

**Policy Book 2020/2021**

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UCD Students’ Union2020/2021

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**29/1/18**

## **UCDSU’s Drug Policy**

**Council notes:** UCDSU’s previous Drug Awareness campaigns i.e. (What’s in the Pill, What’s in the Powder) and other related materials.

**Council acknowledges:** that these campaigns are built on a principle of harm reduction through awareness. These campaigns aim to provide students who would take drugs with helpful and necessary information in an effort to reduce and raise awareness of the risks associated with doing so.

**Council believes:** that previous National Drug Abstention campaigns such as “Just Say No” are somewhat ineffective and fail to provide useful information surrounding drug use.

**Council recognises:** the positive actions taken by UCDSU and the information provided in relation to drug awareness and harm reduction which have greatly benefitted the students of UCD.

**Council therefore mandates:** that UCDSU adopt a Drug Policy of awareness and harm reduction in all publications and media. This shall be the responsibility of the Campaigns & Engagement Officer and the Welfare Officer.

**Proposed by:** Thomas Monaghan (Stage 3 Social Science Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**29/1/18**

## **Students for Sensible Drugs**

**Council notes:** That UCDSU has previously worked to create drug awareness and promote safe usage in its Winging It publication, related campaigns and poster campaigns.

**Council further notes:** That it’s an undeniable fact that some students take drugs.

**Council therefore mandates:** That the UCDSU Welfare Officer along with the Campaigns & Engagement Officer publish further information on safe drug usage.

**Council further mandates:** In order to promote safe drug usage and awareness around the issue, UCDSU should support the UCD Chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) in their formation and their establishment of awareness campaigns.

**Proposed by:** Barry Murphy (President)

**Seconded by:** Eoghan MacDomhnaill (Welfare Officer)

**29/1/18**

## **Mandatory Training for All Officers**

**Council Notes:** That the role of the Union Officers includes bettering the UCD community and ensuring the wellbeing of UCD students.

**Council Also Notes:** That the Union Officers speak to students and staff alike within the UCD community on a daily basis.

**Council Recognises:** That mental health is extremely important, and awareness is key to improving the UCD community.

**Council Further Notes:** That at present the Union Officers do not under go any mandatory training apart from what the individual Union Officer deems appropriate.

**Council Therefore Mandates:** That all Officers of the students’ union have mandatory SafeTALK training. This training should occur upon taking up their role or in the interim between being elected and taking up the role as a union Officer. SafeTALK training can only benefit the UCD community be empowering Union Officers to help reduce suicide risk in the UCD community.

**Proposed by:** Melissa Plunkett (Mature Students Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded by:** Katie Kilgannon (Residences Campaign Coordinator)

**12/2/18**

## **Electoral Reforms**

**Council believes:** That although Elections are an important aspect of a democratic Students’ Union, these should be conducted in such a way that they cause minimum grievance to the UCD community and they respect the University and the environment.

**Council notes:** That in the past elections, there have been cases of littering of campaign materials by campaign teams with some materials not being cleared even after the election results are declared. This goes against the SU policy on environment and causes some amount of reputational damage to the Students’ Union.

**Council mandates:** ​That the President of the UCD Students’ Union convey to the Union returning officer that Council wishes:

**1.** That the number of printed election material available to each candidate be significantly reduced or halved.

**2.** That candidates be encouraged to reuse any flyers or manifesto’s which may be littered in any buildings and any damaged material be recycled immediately.

**3.** That candidates be made solely responsible for their campaign material and candidates be penalized by the Returning Officer should they find a candidate in breach of any of these regulations repeatedly.

**Council further mandates: ​** That the Students’ Union encourage prospective candidates to maximize their canvassing through social media and digital platforms through a handbook for prospective candidates, workshops on running for office or any other means which the Executive may deem appropriate. The Screens in the SU shops and libraries can also be used to serve this purpose with each candidate being given an equal amount of exposure.

**Proposed by:** Pranav Kashyap Narasimhan (Master of Science -Business Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Alan Buckley (Stage 4 Science Class Representative)

**12/2/18**

## **UCD against Direct Provision**

**Council Notes:** That the Direct Provision system provides services for asylum seekers in Ireland. That Direct provision was first created by the government as a short-term solution for Asylum seekers but has not gone away with many people having to live in Direct provision for up to 7 years, being described most often by residents as an “open prison”.

**Council Also Notes:** Asylum seekers are people who have had to flee their country out of fear of persecution. The conditions in which they live in of are extremely poor with People living in direct provision not being allowed to work or cook for themselves and are only given €21.60 a week to live on.

**Council Further Notes:** That Direct Provision is a dehumanising way to treat asylum seekers, denying them of many of their basic freedom and for this reason, the UCDSU stand against direct provision and campaign against this “dehumanising” system of living. Council Recognises: That 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 Therefore Mandates:** That the UCDSU takes an official boycott stance on Direct provision, and everything that aids this system. That UCDSU therefore campaign and protest with the aim of bringing awareness of Direct Provision to the student body and to bring the attention of the government to this inhumane system of living.

**Council also mandates:** That the UCDSU and more specifically, the Campaigns & Engagement officer, Campaign for the end of the ‘Direct Provision’ system and the introduction of a humane reception system in line with international best practice.

**Proposed by:** Rosaleen Al Johmani (Arts, Human Sciences & Celtic Studies College Officer)

**Seconded by:** Sophie Gibbons (Stage One Economics Class Representative)

**26/2/18**

## **Student Engagement on the Blackrock Campus**

**Council believes:** That it is the duty of the Students’ Union to represent all registered UCD students and therefore there is a need to devise a plan to build better engagement with the students on the Smurfit campus.

**Council notes:** That there are currently over 1,000 postgraduate business students who are based in the Blackrock campus who are completely disconnected to the events on the main campus and so are disengaged with the Students’ Union.

**Council acknowledges:** The efforts made by Graduate Officers and College Officers for the School of Business and Law, both present and past, in trying to build better engagement with the Smurfit students.

**Council mandates:** That the Students’ Union organize a few events from future campaigns and initiatives like the Mind Body & Soul week, Mental Health week, RAG week etc on the Blackrock campus as well as smaller events such as Mixers, Coffee Afternoons or any other event which the Graduate Officer may deem appropriate to build better engagement on the Smurfit Campus and increase the SU identity.

**Council further mandates:** ​That the Graduate Officer provide condoms, pregnancy tests and any welfare support during their weekly office hours on the Blackrock campus for the benefit of students who may not be able to access them from the Welfare Office and that these be advertised widely to students.

**Council also Mandates:** That the President highlight the lack of student (society) activities and in the Blackrock campus on the Student Activities committee or any relevant boards.

**Proposed by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**Seconded by:** Ayrton Kelly (Business & Law College Officer)

**26/2/18**

## **Improving Conditions for PhD students**

**Council notes:** That UCD has the highest number of PhD and Doctoral students/candidates of any third level institution in Ireland with 1,500+ PhD candidates alone.

**Council believes:** That doing a PhD is a particularly strenuous and difficult undertaking and that many of these students are often forgotten by the university and by the SU when lobbying to improve conditions for students.

**Council acknowledges:** ​That many of these PhD students are severely underpaid (below minimum wage) for their work. PhD students often provide labour essential to the university such as lab demonstrations and tutorials. Many of these PhD students provide upwards of 60 (sometime over 100) contact hours per semester which are vital to students learning.

**Council further notes:** Many of these students are also not registered as employed by the university which can create difficulties when applying for social welfare, a bank loan or if they need to take sick leave/maternity leave, etc. Many of these students’ stipends have also not been adjusted in accordance with the rising costs of living and attending university.

**Council Mandates:** That the President, C&E officer and the Graduate officer, with the help of the executive, urgently highlight the plight of these PhD students on any relevant boards on which they sit.

