

**Policy Book 2020/2021**

Leighton Gray
UCD Students’ Union2020/2021

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**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)

**18/01/2021**

### **Repeal of the Industrial Relations Act 1990**

**Council notes**: The Industrial Relations Act 1990 has a disastrous impact on the ability of workers to organize and engage in collective action.

**Council further notes**: This act bans the ability of workers to engage in political strikes like in the past the Dunnes Stores apartheid strike.

**Council further notes**: In situations where a Student’s Union may call a student walkout like strike4repeal, it would be illegal for staff to engage in a solidarity strike with students.

**Council mandates**: that UCD Students’ Union will join students and workers groups calling for the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act 1990.

**Proposed by**: Darryl Horan (Arts Humanities Masters Class Representative) **Seconded by**: Aoife McGowan (Philosophy Stage One Class Rep)

**18/01/2021**

### **Developing a Trade Union week**

**Council notes**: Part and full-time students engage in a variety of work both inside and outside of college in workplaces that in many cases exploit, overworked and underpaid students.

**Council further notes**: That trade unions can play a key role in these situations to inform and organize student workers to fully avail of their rights.

**Council further notes**: UCDSU as a students union has reach among students that the wider trade union movement may not in low union density workplaces.

**Council mandates**: that the Students’ Union Campaigns and Engagement Officer, Welfare Officer and Education Officer work to develop an information and recruitment week for engaging in Trade Unionism, with particular attention to young workers.

**Proposed by**: Darryl Horan (Arts Humanities Masters Class Representative)

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

**01/02/2021**

### **Calling for a ban on all Deportations/Transfers under Covid-19**

**Council notes**: Both current and past students of UCD face regular threats of deportations due to their residency status.

**Council further notes**: In the last number of years there has been a marked increase in deportations cases, ie 293 in 2019 to over 400 in 2020.

**Council further notes**: In many cases deportations place deportees in both physical danger and economic hardship, such as the recent case of a Sudanese man that was transferred to London and left homeless.

**Council mandates**: UCD Student’s Union and its President will join calls for a ban on all deportations and transfers for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Proposed by**: Darryl Horan (Arts Humanities Masters Class Representative) **Seconded by**: Ruairi Power (Welfare Officer)

**01/02/2021**

### **Mandatory Consent Classes**

**Council notes:** That training is essential to achieve widespread understanding of the concepts of active consent, mutual respect and what constitutes a healthy relationship.

**Council further notes:** That a review of the UCD Dignity and Respect policy is ongoing and new policies on bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and misconduct are being developed.

**Council acknowledges:** The work of Dr. Aideen Quilty in developing a Bystander Intervention training programme for UCD Students. The programme is available to all incoming first year students

**Council believes:** That easy access to robust and objective consent and bystander education is a bare minimum requirement to create a culture of consent in Higher Education Institutes. In order to achieve maximum uptake of available training programmes, it is important that mechanisms are explored to mandate these workshops.

**Council also believes:** Access to objective sex education at a primary and post-primary level is an important pre-determinant of the success of consent education at a university level.

**Council also believes:** Power dynamics have a significant impact on the prevalence of harassment and misconduct in HEIs. Low paid workers, those on precarious contracts and workers whose immigration statuses are dependent on continued employment are disproportionately impacted by perceived retaliation when considering making a complaint.

**Council mandates:** That the Students’ Union Welfare Officer, Campaigns and Engagement Officer and President lobby UCD for the introduction of mandatory consent and bystander intervention training for all students and staff.

**Council further mandates:** That the Students’ Union Welfare Officer, Campaigns and Engagement Officer and President lobby UCD management to proactively root out retaliation against those who raise concerns or lodge formal complaints.

**Council further mandates:** That the Welfare Officer, Campaigns and Engagement Officer, and President lobby the Minister for Education for the rollout of objective sex education at primary and post-primary level free from the influence of religious ethos.

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

**Seconded by:** Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich (Law College Officer)

**01/02/2021**

### **Provision of Sexual Health Services**

**Council notes:** the ongoing HIV epidemic and the importance of easily accessible STI testing and the provision of PrEP and PEP services for the wellbeing of students, particularly MSM and the trans community.

**Council also notes:** the closure of the Gay Men’s Health Service and its PrEP clinic which were vital for MSM and the trans community. All other public sexual health and PrEP clinics in Dublin are either running at reduced capacity or have closed.

