contact with the relevant stakeholders at UCD to facilitate the placing of the benches in all outside areas of UCD including Blackrock.

Council also mandates: In addition, the mandated officer/s should establish contact with the relevant partners at Trinity College to gain knowledge about their existing processes and procurement. Based on this the mandated officer/s should support the decision takers at UCD to create an own process for UCD. This process shall include how the benches will be procured, the cost for the alumni and how to set it up.

Council also mandates: The Business College Officer collaborates with mandated officer/s to ensure bench installation at Blackrock, promoting further equality for both campuses.

Council further mandates: A fair distribution of benches should be ensured in case of success of the motion.

Council further mandates: That mandated officer/s must provide an update to the Union Council about the state of work once a term until the achievement or failure of this motion.

Proposed by: Simon van Beek (he/him, Business College Officer)

Seconded by: Marc Matouc (he/him, Graduate Officer)

20/02/2024

Toilet brushes at UCD

Council notes: that almost no toilet at UCD is provided with toilet brushes.

Council acknowledges: that frequently used toilets (e.g. James Joyce toilets during exam time) are getting over the day pretty soon pretty disgusting.

Council further acknowledges: that going in the afternoon of exam time to different toilets on campus can be an unpleasant experience.

Council believes: A more frequent cleaning does not make sense from a cost perspective whereas toilet brushes can be a quick and cheap solution to provide cleanliness for everyone.

Council therefore mandates: The C&E Officer to make toilet brushes available for all toilets at UCD.

Proposed by: Simon van Beek (he/him, Business College Officer)

Seconded by: Marc Matouc (he/him, Graduate Officer)

20/02/24

Information Session for International Students

Council notes: International students moving to Ireland to study in UCD, have to deal with a number of challenges while settling in and immigrating to a new country, some international student fail to attend the immigration sessions organised by UCD GLOBAL due to late arrivals and some important points (like emergency taxes and arranging a PPS number) are not covered in the traditional information sessions organised by UCD.

Council Recognises: an Information Session for International Students was organised by Campaigns and Engagements Officer and International Students Campaigns Coordinator this year which was successful and all the attendees had positive feedback. It was the first time such an initiative for particularly international students was taken by UCDSU.

Council acknowledges:

An information session for international students in a university abroad is essential for several reasons;

1. Immigration Rules: International students must understand and comply with the immigration rules and regulations of the host country to ensure legal status and avoid any issues.
2. Taxes: Guidance on tax regulations ensures that international students are aware of their responsibilities and can navigate the tax system appropriately, preventing potential legal complications.
3. Managing Finances: Information on managing finances, including setting up a local bank account, helps students adapt to the financial system of the host country and avoid unnecessary fees. Examples of Revolut and AIB were presented as recommendations.
4. Transportation: Familiarising students with bus routes and transportation options helps them navigate the local area efficiently, promoting independence and reducing stress. The process of getting a Leap Card was highlighted.
5. College Services: Awareness of the services offered by the college, such as academic support, counselling, and career services, helps students make the most of available resources.
6. Communication: Information about setting up a local SIM card and affordable communication options ensures that students can stay connected with their families and friends without incurring high costs.
7. Health and Safety: Color Codes of Weather Warnings in Ireland and advice on healthcare services available in the college contribute to the well-being and safety of international students, helping them adapt to local conditions.

8. Health Insurance: Understanding the importance of health insurance and the coverage it provides is crucial for international students, especially in countries where healthcare may be expensive. VHI was recommended for International Students as it has a special partnership with UCD for discounted prices.

9. Cultural Adjustment: Information sessions can offer insights into cultural norms and practices, aiding international students in adapting to their new environment and fostering a sense of belonging. Location of International Stores like Asian, Japanese etc. were highlighted.

In summary, an information session addresses practical aspects of living and studying abroad, empowering international students to navigate various challenges, adhere to local regulations, and make the most of their academic and cultural experience.

Council believes: such information sessions should also be made available online for students that are looking for information from a reliable source. Council further recommends, it would be helpful if information about resources on how to find accommodation in Dublin could be incorporated into the current model.

Council therefore mandates: The International Students' Campaigns Coordinator with the support of Campaigns and Engagements Officer or more of the Sabbatical Officers to organise an Information Session for International Students during September or early October of Autumn trimester each year where possible to do so.

Proposed by: Simran Khatri (she/her) Stage 2, International Students' Campaigns Coordinator

Seconded by: Miranda Bauer, Campaigns and Engagements Officer

04/03/2024

Introduction of reports in relation to work done on motions within the policy book by the relevant positions to each policy.

Council notes: That there is not currently updates or reports provided in relation to any work being completed on previously passed motions within the policy book.

Council acknowledges: That council members and students should have the ability to visibly see work that is completed in relation to the motions within the policy book through sabbatical reports within every council.

Council believes: That the ability to see progress in relation to motions previously passed through written format creates a level of accessibility and enables progress tracking for both sabbatical officers and council members. We are all striving to show council members and the student-body alike the progress that has been made on motions in relation to campaigns and general SU movements.

Council recognises: That sabbatical officers currently follow through on upholding most of the motions within the policy book. Council further recognises that not all progress is outwardly visible in relation to specific topics discussed in a number of the motions in the policy book.

Council therefore mandates: That the sabbatical officers, President, Graduate, Campaigns & Engagement, Welfare, Education and Entertainments create reports on the progress of motions in which they are mandated to work on, and additionally state in these reports if certain motions in relation to themselves cannot be followed through on due to barricades or complications. Council mandates that these reports are discussed/made available added to sabbatical reports at every council.