**Council Further Mandates:** The SU to lobby for improvements on their behalf including increasing the value of their stipends, and ensuring they are registered as working within the University where they provide tutorial/demonstration hours.

**Proposed by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**Seconded by:** Barry Murphy (President)

**26/2/18**

## **Postgraduate Fee Certainty**

**Council notes:** That UCD postgraduate fees are subject to an approximate increase of 4% (usually around €500) year-on-year.

**Council further notes:** That Postgraduates who are receiving external funding have their funding agreements set at the same amounts year-on- year from when they enter.

**Council acknowledges: ​** That finances are often tight for all students, including postgraduates. However, multi-year students (H.Dips, Masters &amp; PhDs) are particularly exposed as their fees may increase by €500 each year. This would leave a 4-year PhD student paying €5000 more than the fees originally advertised to them when entering.

**Council therefore mandates:** That the SU President and Graduate officer lobby the registrar, president and any other relevant bodies to introduce a policy where the amount a multi-year postgraduate student may pay per year is frozen at the amount paid at the point of entry.

**Proposed by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**Seconded by:** Pranav Kashyap Narasimhan (Master of Science-Business Class Representative)

**26/2/18**

## **Postgraduate Student Supports**

**Council notes:** That the UCDSU graduate officer currently handles a large amount of casework relating to Postgraduate issues such as a change of supervisor, a breakdown of the relationship between the student and school, difficulties in receiving research budgets, a lack of necessary amenities/lab facilities, recognition of employment, etc.

**Council further notes:** That Postgraduates who experience such issues often interact with their supervisor, Doctoral Studies Panel, or school to try and resolve these issues.

**Council regrets:** That Postgraduate students, especially PhD students, can often feel vulnerable when attempting to address these sensitive issues, particularly where they have been met by a negative attitude by UCD staff (academic and/or administrative) in the past and as this may result in a souring of the students’ relationship with academics and staff who may be key for the students’ development and careers prospects.

**Council therefore mandates:** That the SU Education officer and Graduate officer lobby the university to introduce a Postgraduate student advisor who can help deal with some of this casework. They will also lobby introduce a clear structure outlining academic hierarchies which is easily accessible to students allowing them to more easily identify how an issue may be escalated before becoming a formal complaint.

**Proposed by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**Seconded by:** Colm Flynn (Stage 1 Master of Social Science & Social Work Class Representative)

**26/2/18**

## **Responsible Alcohol Consumption**

**Council notes:** That recent studies have shown that there is a dangerous culture of high-risk binge drinking globally and they have shown this to have a negative impact on the physical and mental health of students well as affect students economically.

**Council believes:** That although alcohol plays a role in the active role in the social aspect of university life, safe and responsible alcohol consumption is essential for student welfare and safety.

**Council acknowledges:** That a large portion of UCD students do not drink and are uncomfortable attending events associated with drinking.

**Council therefore mandates:** That the Students’ Union promote safe and responsible drinking and promote awareness about the negative effects of alcohol abuse and unmoderated binge drinking on campus and in residences, and to refrain from promoting events based solely on such behaviour.

**Council further mandates:** The Welfare Officer shall have full discretion to run campaigns to promote safe and responsible alcohol consumption along with the Campaigns & Engagement officer and Residence coordinator.

**Council also mandates:** That the Students’ Union organise a range of non-alcohol related events to encourage students with different attitudes towards alcohol to get involved and engage with the SU.

**Proposed by:** Eoghan Mac Domhnaill (Welfare Officer)

**Seconded by:** Pranav Kashyap Narasimhan (Master of Science-Business Class Representative)

**26/2/18**

## **Improving Engagement Amongst Less Involved Student Cohorts**

**Council notes:** UCDSU generally sees very low levels of engagement from certain schools within UCD while seeing generally higher levels of engagement in other schools.

**Council also notes:** These schools that show lower levels of engagement are generally the smaller schools within UCD. For example: Architecture and Veterinary.

**Council acknowledges:** Efforts have been made to increase and maintain engagement from these schools in the past but there has been little improvement.

**Therefore, council mandates:** That the Campaigns & Engagement Officer and relative College Officers implement an increased effort to engage with these schools and recruit class reps from them.

**Council further mandates:** That this increased effort includes:

* Lecture addressing every class group from within these schools.

· Emailing each Head of School, asking them to remind their module co-ordinators and lecturers to not select class reps but to hand anyone interested a nomination form so they can be officially elected as an SU class rep.

· Arrange to speak at the peer mentor training and dean’s welcomes of the targeted schools.

**Proposed by:** Barry Murphy (President)

**Seconded by:** Eoghan Mac Domhnaill (Welfare Officer)

**3/4/18**

## **Minimum BER for Rental Properties**

**Council notes**: that since 1st January 2007, all buildings being constructed, leased, or sold are required to have a Building Energy Rating. This rating refers to the building’s energy efficiency.

**Council further notes**: that a living in a building with a better BER rating is better for student’s welfare as they are warmer and is cheaper because of reduced heating bills. Also, the harm to the environment will be reduced as less energy will be needed to heat the building.

**Council also notes:** that a BER rating of C (based on 150m2 4 bed semi d, from seai website) has an annual fuel cost of €1,900

**Council therefore mandates:** that the president, C&E officer, and welfare officer lobby the government to introduce a policy requiring all buildings to be leased for human dwelling have a minimum BER of C.

**Proposed:** Conor Doran (Environmental Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded:** Niall Gallagher (Stage 4 Agricultural Science Class Representative)

**3/4/18**

## **Blackrock Shuttle Service**

**Council Notes: ​** That there are currently around 1,000 postgraduate business students and around 275 students who are living in UCD Residences on the Blackrock campus.

**Council further notes:** That there is no direct means of transport between the 2 campuses and problems with the public transport between the two campuses being irregular and unreliable are well known.

**Council Believes:** That a direct shuttle bus service between the two campuses allowing those living on residences, students and staff to travel between both campuses and gain access to the facilities and services available on both campuses.

**Council mandates:** ​ That the President or any relevant member of the executive lobby UCD Estate services to study the feasibility of a shuttle bus between UCD and the Blackrock campus either in conjunction with the current service to Sydney Parade station or replacing the existing service and connecting to Blackrock DART station instead and implementing this should the analysis prove positive.

**Council further mandates:** That the Students’ Union lobby the National Transport Authority and Dublin Bus to improve the frequency and reliability of the Dublin Bus Route 17 which not only connects the Belfield and Blackrock campuses, but also links both to the Windy Arbour Luas station.

**Proposed by:** Pranav Kashyap Narasimhan (Master of Science-Business Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Ayrton Kelly (Business and Law College Officer)

**3/4/18**

## **Non-EU Student Registration**

**Council Notes: ​** That the current UCD student community is made up of over 6,000 International and Erasmus students who form roughly 25% of the membership of the Students’ Union.

**Council further notes:** That at present students from Outside the European Union must register with the Department of Justice and Equality and gain an Irish Residence Permit to seek employment and get a PPS number and extend their stay for a 1-year period. The current process of getting an appointment for registration is quite inefficient, and students have had to wait for several months to get an appointment to register during which time they may not be able to seek employment or travel outside the country.

**Council Believes:** That International Students are an important part of the diverse student population in UCD and they should be made to feel welcome so that they can integrate into student life at UCD.

**Council mandates: ​** That the President contact and work with other Universities and Students’ Unions in the Republic of Ireland to lobby the Irish National Immigration Service (INIS) and the Department of Justice and Equality to organize separate days for student registration or increase the number of student appointments available during the start of the academic year in order to simplify the process for every Non-EU Student in Irish third level institutions.

**Council further mandates:** That the Welfare Officer, the Campaigns & Engagement Officer and the International Co-ordinator work with the International Student Adviser and ensure that:

**1)** Information on registering with INIS or a link to where a student may obtain this information maybe published on the SU website or any handbook for new students.