**Council further notes:** that both symptomatic and asymptomatic appointments at the GUIDE clinic are continually booked out and that the HSE’s recent launch of a test at home pilot reached capacity within 24 hours. It is evident that demand is now well in excess of the available appointments.

**Council acknowledges:** the unprecedented pressure that our health service is under during this pandemic.

**Council believes:** that, notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic, STI clinics are vital services which cannot simply be paused for a year and that their interruption disproportionately affects students who are already more marginalized.

**Council further believes:** that no student should be disadvantaged in seeking healthcare by their financial means.

**Council therefore mandates:** that the Welfare Officer and C&E Officer lobby politicians and the HSE for the immediate resumption of STI testing and PrEP services at the GMHS and other clinics at the earliest possible opportunity as well as the allocation of additional resources to expand the test at home pilot so that it can meet demand.

**Council further mandates:** that the Welfare Officer lobbies UCD to urgently subsidize the charge for on campus STI screenings.

**Proposed by:** Cillian Murphy (Stage 1 Engineering Class Representative)

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

**15/2/21**

### **Supporting Zero Covid**

Council notes that:

● the Government’s strategy “Living with Covid” was first unveiled in September

2020;

● the stated aim of the strategy was to manage the risk and repair the damage that

COVID-19 had inflicted thus far on society;

● since then the economy has been shut down and the movements of people have

been severely restricted on two further occasions;

● the number of cases of Covid 19 in Ireland is now, on February 8th, 203,568, is

almost triple that of 72,798 on 1 December;

● As part of a Zero Covid Model, ISAG is calling the government to dramatically

beef-up public health departments, expand testing and tracing capabilities and

mandatory quarantine for everyone coming into the country.

Council Further notes that:

● Living with Covid has been a disaster for students. Student Supports have been

reduced and cut and across the board.

● The rolling series of lockdowns and opening up has had a dramatic impact on the

mental health of students.

● Students are forced to conduct their studies at home or in rented accommodation

that many cases is sub-standard and a hostile learning environment.

Council recognises that: the most achievable way of returning students to an on

campus model of learning is through the pursuit of a zero covid model.

Council Mandates: UCDSU to support the “Zero Covid” or “Elimination” strategy as

promoted by Independent Scientific Advocacy Group to drive community transmission

down to zero.

Proposed by: Conor Anderson (UCDSU President)

Seconded by: Darryl Horan (Arts Humanities Masters Class Representative)

**15/2/21**

### **Provision of free travel outside of its current barriers to entry for persons with certain**

### **Disabilities**

Council Notes: That an acknowledgement of the current provision of free travel, such as a requirement of being on disability allowance/benefit are barriers to entry for persons with epilepsy. This means a person in receipt of qualifying social welfare payments can only work a limited number of hours if they manage to qualify for this payment.

Council also notes: The increased cost of a long-term illness mixed with the inability to invest in any form of private transport poses an increased hardship for persons living with Epilepsy.

Council further notes: these guidelines are not written by medical professionals or disability specialised. Epilepsy is a massively misunderstood condition with a lot of stigma still attached and is fully recognised as a disability by Epilepsy Ireland and the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI).

Council further notes: The Free Travel Pass would enable people who have been told they cannot drive for a minimum period of 1 year to stay economically active and compensate them for the added costs of public transport, retaining employment, and improving overall quality of life. Many people with epilepsy spend years off of the road.

Council believes: Travel concessions for people with epilepsy are available in other countries and there should be similar provisions here. The majority of persons living with epilepsy are not eligible for social welfare payments due to their outdated structure of rules. Epilepsy affects the individual every single day with many other elements to the illness outside of seizures now being medically recognised.

Council also believes: These guidelines are not written by medical professionals or

disability specialised but rather politicians who add barriers to entry such as having to have a certain number of seizures regardless of the detrimental effect on your brain and body your current rate of seizures is causing you.

Council further believes: Most persons with epilepsy work, but still cannot drive. Every single other condition in Ireland that affects driving is compensated for through the relevant disability group advocating for travel passes.

Council mandates: That the Students’ Union Welfare Officer, Campaigns and Engagement Officer, President and sabbats as well as all interested Class Representatives create an awareness of the need for a travel pass for persons with epilepsy

Council further mandates: That these relevant parties lobby local representatives and government as to the need to unbundle the Free travel scheme from qualifying payments and make it a stand alone scheme to be accessed on your own merits; epilepsy being included in the conditions that qualify for a pass without pre-qualifying payments needed.