Proposed by: Shauna Young (she/her, non-alcoholic ents officer)

Seconded by: Cillian Murphy (he/him, EngArch College Officer)

04/03/2024

Monitoring the system due to replace Direct Provision

Council Notes: That the Direct Provision system has provided services for asylum seekers in Ireland and is due to be replaced by a new International Protection Support Service by the end of 2024, and the conditions and regulations of the new Service are outlined in the ‘White Paper on Ending Direct Provision’.

Council Also Notes: That Direct Provision has been a dehumanising way to treat asylum seekers, denying them of many of their basic freedom and for this reason. Direct provision was first created by the government as a short-term solution for asylum seekers but ended as a long-term one, with many people having to live in Direct Provision for 7 years or more, being described most often by residents as an “open prison”. The Irish Refugee Council (IRC) have stated that “Food available [in direct provision centres] may not be suitable to cultural and religious beliefs of residents.” They also state that “there are cases of malnutrition among children and expectant mothers.” There have been two hunger strikes, one protesting small portion sizes and the other protesting hospitalisation.

Council Acknowledges: That there was a motion passed in 2021 to take an official boycott stance on Direct Provision with the aim of bringing awareness of the flaws of that system to the student body and to bring the attention of the government to this inhumane system of living.

Council Also Acknowledges: That Direct Provision has set a precedent in Ireland that indicates that asylum seekers are considered to be second-class citizens, which means that there are valid concerns about the efficacy and humanity of new systems put in place to manage refugees’ residency in Ireland.

Council Therefore Mandates: That the UCDSU and more specifically, the Campaigns & Engagement officer, monitor the new system put in place to replace the ‘Direct Provision’ system to ensure that it is a humane reception system in line with international best practice.

Council Also Mandates: That UCDSU campaigns and works with like-minded bodies to ensure this happens.

Proposed by: Miranda Bauer (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

Seconded by: Saskia McCormack Eiffe (Gender Equality Campaigns Coordinator)

25/03/2024

Motion on Improvements for Information about Erasmus/Internship/Placement for Students

Council notes: the issues which students are facing within the processes for the Erasmus programmes, internships and placements.

Council acknowledges: that students cannot receive the full benefits of these programmes unless they are well-informed and supported both during the application/allocation processes and the duration of these programmes until their completion.

Council believes: that students deserve to be well-informed during the application/allocation processes for these opportunities and should have received the promised benefits of these programmes upon their completion.

Council recognises: the concerns raised by students during or following their participation in these programmes, as well as the increasing awareness among faculty about the issues that students are facing.

Council therefore mandates: College Officers to liaise with the relevant staff member within the Programme Offices and/or Exchange Offices in order to advocate for the implementation of information sessions for students prior to their applications/allocation for places on the Erasmus/Internship/Placement programmes in order to facilitate the sharing of feedback and experiences of students on these programmes in previous years.

Council further mandates: College Officers to liaise with the relevant staff member within the Programme Offices and/or Exchange Offices in order to advocate for the implementation of information sessions for students following the allocation/acceptance of places on the Erasmus/Internship/Placement programmes in order to facilitate the sharing of institution or organisation-specific offers.

Proposed by: Aisling Maloney (she/her) - Law College Officer

Seconded by: Sarah McGrath (she/her) - Education Officer

15/04/2024

Polasaí Gaeilge

Council notes: that Irish is Ireland's native language with Constitutional protection.

Council acknowledges: many students who speak Irish would like to see the Union take a leading position of the use of the Irish language

Council believes: that the Union should do more to promote the Irish language on campus and hold UCD accountable for promoting Irish on campus

Council recognises: The Union's constitution holds a special position for the Irish language. The Union has the Oifigeach na Gaeilge on the Executive which further recognises the special position on the Irish language. The Union also holds an annual Seachtain na Gaeilge celebration with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

Council therefore mandates: that the Union adopt the Irish Language Policy / Polasaí Gaeilge to improve the Unions use and responsibility in Irish.

Proposed by: Aoibhinn Brentnall, Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Seconded by: Sarah McGrath (she/her), Education Officer, Oifigeach Oideachais

15/04/2024

Mandate for Gender Affirming Products to continue to be provided by the Union

Council Notes: The difficulty of receiving gender based healthcare in Ireland currently

Council Acknowledges: Accessing Trans Healthcare and gender affirming products is both costly and difficult.

Council Believes: That all students who need access to Gender Affirming Products should be able to do so without having to sacrifice any financial security or having any long wait time.

Council Recognises: That while this is not a permanent solution to the issues that are happening all around Ireland in regards to accessing trans healthcare and gender affirming products it will assist a small population of the student body who really need it.

Council Therefore Mandates: That the Welfare Officer will continue to provide free Gender Affirming Products and the Welfare Officer along with the rest of the sabbatical officers will continue to lobby the university and the government to provide better care for Trans people in Ireland.

Proposed by Jill Nelis (She/Her Welfare Officer)

Seconded by Saskia McCormack-Effie (She/Her Gender and Equality Campaigns Coordinator)

15/04/2024

Formalising SU activities for Orientation to promote integration of incoming students

Council notes: The engagement of the UCD Students' Union with the UCD Community is and has always been an important and integral goal.

Council also notes: That a connection gap between the SU and students might arise when new students join UCD.

Council acknowledges: The Union is capable of bringing about change in students' experience in UCD and it is crucial that a lack of information does not act as a barrier for students to engage with the Union.

Council therefore mandates: the Sabbatical Officers to formalise SU activities and promotions during the Orientation period and/or early weeks of autumn trimester. This could include but is not limited to information leaflets about our services, information sessions about the SU and our website, SU event calendars, meet and greets, theatre/ drama/ informative and fun events to depict the role of SU in UCD etc. to maximise the outreach of our purpose and services.

Proposed by: Simran Khatri (International Students' Campaigns Coordinator, she/her)

Seconded by: Miranda Bauer (Campaigns & Engagement Officer, she/her)