**2)** The Welfare Officer be adequately informed about the difficulties these students face and do that they can provide any welfare related assistance to International students who may require it.

**3)** The C&E Officer and the International Coordinator organize relevant campaigns and events at the start of the year to connect with new International and Exchange students so that they can engage with the SU and get assistance should they require it.

**4)** That the C&E officer and Irish Language Officer work with relevant International societies to run events such as Trad nights, Ceili nights and Language workshops so that these groups of students can experience the best of Irish language and culture.

**Proposed by:** Pranav Kashyap Narasimhan (Master of Science-Business Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Anurag Banerjee (Master of Science Class Representative)

**5/11/18**

## **Awareness around Immigration Appointments**

**Council Notes:** That the wellbeing of international students is important.

**Council Further Notes:** That many international students who are from non-EEA countries are facing undue stress trying to book an appointment with the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service (INIS) which can negatively impact their mental health, academic performance and financial situation.

**Council Acknowledges:** That there is a lack of awareness within UCD surrounding the

stresses and obstacles international students are experiencing in relation to trying to book an appointment with INIS.

**Council Believes:** That the Students’ Union, being the representative body for all UCD

students should help raise awareness around the issue of booking INIS appointments.

**Council Mandates:** That the President write and publish an open letter to the Minister of Justice and Equality which includes:

**1)** Highlighting the undue stresses facing international students at UCD regarding INIS

appointments.

**2)** Highlighting the value international students have to UCD and to Ireland

**3)** Calling for greater improvements to be made to the current system

**4)** Calling for an increase in resources to the GNIB/INIS

**Council Further Mandates:** That the President write this letter in conjunction with the

International Students Coordinator.

**Proposed by:** Andrew Grossen (International Students Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded by:** Robert Smith (Doctorates - College of Human Sciences)

\*\*An amendment was passed by council which agreed that the **welfare officer** would also work with the International Co-ordinator on the above issues.

**11/2/19**

## **Campaign for Climate Action Ireland**

**Council acknowledges:** Climate Action Ireland is a coalition of multiple environmental groups, working together to steer change in Irish environmental policy. They participate in direct actions, ie. occupying Government buildings, protests and make policy submissions to Government.

**Council notes:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s report which states “rapid change needed to avert global climate chaos”

**Council recognises:** The Climate Action Network Europe report which ranks Ireland as the second worst European country for progress on 2020 Climate Action Targets.

**Council also recognises:** The efforts of Climate Action Ireland in attempting to change Irish Environmental policy.

**Council acknowledges:** The efforts of UCDSU in tackling on-campus waste and raising awareness for climate issues.

**Council therefore mandates:** UCD Students’ Union will state their support for Climate Action Ireland. By participating in direct actions, lobbying efforts, protests, etc. Also UCDSU will make and support policy submissions to Government which align with Climate Action Ireland policy. **\*\*** This shall be the responsibility of the C&Eofficer **\*\***

**Proposed by:** Lisa Murnane, (Stage 2 Archaeology, Classical Studies, and Art History Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Jessica Walsh, Stage 4 Science Class Representative)

**11/2/19**

## **Governing Authority Gender Balance Policy**

**Council Notes:** The sixth Governing Authority (GA) of University College Dublin will come into effect on February 1st 2019 for a period of 5 years.

**Council also notes:** Four Students’ union officers are currently entitled to sit on GA as student members as described in the “Universities Act 1997”. These are “three elected officers of the Students’ Union” and one “post-graduate student elected by the post graduate students”. These are considered separate panels under the provisions of the act.

**Council acknowledges:** The recent GA elections introduced gender quotas to multi-seat panels to improve the diversity of representation on GA. These regulations set the gender categories as “male, female and other.”

**Council Observes:** That a quota was set for the “Three students of the University who are elected officers of the Students’ Union” panel stipulating that “no more than two of whom will be of the one gender, will be members of the Governing Authority.” No such quota is set for the “post-graduate” panel as it is a single seat.

**Council Observes:** That it is in the best interest of the UCDSU that council set a policy which will ensure these gender quotas are respected in future.

**Council therefore Mandates:** That the SU president and Welfare Officer remain ex-officio members of the GA. The third officer should always be the Education officer where possible.

**Council further mandates:** Where the addition of the Education Officer would not fulfil the prescribed gender quota, preference should be given to another Sabbatical Officer who would satisfy the criteria. If this is not possible the third GA member shall be selected by Exec from among its membership.

**Proposed by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**Seconded by:** Stephen Crosby (Education Officer)

**25/2/19**

## **C&E Council Update Motion**

**Council notes:** That a proportion of the student body are not aware of the activities of the Students’ Union council and only know of the individual work their class representatives perform for them.

**Council recognises:** That a large amount of the motions that pass through council are for the benefit of the student body.

**Council further notes:** That were the student body to be made aware of what occurs in council it would provide a further understanding of the work of the Students’ Union.

**Council therefore mandates:** The Campaigns & Engagement Officer to post objective details on the Students’ Union’s social media platforms as to what discussions occur at council, specifically motions that pass and any significant updates that occur pursuant to current mandates, with what updates are considered significant being at the discretion of the officer.

**Proposed by:** Niamh Plunkett (Stage 3 & 4 Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Sophie Gibbons (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences College Officer)

**25/2/19**

## **Information about the HPV vaccine**

**Council notes:** That human papillomavirus (HPV) is highly contagious and infections can result in genital warts and cancers including, but not limited to, cervical, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers.

**Council recognises:** That there is a vaccine (Gardasil) that protects against HPV 6 & 11 which cause 90% of genital warts as well as protecting against HPV 16 &18 which are responsible for most HPV-caused cancers.

**Council acknowledges:** That the National HPV Immunisation Programme was introduced in 2010 and which is planned to be extended to all students in second level education from 2019.

**Council also acknowledges:** The vaccine is also recommended for people living with HIV and MSM and is available to these people (under 26 years of age) in Ireland through existing sexual health clinics.

**Council mandates:** The Welfare Officer to have information about the HPV vaccine to answer questions that people may have about it, whether they are looking to get it themselves or are guardians of children due to get the vaccine.

**Council also mandates:** That the Welfare Officer should work alongside the C&E officer to advertise the availability of the vaccine for people living with HIV and MSM, in particular at events such as SHAG.

**Council notes:** That while the Gardasil protects against the cause of 70% of cervical cancers, regular cervical screening tests should still be encouraged.

**Proposed by:** Niamh Plunkett (Stage 3 & 4 Biomedical, Health & Life Sciences Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Melissa Plunkett (Welfare Officer)

**25/2/19**

## **Mandatory Social Media Training**

**Council notes:** The role of the Campaigns & Engagement Officer includes managing the Students' Union’s social media accounts.

**Council acknowledges:** The time and effort that goes into managing all of the various social media platforms.

**Council mandates:** That the Campaigns & Engagement Officer attend a social media training course.

**Proposed by:** Edward Leonard (Law College Officer)

**Seconded by:** Thomas Monaghan (Campaigns & Communications Officer)

**25/3/19**

## **Information of HIV and HIV prevention**

**Council acknowledges:** That there has been a notable rise in the number of HIV cases reported in Ireland over the year.

**Council recognises:** The positive impact of awareness campaigns performed by UCDSU in the past, in particular the work of LGBT+ coordinators on this and related matters.

**Council notes:** That among the student population of UCD, greater awareness of HIV and prevention methods could be in place across the whole community of UCD.

**Council therefore mandates:**UCD Students’ Union, the Welfare Officer and UCD Health Services to campaign to raise HIV awareness and to raise awareness of methods of preventing transmission of HIV with activities such as but not limited to: condom drives, STI testing, social campaigns etc.

**Proposed by:**Lisa Murnane (Stage 2 Archaeology, Classical Studies, and Art History Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Ronan O’Shea (Stage 3 Architecture Class Representative)

**25/3/19**

## **Class Rep Handbook**

**Council notes:** The incredibly useful Class Rep Handbook has been the responsibility of the C&E Officer in recent years.

**Council recognises:** Class Reps receive a lot of valuable information from the handbook in relation to their role.

**Council further notes:** The handbook could be further improved with submissions, advice and testimonials from current Class Reps, at the discretion of the C&E Officer.

**Council mandates:** That the Class Rep Handbook continued to be published and developed by the C&E Officer while allowing for content submission directly from Class Reps.

**Proposed by:** Darragh Kane O’Toole (Stage 1 Sociology Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Thomas Monaghan (Campaigns & Communications Officer)

**8/4/19**

## **Removal of Irish Daily Star from SU Shops**

**Council notes:** During the summer of 2015, the UCD community suffered a great loss with the tragic deaths of Niccolai Schuster, Lorcán Miller and Eimear Walsh in Berkeley, California.

**Council also notes:** On June 17th 2015, The Irish Daily Star provided particularly controversial coverage of the tragedy. The front page of the paper showed the deceased students in body bags alongside their photographs. This coverage was widely condemned, and subsequently, UCDSUCSL pulled the Irish Daily Star from sale in their shops on campus, out of respect for the victims, their friends and families.

**Council further notes:** UCDSU has a responsibility to ensure the welfare of UCD students. Given the particularly despicable coverage it was decided by council that selling the Irish Daily Star on campus in UCDSU was grossly inappropriate and did a disservice to the memory of Niccolai, Lorcán and Eimear.

**Council therefore mandates:** UCDSU and UCDSUCSL maintain its policy of abstaining from all commercial activity with the Irish Daily Star – in particular, selling the newspaper in its shops.

**Proposed by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**Seconded by:** Barry Murphy (President)

**8/4/19**

## **Universal Rag Week in Dublin**

**Council notes:** The Students’ Union of other colleges in Dublin are independent of Each other

**Council acknowledges:** it may not be possible to carry out the motion.

**Council further notes:** it is possible to contact other students’ unions and to create a dialogue between the SU’s.

**Council mandates:** That the UCD SU (in particular the President, Campaigns & Engagement and Entertainments officer.) contact the other Students’ Unions in Dublin to try and organise one rag week for all Dublin based 3rd level to ensure that in the coming years RAG week is bigger, more craic, better and more effective at raising money and awareness.

**Proposed by:** Darragh Kane O’Toole (Stage 1 Sociology Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Barry Murphy (President)

**8/4/19**

## **NUI Seanad Registration**

**Council notes:** University College Dublin is a member of the National University of Ireland (NUI) along with NCAD, NUI Maynooth, University College Cork, RCSI, and many Irish Third level education institutions

**Council also notes:** As graduates of NUI, UCD Graduates are entitled to register to vote for three Senators in Seanad Eireann (the upper house of the Oireachtas).

**Council regrets:** That many graduates of UCD are entitled to vote for these senators; but do not register to claim their vote in these important elections.

**Council therefore mandates:** That the UCDSU Graduate officer offer NUI Seanad Registration forms in the SU offices to facilitate all students who hold a degree from an NUI institution to register and provide them with information about Seanad Eireann.

**Council Further Mandates:** That the Graduate officer offer a service for students in their final year of study to fill in an NUI voter registration claim form during the teaching term which will be handed in by the Graduate Officer once the students has graduated.

**Proposed by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**Seconded by:** Melissa Plunkett (Welfare Officer)

**8/4/19**

## **Lobby for more diversity in UCD portraits**

**Council acknowledges:** UCDSU has a proud history of campaigning for Gender Equality.

**Council notes:** In many of UCD’s meeting and board rooms there are arrangements of portraits of University Academics and Management. Many of these portrait arrangements consist solely of males. In some cases, there can be up to fifteen male portraits in a row.

**Council further notes:** These male portrait arrangements can be discouraging for female students and staff who are ambitious and aim to reach such academic and management roles.

**Council mandates:** That the President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer, lobby University Management to provide diversity in such portraits and to spread arrangements of solely male academics across rooms and the campus. Female academics and management should be plotted amongst the males.

**Proposed by:** Barry Murphy (President)

**Seconded by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**8/4/19**

## **Rent caps on Campus Accommodation**

**Council notes:** UCD is currently constructing phase one of the Residential Masterplan with just under 1,000 beds. Once completed, construction will begin on phase two which will see another 1,000 beds built for students. Phase three has not yet received planning permission.

**Council acknowledges:** Such an increase in the supply of purpose-built student accommodation will reduce the student housing crisis in South Dublin.

**Council notes:** That the new campus accommodation is priced out of reach of many students.

**Council also notes:** That UCD Management are opposed to rent caps on campus accommodation but on favour of them on privately built PRTB.

**Council mandates:** That the President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer lobbies University Management to review the price plan for phase two and three of the Residential Masterplan.

**Council also mandates:** That the President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer lobbies University Management to revert their stance on rent caps.

**Proposed by:** Barry Murphy (President)

**Seconded by:** Niall Torris (Graduate Officer)

**8/4/19**

## **UCD Students’ Strategic Vision**

**Council notes:** that the UCD Belfield campus is currently entering a period of significant change, with several major developments already under construction or likely to commence within the coming years, including the Student Residences Masterplan, Student Centre Expansion, and Entrance Precinct Masterplan.

**Council further notes:** that currently, UCD Students’ Union has no comprehensive policy on how the campus should develop into the future, and how students would like to see the campus develop into the future.

**Council acknowledges:** that the UCD Planning &amp; Environmental Policy Society (PEP Soc) have carried out a lot of work over the past 6 months in preparing a “UCD Students Strategic Vision” which is intended to outline a Vision, from the perspective of students, of how the UCD Campus should develop.

**Council further acknowledges:** that a significant effort was made to obtain the views of students during the preparation of this Vision, including an online survey, 250 face to face on campus surveys, a panel discussion, interviews with numerous groups and individuals, and two announcements to council in October and February.

**Council therefore mandates:** that the Union adopts the UCD Students Strategic Vision as its official position on the future development of the UCD Belfield Campus.

**Council notes:** that this mandate refers to the overarching “Vision”, as communicated through the Vision Statement and the Strategic Priorities, which are attached to this motion. It does not extend to how this Vision should be achieved, or to the endorsement of any measure proposed within the document.

**Council further mandates:** that the President and the Campaigns & Engagement Officer campaign for and support the implementation and realisation of this Vision, and communicate this position to the University, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and any other bodies which could affect the future development of the campus.

**Proposed by:** Katie O’Dea (Environmental Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded by:** Sophie Sheridan Burns (Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences College Officer)

**8/4/19**

## **Student centre Levy Support**

**Council notes:** the new levy states student leaders must approve any increase to the levy.

**Council acknowledges:** The Students’ Union will have significant power to control the levy as the council votes and should do all they can to fulfil these wishes

**Council mandates:** that the student centre levy increase can’t be approved by the Sabbatical officers in the Students’ union without a majority vote at Union Council as outlined to be a 60% majority.

**Proposed by:** Darragh Kane O’Toole (Stage 1 Sociology Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Lisa Frank Murnane, (Stage 2 Classics, Archaeology Art History Class Representative)

**8/4/19**

## **Dialogue with Head of Student Services**

**Council notes:** The SU has tried to engage with the head of student services about the new student centre levy in development and now needs to continue doing this as the levy progresses to ensure the most affordable and best outcome for students.

**Council Acknowledges:** The levy is now in the hands of the college but SU can still lobby the Head of student services and try and engage with Head of student services.

**Council Mandates:** The SU sabbatical team (specifically Campaigns & Engagement and president) engages and encourages the head of student services (currently Dominic O’Keefe) to have a better dialogue with the SU and to be more transparent with their plans for the new student centre levy.

**Proposed by:** Darragh Kane O’Toole (Stage 1 Sociology Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Lisa Frank Murnane (Stage 2 Classics, Archaeology and Art History Class Representative)

**4/11/2019**

## **Commuting Policy**

**Council Notes** that UCD plans to build 255 car parking spaces to replace those lost to the constructionof the planned new running track. This represents less than a tenth of the 3,584 spaces currently on campus.

**Council Further Notes** that recent survey data shows that over a quarter of those commuting to UCDby car are commuting across distances that are amenable to cycling, bus travel and other sustainable commuting options.

**Council Acknowledges** that some students are currently dependent on driving as their only means ofcommuting, due to limited mobility, length of commute, lack of public transport services etc.

**Council Recalls** that we are in a national state of climate and biodiversity emergency and we musturgently shift our culture away from carbon intensive and environmentally damaging practices, such as driving.

**Council Emphasizes** the principles of a Just Transition; primarily that the disruption required toaddress our current emergencies should not disproportionately affect those who are already struggling in our current system.

**Council Therefore Mandates** that the President, delegating work as they see fit, lobby for:

1. Substantial improvement of facilities and services for cycling, walking, bus and other sustainable transport options;
2. Provision of car parking facilities specifically for those students who cannot commute by any means other than driving;
3. The termination of any plans to build new car parking spaces on campus;
4. A continuous decline in the number of car spaces on campus as existing car parks are replaced by more valuable amenities over time.

**Proposed by**: Joshua Gorman (Engineering & Architecture College Officer)

**Seconded by**: Rebecca O’Connor (Stage 3, English, Drama & Film Class Representative)

**18/11/19**

## **Time Limit on Reading of Reports**

**Council acknowledges**: the existing mandate which limits the reading of Executive Officer Reorts to a maximum of three minutes (22 October 2018).

**Council notes**: that in addition to Executive Officers, Campaigns Coordinators and ENTs Forum Members (hereby collectively, “Officers”) are also required to present written reports to Council.

**Council further notes**: that the reading of these reports takes a significant portion of Council’s time.

**Council acknowledges**: that Officers want to share their accomplishments and plans with Council.

**Council further acknowledges**: the importance of reporting in encouraging an informed and engaged Council and encourages all members of Council to read the reports and to ask questions.

**Council further acknowledges**: that, per the Constitution, the core functions of Council are to formulate policy, to pass mandates, and to hold elected Officers to account.

**Council believes**: that members of Council do not have unlimited time in Council, and that what time they do have would be more effectively spent in discussion of policy and proposed mandates. Extensive time spent on the reading of reports detracts from Council’s ability to appropriately discuss these matters.

**Council therefore mandates**: that all Officers limit the reading of their reports to a maximum of two minutes. This shall be at the discretion of the chair.

**Council further notes**: that where an Officer wishes to highlight specific matters arising from their report or otherwise, they may make use of Orders II(e), II(f), and II(g), namely *Items for Discussion*, *Items for Noting*, and *Items for Approval*.

**Proposed by**: Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by**: Conor Anderson (Graduate Officer)

**18/11/19**

## **Coffee & lunch at Smurfit**

**Council Notes:** That the current options for food and coffee on the Smurfit campus are expensive compared to the options on the Belfield campus.

**Council Further Notes:** That there is only one coffee shop on Smurfit campus. Many students feel that the product provided by this vendor are unaffordable, with coffee costing 2.10+ euro and lunch upward of 7 euro.

**Council Acknowledges:** That because there is only one vendor allowed to do business at Smurfit, there is no alternative to these high prices and limited service available.

**Council Believes:** That students have the right to enjoy affordable food and drink.

**Council Mandates:** That the Graduate Officer investigates avenues of reducing the cost of food and drink for Smurfit students. This may include lobbying the management of Smurfit to re-evaluate their contract with the existing vendor, or investigating the possibility of bringing in temporary vendors at certain times during the week.

**Proposed by:** Bin Wang (Masters - College of Business Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Kaushal Kumar (Masters - College of Business Class Representative)

**18/11/19**

## **Contact with incoming international students:**

**Council Notes:** That international students primarily come into contact with the SU after arrival in Ireland, and often after arrival at UCD itself.

**Council Further Notes:** That UCD has plans to dramatically increase the number of international students coming to campus.

**Council Acknowledges:** That moving to a foreign country to pursue education is a daunting task, and the more supports can be provided, the better a student’s chance for success.

**Council Believes:** That international students are an important part of our community at UCD, and that we should be actively inviting them to participate in the Union, and in the broader social life of campus.

**Council Mandates:** That the Sabbatical team make efforts to contact and engage with incoming international students. These efforts should include, but not be limited to, social media engagement through already-existing Facebook groups for incoming students, and working with UCD Global. The purpose of this engagement includes:

* Making incoming international students aware of SU supports (around accommodation, student representation, aid in navigating University systems, etc.).
* Acclimating incoming international students to UCD’s social environment (i.e. providing information about societies, opportunities for volunteering, etc.).
* Providing a welcoming atmosphere and assuring incoming international students that they have a place to make their voices heard, and to create a sense of home away from home.

**Proposed by:** Gyan Shashwat (Masters - College of Science Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Conor Anderson (Graduate Officer)

**18/11/19**

## **Medical officer at Smurfit Campus**

**Council Notes:** That there is no medical practitioner on the Smurfit campus.

**Council Further Notes:** That many students at Smurfit are international and therefore only have access to insurance for hospitalization or accidents, but not for routine doctor’s visits or medication.

**Council Acknowledges:** That Smurfit students must either travel to the Belfield campus (a difficult proposition at the best of times for many students) or visit the local GPs, who can charge upward of 60 euro.

**Council Believes:** That the provision of medical services on Smurfit campus would greatly improve the situation of both students and staff. Students currently jeopardize their own health by postponing necessary appointments, which compounds the normal stressors of pursuing a graduate degree.

**Council Mandates:** That the Graduate and Welfare officers work together to investigate the possibility of installing medical services on the Smurfit campus.

**Proposed by:** Kaushal Kumar (Masters - College of Business Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Darshan Amin (Masters - College of Business Class Representative)

**27/01/2020**

## **Maximum Final Weight of 70%**

**Council Notes:** That finals weighted at over 70% discourage student participation on a regular basis

and encourage cramming.

**Council Further Notes:** This takes away from the value of a degree and the purpose of further

education, to actually further your education.

**Council Acknowledges:** some modules don’t have finals and/or are weighted fairly.

**Council Mandates:** The Education Officer and President use available means of contact with schools

to lobby for finals to have a maximum weight of 70%.

**Proposed by:** Darragh Kane O’Toole (Stage 2, Sociology Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Eva Doherty (Stage 3, History & Archives Class Representative)

**27/01/2020**

## **Support of Palestinian People through Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Campaign**

**Council notes:** That UCD Students’ Union has long supported the people of Palestine throughout their occupation by Israel. This occupation, the illegal colonisation of Palestinian land, and the associated human rights abuses and international law violations have been ongoing since 1967.

**Council further notes:**That this continued support of the people and fellow students of Palestine has been acknowledged and warmly received by the people of both Palestine and the University of Bethlehem. UCDSU having received multiple messages of gratitude from our counterparts in the University of Bethlehem.

**Council acknowledges:** That at least five categories of major violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law characterize the occupation: unlawful killings; forced displacement; abusive detention; the closure of the Gaza Strip and other unjustified restrictions on movement; and the development of settlements, along with the accompanying discriminatory policies that disadvantage Palestinians.

**Council therefore mandates:** that UCD Students’ Union support the Boycott, Divestment & Sanction movement nationally. This shall fall under the remit of the Campaigns &amp; Engagement Officer and the President (who shall liaise with the Commercial Services Manager to implement the boycott in SU shops).

**Council notes:** that this mandate shall supersede the mandate of the same name passed on 3/4/2018.

**Proposed by:** Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by:** Brian Treacy (Education Officer)

**27/01/2020**

## **Recycling / Compost / General Waste Bins**

**Council Notes:** Many students, particularly in Stage 1 Science, have expressed a genuine concern with the lack of segregated bins in many of the buildings on campus. I am aware that this has been previously mandated in February of 2019.

**Council further notes:** With the installation of these segregated waste systems, students feel that this would encourage recycling especially within the UCD Belfield campus to raise awareness for the ongoing climate crisis and would as a result the highlight importance of recycling waste to the student body.

**Council acknowledges that:** The previous mandate has already been enacted in a small number of the buildings on UCD Belfield campus.

**Council therefore mandates:** That UCD Estates should provide the buildings on campus that currently do not have any segregated waste systems with sufficient segregated waste bins and replace the current bins with the following systems - general, recycling and compostable; similar to those currently present in the Ag. Science building.

**Council mandates:** That the Environmental Campaigns Coordinator, the Campaigns & Engagement Officer and the President will work alongside UCD Estates in order to further campaign for an improvement in how waste is managed within our campus in order to make it a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place.

**Proposed by:** Marina Sweeney (Stage 1 Science Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Emily Moore (Stage 1 Science Class Representative)

**10/02/2020**

## **Gambling Control Bill**

**Council recognises** that some students struggle with gambling addictions while at college.

**Council recognises** that mandates have been passed on harm reduction for drugs and alcohol.

**Council notes** that in comparison to other countries, gambling in Ireland is not highly regulated and therefore people who have a gambling addiction are not fully supported.

**Council further notes** that the Gambling Control Bill was first put to Dáil Éireann in 2013 and is yet to be passed as law.

**Council therefore mandates** the President and Welfare Officer lobby the government to pass the Gambling Control Bill into law, so that better resources can be put in place to support those with a gambling addiction.

**Council further mandates** that the President, Welfare Officer, and Campaigns and Engagement Officer actively support a harm reduction stance with regards to gambling as they do with addictions such as with alcohol and drugs.

**Proposed by:** Úna Carroll (Welfare Officer)

**Seconded by:** Joanna Siewierska (President)

**24/02/2020**

## **Accessibility Information of Student Centre on website**

**Council Notes:** That there is no accessibility information for the student centre.

**Council Further Notes:**  11.6% of the students have disclosed that they have a disability to ucd. A big barrier for these students using the student centre is not having basic information of where lifts, quiet areas, accessible doors, and ramps are, and when quiet times are.

**Council Acknowledges:** That students who have disabilities must go out of their way to find information on accessibility in person or by word of mouth, or may avoid the building entirely assuming inaccessibility.

**Council Believes:** That a webpage should be added to the website that states the accessibility information that would also be used by SU, societies and anyone else on campus. Also an email address should exist for further queries and feedback on how to improve the availability of information.

**Council Mandates:** That the Entertainment Officer, Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator, and Campaigns & Engagement Officer add a page to the Union website detailing information on the accessibility of both the Old and New Student Centres.

**Proposed by:** Hannah Bryson (Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded by:** Thomas Monaghan (Entertainment Officer)

**24/02/2020**

## **Accessibility information for each SU event**

**Council Notes:** Disabled student will assume that an event is inaccessible if there is no information telling them otherwise.

**Council Further Notes:** 11.6% of the students have disclosed that they have a disability to UCD. A big barrier for these students attending events is information on the accessibility of the event or who to contact to get information.

**Council Acknowledges:** That not all events are accessible but that by creating accessibility info they have to consider accessibility and let students know of inaccessibility. Students may turn up to an event that is inaccessible to them or may end up sick due to not knowing of potential inaccessibility (flashing lights, extreme noise, crowds etc.). By providing information they can make an informed decision if they want to attend.

**Council Believes:** That having a section called accessibility information on each event will let students with disabilities know they are welcome and have been considered. Also an email address should be there for further queries and feedback on how to improve the availability of information.

**Council Mandates:** That the Entertainment Officer, Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator, and Campaigns & Engagement Officer work together to ensure that each Facebook event page or Eventbrite has a section called accessibility information.

**Proposed by:** Hannah Bryson (Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded by:** Thomas Monaghan (Entertainment Officer)

**24/02/2020**

## **Part-Time Officer Crossover**

**Council notes:** that per the Constitution Sabbatical Officers are required to provide a written crossover for their successor.However, there is no constitutional obligation for Campaign Coordinators, College Officers, ENTs Forum Members, or Oifigeach na Gaeilge (herein referred to as Part-Time Officers) to provide such a crossover.

**Council further notes:** that such crossovers can function as an important transfer of institutional knowledge from one Part-Time Officer to another and can include important information on ongoing projects or issues.

**Council therefore mandates:** that each outgoing Part-Time Officer shall, using the *Part-Time Officer Crossover Template*, compile a written crossover document for the aid of their successor.

**Council further mandates:** that each Part-Time Officer shall send their crossover guide to their successor and to the President by 31st May.

**Council further mandates:** that outgoing Part-Time Officers meet with incoming Part-Time Officers where possible to discuss the crossover and answer any questions. This should happen prior to the incoming Part-Time Officer taking office (15th June) where possible. Where it is not possible for outgoing and incoming Part-Time Officers to meet in person, correspondence via email or social media is acceptable.

**Council further notes:** that it is important that Part-Time Officers have access to the email account for their respective positions for official correspondence pertaining to their position.

**Council further mandates:** that the President shall ensure that College Officers, and Oifigeach na Gaeilge have email access by 31st June each year; the C&E shall ensure that Campaign Coordinators have email access by 31st June each year; and the ENTs Officer shall ensure that members of the ENTs Forum have email access by 31st June each year.

**Proposed by:** Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by:** Úna Carroll (Welfare Officer)

*\*note: the Part-Time Officer Crossover Template can be found under the* [*Council Resource Hub*](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1eBovMLsXAqOq_JTXpPEa1VWOwEi1nFRQ) *on Google Drive\**

**24/02/2020**

## **Sabbatical Officer Training**

**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 SAFETalk, ShoutOut LGBTQ+, and DRCC Sexual Assault Disclosure Training by 31st July. 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:** Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by:** Úna Carroll (Welfare Officer)

**24/02/2020**

## **Free Drug Testing Kits**

**Council Notes:** That UCD Students’ Union have recently been mandated to support the UCD Faction of Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

**Council further notes:** That the primary objective of both Students for sensible drug policy, and the Students’ Union, is to look out for the welfare and safety of students.

**Council Acknowledges:** That although not promoting the usage of drugs in college that we accept students do in fact take drugs and should make students aware of safe drug usage in order to limit any damaging effects.

**Council therefore mandates:** That, where reasonably possible, the Students’ Union Welfare Officer provide a range of Drug testing kits to students from their office.

**Council Further Mandates:** That before giving out any testing kits that the Welfare Officer must speak to the student about responsible drug usage, neither condoning or condemning in order to advocate for safe drug usage.

**Proposed by:** Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by:** Úna Carroll (Welfare Officer)

**06/04/2020**

## **Support of sex workers & decriminalisation of sex work in Ireland**

**Council acknowledges** that UCD had the highest number of new signups (93) to sugar baby website Seeking Arrangement in 2018.

**Council also acknowledges** the organisations associated with sex work & appreciates the work that relevant organisations do to support the wellbeing of sex workers, namely SWAI (Sex Workers Association of Ireland).

**Council notes** the dangers and stigma associated with being a sex worker. Where any aspect of sex work is criminalised, including client criminalisation, it has adverse health outcomes for the workers.

**Council also notes** that there has been a 92% increase in violent crime against sex workers since the law (Sexual Offences Act) changed in 2017.

**Council believes** that sex workers deserve safety, dignity, and respect in their work.

**Council mandates** that the President, Welfare Officer and Campaigns & Engagement Officer actively campaign for the decriminalisation of sex work alongside relevant organisations.

**Council further mandates** that information on support services for sex workers and sugaring be included on the SU website, and included in campaigns around sexual health. This is to be the responsibility of the Welfare Officer and the Campaigns & Engagement Officer.

**Proposed by:** Leighton Gray (LGBTQ+ Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded by:** Úna Carroll (Welfare Officer)

**06/04/2020**

## **Campaign for Hate Crime Legislation**

**Council notes:** That hate crimes are motivated by prejudice, hatred, or bias and can be due to someone’s skin colour, nationality, religion, ethnicity, [sexuality](https://spunout.ie/life/article/sexuality), [gender identity](https://spunout.ie/life/article/a-z-of-gender-identity) or disability, and that UCD is a diverse community of students and staff.

**Council further notes** that since the introduction of the *Prohibition of Incitement to Hatred Act*, very little legislative changes have taken place in Ireland to further protect and defend minority groups from acts of hate crime. Ireland currently is one of few countries that does not have specific laws around dealing with hate crimes.

**Council acknowledges** that hate crime has increased from 53 reported cases in 2014 to 368 reported cases in 2018.

**Council believes** people should live their lives free from hate regardless of their identity. Namely, people of African background and transgender people as they are the most at risk of hate crime in the EU according to a 2018 report by the Irish Council for Civil Liberties

**Council mandates** that the Welfare Officer, President, and the Campaigns & Engagement Officer lobby for the enactment of hate crime legislation in Ireland.

**Council further mandates** that information regarding reporting hate crimes both internal and external to UCD be made available on the SU website, alongside supports for students from non-traditional backgrounds. This shall be the responsibility of the Welfare Officer.

**Proposed by:** Leighton Gray (LGBTQ+ Campaign Coordinator)

**Seconded by:** Úna Carroll (Welfare Officer)

**24/02/2020**

## **Advertisement of UCD Support Services on SU branded Facebook Pages**

**Council notes:** There is a lack of knowledge surrounding the existing resources for support for students on campus, namely those that are available 24/7 or relate to mental health. Through advertisement on social media, this issue will be ameliorated and will therefore relieve stress from other parties regarding providing important information to students.

**Council also notes:** Past mandates have been introduced to encourage class reps to run Facebook pages for their constituents and we know that such pages exist every year for council members and the wider UCD community.

**Council further notes:** That there are numerous *SU branded* Facebook Pages that are used to advertise events, campaigns, and promote group discussion that any UCD student can access. These pages will therefore be included under this motion.

**Council therefore mandates:** That each Facebook page/group have a pinned post with or include in their description the following important pieces of information:

* UCD 24/7 Emergency Number: 01 716 7999
* UCD Health & Counselling Services: 01 716 3134 (Mon – Fri 9.30 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00pm to 4.30 pm) <http://www.ucd.ie/stuhealth/counsellingservice/>
* UCD 24/7 Walk Safe Service: 01 716 7000
* The Student Advisor phone number and email relevant for class/school (full list here: <https://www.ucd.ie/studentadvisers/about/staffprofiles/> )
* Student Centre Chaplain, Scott Evans: 01 716 3127/ 086 812 4052, scott.evans@ucd.ie
* UCD Residences 24/7 Merville Reception: 01 716 1008, residences@ucd.ie
* Students’ Union Welfare Officer: welfare@ucdsu.ie

**Council further mandates:** That it will be the responsibility of each College Officer to ensure that each class page, within their constituency, will have the relevant changes. It will be the responsibility of the Campaigns & Engagement Officer to ensure that all *SU branded* Facebook Pages follow the above guidelines also.

**Proposed by:** Úna Carroll, Welfare Officer

**Seconded by:** Joanna Siewierska, President

**06/04/2020**

## **Accountability**

**Council believes**: that documentation from Council and Executive meetings should be easily accessible to all members of the Union to ensure transparency and accountability.

**Council therefore mandates:** that subject to the removal of sensitive or confidential information, all documentation from Council and Executive Meetings shall be published on the Union website within 1 week of approval by the relevant body. This documentation shall include, but not be limited to the Officer Reports, minutes, and agendas of each meeting and an overview of the Union budget. This shall be the responsibility of the President who, as stipulated in the Constitution (art. 7.9) is permitted to appoint a secretary to assist them in these regards.

**Council further mandates**: that the Campaigns & Engagement Officer ensure that the updated Policy Book be uploaded to the Union website within 1 week of any changes being made.

**Council further mandates:** that this mandate shall replace the mandate ‘Public Access to SU Documentation’ dated 29/1/2018.

**Proposed by:** Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by:** Úna Carroll (Welfare Officer)

**06/04/2020**

## **Provision of Microwaves**

**Council notes:** that the mandate on the running of microwaves for use by students (10/04/2017) is due to expire.

**Council further notes**: that many students commute long distances into UCD, cannot afford to buy food on campus, and appreciate a hot meal.

**Council further notes:** that there is great demand for the existing microwaves and that the demand far exceeds the supply.

**Council therefore mandates:** that the President, Campaigns & Engagement Officer, and College Officers work with the University to install microwaves for use by all students throughout UCD campuses by the end of the mandate.

**Council stresses:** that the provision of basic facilities for use by students should be provided by the University and should not be the responsibility of the Students’ Union.

**Proposed by:** Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by:** Joanna Siewierska (President)

**06/04/2020**

## **The Great Donate**

**Council notes**: the Great Donate initiative run by the Students’ Union Environmental Campaign Coordinator 2018/19, Environmental Campaign Coordinator 2019/20, the Campaigns & Engagement Officer 2019/20, and many wonderful student volunteers since May 2019.

**Council further notes**: the large amount of waste generated by the 3,168 rooms 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 number of rooms available on campus is due to rise significantly over the next 2 years.

**Council mandates**: that the Campaigns & Engagement Officer, Environmental Coordinator, Student Residences Coordinator, International Students Coordinator, and Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator continue working on this initiative and specifically that they endeavour to pass responsibility for The Great Donate initiative to Estate Services.

**Proposed by:** Katie O’Dea (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded by:** Joanna Siewierska (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.\**

**02/11/2020**

### **Free Pregnancy Tests**

**Council notes:** that the UCDSU provides free pregnancy tests, condoms and information on

how to access abortion services to students on request.

**Council acknowledges:** the services that provide pregnancy tests at no cost outside of the

college.

**Council Recognises:** that providing free of charge pregnancy tests would prevent the many

complications that arise from lack of recognition of pregnancy in the early stages where

abortion is significantly easier, and it would be more likely for a person to seek out a

pregnancy test if the acquisition of one was both free and discreet, avoiding said

complications.

**Council Also Recognises:** the peace of mind that the ability to acquire these tests from

their union would provide.

**Council therefore mandates:** That the UCDSU Welfare officer provide free pregnancy tests

from their office on behalf of the UCDSU to any student that requests one.

**Council further mandates:** That the UCDSU Welfare Officer and Campaigns &amp;

Engagement Officer lobby UCD management for the development and implementation of a

University-Wide pregnancy policy.

**Proposed by: Ruairí Power (Welfare Officer)**

**Seconded by: Leighton Gray (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)**

**02/11/2020**

### **Student Support Services**

**Council notes:** That mental health support services such as the UCD Student Counselling

Service, Student Advisors and the Access and Lifelong Learning Centre are crucial aspects

of every student’s life in UCD. Some of these services such as the Student Counselling

Service are underfunded and rely on the use of outsourced services delivered through

external providers.

**Council believes:** That these support services are essential to the success and wellbeing of

all UCD students and that no UCD student should be denied access to these crucial

supports irrespective of their programme or stage.

**Council further mandates:** That members of the UCDSU Executive highlight the essential

nature of these support services and the invaluable contribution of the staff operating these

units on any relevant boards that they sit on and emphasise the need for these services to

be improved.

**Council further mandates:** That the UCDSU Welfare Officer and UCDSU Campaigns and

Engagement officer lobby UCD Management for the establishment of a mental health

oversight taskforce and for the preparation of a costed development plan for the future of

student mental health supports at UCD to increase funding and access to these key support

services.

**Proposed by: Ruairí Power (Welfare Officer)**

**Seconded by: Leighton Gray (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)**

**02/11/2020**

### **Student Academic Support Services**

**Council notes:** That support services including academic support services such as the

Writing Support Centre and Maths Support Centre are crucial aspects of every student’s life

in UCD. The Maths Support Centre are being restricted only to first- and second-year

students.

**Council further notes:** That the maths centre has increased from just 1 st year students to

include those in 2 nd year.

**Council believes:** That these support services are essential to the success of all UCD

students and that no UCD student should be denied access to these crucial supports

irrespective of their programme or stage.

**Council mandates:** That UCDSU and the UCDSU Executive to lobby and campaign using

all resources to increase funding and access to these key support services.

**Council further mandates:** That members of the UCDSU Executive highlight the value of

these support services on any relevant boards that they sit on and emphasise the need for

these services to be improved.

**Council further mandates:** That the UCDSU Education Officer and UCDSU Graduate

Officer lobby the University to remove restrictions on the access to the Maths Support

Centre so that students undertaking all programmes and, in all stages, may access it.

**Proposed by: Carla Gummerson – Graduate Officer**

**Seconded by: Hannah Bryson – Education Officer**

**02/11/2020**

### **Transgender Healthcare**

**Council Notes**: That transgender healthcare in Ireland is “inadequate” (The Irish Times, 2020) and negatively impacts the mental health of transgender people.

**Council Also Notes:** That a 2016 report by GLEN and BelongTo found that 35.1% of transgender people “have seriously attempted to take their own life” (2016).

**Council Acknowledges:** That UCD has a large transgender community that deserves safe and adequate healthcare.

**Council Mandates:** That UCDSU, particularly the Campaigns and Engagement Officer and the Welfare Officer campaign for transgender healthcare as is recommended by WPATH.

**Council Further Mandates:** That UCDSU works with transgender students, staff, and NGO’s to achieve this.

**Proposed by: Leighton Gray (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)**

**Seconded by: Jayson Pope (Stage 3 Social Science)**

**02/11/2020**

### **Pronouns**

**Council notes:** that UCDSU is an accepting group to all- No matter what pronouns.

**Council also notes:** that to take proper minutes people should be properly represented.

**Council therefore acknowledges:** the importance of pronouns during minuted and formal

discussions for all members of council

**Council mandates:** if comfortable, the inclusion of pronouns when introducing oneself

during council and other SU related meetings and events.

**Council Further Mandates:** that pronouns will be respected.

**Proposed by: Leighton Gray (Campaigns and Engagement Officer)**

**Seconded by: Ruairí Power (Welfare Officer)**

**02/11/2020**

### **Inclusive Food Offerings**

**Council notes:** That the UCD student community comprises of students of diverse

nationalities, cultures, religious beliefs and a large and sizable minority of these students

have special dietary requirements either due to religious or cultural reasons (eg Halal,

Kosher, Vegetarian, Vegan etc.) or due to allergies (e.g. Gluten or lactose intolerance etc.).

**Council believes:** That easy access to healthy, fulfilling meals is important for student

welfare and that as Ireland’s most diverse and global university, UCD and UCDSU should

ensure that students with special requirements have their dietary needs met.

**Council mandates:** That the Students’ Union takes the initiative on this issue and the

President, International Campaign Coordinator and Diversity &amp; Inclusion Campaign

Coordinator along with the Commercial Manager to explore the possibility of diversifying the

food offerings in the SU Shops, proper food labelling practiced, and this be publicised widely

through SU Social media channels.

**Council further mandates:** That the Welfare Officer, Campaigns and; Engagement Officer, International Campaign Coordinator campaign and the Diversity &amp; Inclusion Campaign Coordinator and lobby the University and other campus food outlets to diversify their food options along with inputs from concerned International Societies, groups and students on campus.

**Proposed by: Leighton Gray (Campaigns and; Engagement Officer)**

**Seconded by: Ruairí Power (Welfare Officer)**

**16/11/2020**

### **Packaging Waste and Environmental Impact of Food Choices**

**Council notes** its success in lobbying for segregated waste bins on UCD Campus

**Council further notes** that as of 2020 Ireland has the 7th most greenhouse gas intensive diet in the EU, and Packaging waste makes up just over one million of the approximately 2.7 million tonnes of municipal waste from homes, schools and businesses.

**Council notes** that Council has previously recalled “that we are in a national state of climate and biodiversity emergency and we musturgently shift our culture away from carbon intensive and environmentally damaging practices” and has yet to take significant action in these areas

**Council mandates** thatUCDSU President, Environmental Campaign Coordinator, and Diversity and Inclusion Campaign Coordinator along with the UCDSU Shop Commercial Manager explore the possibility of reducing the environmental impact of the food and merchandise sold in the UCDSU shops to the best of their knowledge of the current scientific understanding, whilst retaining offerings to cater to any special needs or dietary requirements;

A non-exhaustive list of possibilities includes: reducing food packaging, offering more loose and unpackaged food, offering only biodegradable or removing single use cup options, reducing animal derived products, removing individually packaged tea envelopes, halting sale of drinks in single use plastic bottles, removing single use stirrers, sugar sachets, and napkins from hot drinks areas.

**Council further mandates:** That the Campaigns and Engagement Officer, Environmental Campaign Coordinator, and Diversity and Inclusion Campaign Coordinator lobby the University and other campus food outlets to consider these options when offering food and merchandise

**Proposed by:** Daniel Cosgrave (Stage 5, Engineering and Architecture Class Representative)

**Seconded by:** Catherine Waechter (Stage 5, Engineering and Architecture Class Representative)

**16/11/2020**

### **Right to Disconnect Policy**

**Council notes:** There are no legislative provisions for employees under Irish law for the “Right to Disconnect”. The absence of clear lines between the working day and free time creates challenges for students and staff attempting to properly disconnect after working hours.

**Council further notes**: The Covid-19 pandemic has removed the ability of students and staff to physically leave their study and work spaces as working from home is a requirement for many. Many members of the University community are now working, studying and living in the same space, tethering them to a digital leash.

**Council further notes:** An implicit expectation to remain constantly connected to work can disproportionately impact underpaid and overworked University staff and postgraduate students on precarious contracts.

**Council acknowledges:** that by developing a “right to disconnect policy”, UCD would be demonstrating a clear commitment to protecting the welfare of Students and Employees by vindicating their rights to a work-life and study-life balance.

**Council mandates:** that the Students’ Union Campaigns and Engagement Officer, Welfare Officer and President lobby UCD for the introduction of a “Right to Disconnect” policy.

**Proposed by: Ruairí Power (Welfare Officer)**

**Seconded by: Carla Gummerson (Graduate Officer)**

**16/11/2020**

### **Birth right Citizenship**

**Council notes:** that the automatic right to citizenship for children born on the island of Ireland was removed from the constitution with the 27th amendment in 2004, meaning people born here without at least one Irish citizen parent do not have an automatic right to citizenship. This referendum campaign was fraught with xenophobic and racist misinformation.

**Council further notes**: those without Irish citizenship cannot vote in all elections, face possible deportation and face difficulty in accessing higher education.

**Council acknowledges:** that birthright citizenship can be legislated for and a referendum on this issue would likely create and extremely hostile environment for people of colour, asylum seekers, immigrants and those with immigrant family members.

**Council mandates:** that the Campaigns and Engagement Officer campaign for the introduction of legislation to reinstate birthright citizenship in Ireland.

**Council further mandates:** that the President and the Campaigns &Engagement Officer lobby the government for the introduction of legislation to reinstate birthright citizenship in Ireland.

Proposed By: Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich (Law College Officer)

Seconded by: Ruairí Power (Welfare Officer)