Proposed by: Oliver Kilmartin

Law representative 2nd year

Seconded by: Shane Lynch (S1 Politics and IR)

**15/2/21**

### **Stop CETA**

**Council Notes:** That CETA (Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement) is being considered by the Irish government

**Council Also Notes:** That CETA would allow companies to sue states for impacting their profits due to policy under a Investor Court System (ICS)

**Council Recognises**: That CETA could hinder the Irish government from passing necessary policies in relation to the environment, workers rights, healthcare and more.

**Council Therefore Mandates**: That the Campaigns & Engagement Officer, the Welfare Officer and the Environmental Campaign Coordinator actively lobby and campaign for the Irish government to reject CETA

**Proposed By:** Leighton Gray (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**Seconded By:** Mórna Henehan (Environmental Campaign Coordinator)

**01/03/21**

### **Developing a Palestine Awareness Campaign**

Council notes: That UCD Students’ Union has been mandated since 2018 to support

the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction movement worldwide.

Council further notes: That UCD Students’ Union has been successful in its boycott by

refusing to stock goods produced in the occupied territories in UCDSU stores.

Council acknowledges: That UCD Students’ Union can utilize its resources to develop

yearly campaigns like those done in Dublin City University and Trinity College Students’

Unions to popularize the plight of the Palestinian people.

Council mandates: that UCD Students’ Union develop a Palestine Awareness week

each year in conjunction with relevant societies, interest groups and the wider student

body. This shall fall under the remit of the Campaigns & Engagement Officer and the

President.

Proposed by: Darryl Horan (Arts Humanities Masters Class Representative)

Seconded by: Leighton Gray (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

**01/03/21**

### **End 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:** Leighton Gray (Campaigns & Engagement Officer)

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

**01/03/21**

### **Mandate for the Back to Education Allowance**

**Council notes:** that the Back to Education Allowance is only paid to level nine students who are completing a professional master’s in education. No other level 9 master students can avail of the BTEA.

**Council further notes:**  it is becoming increasingly apparent that a master’s degree is needed to gain meaningful employment.

**Council believes:** that the Back to Education Allowance for any postgraduate students who are eligible, is needed to ensure equality and access to education.

**Council mandates:** that the Graduate Officer and the Campaigns and Engagement Officer lobby the Department of Social Protection and any other relevant bodies for this payment for postgraduate students.

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

**Seconded by:** Rebecca Ní Fhearghaile (Class Representative for Master Business)

**01/03/21**

### **Students for Sensible Drugs Policy**

**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. 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 further recognises**: the creation of a UCD Chapter for Students for Sensible Drugs Policy

**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:** Carla Gummerson (Graduate Officer)
**Seconded by:** Aisling Hudson (Mature Student Campaign Coordinator)

**01/03/21**

### **Provision of Autism Friendly Spaces**

**Council Notes:** That sensory overload is the overstimulation of one or more of the body's senses. Sensory overload can affect anyone, but it commonly occurs in those with autism, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sensory processing disorder, and certain other conditions. Sensory overload can happen due to anxiety, discomfort in noisy environments, and in social situations.

**Council Further Notes:** That UCD is committed to being a University for All which includes providing for an inclusive educational experience for all students.

**Council Acknowledges:** That providing sensory pods can help students with autism and other conditions who are feeling overwhelmed to manage their sensory environment, so that they can de-stress and return to main campus life.

**Council Further Acknowledges:** That we need to approach this from a universal design perspective, where this facility would most benefit students with autism but would overall make the campus more accessible for all students.

**Council Therefore Mandates:** That the Welfare Officer and the Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator lobby the UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Centre to install sensory pods on the UCD campus.

**Council Further Mandates:** That the Welfare Officer and the Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator lobby the UCD Access and Lifelong Learning Centre to introduce quiet rooms for students.

**Proposed by:** Edward Leonard (Final Stage BCL (Dual))

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

**01/03/21**

### **Rights for Student Renters**

**Council notes:** Prohibitive pricing plans for on-campus accommodation make living on campus inaccessible to the vast majority of prospective UCD students.

**Council further notes:** Increases in the supply of purpose-built student accommodation are to be welcomed so long as careful consideration is provided to affordability and universal design.

**Council further notes:** That UCD Management have previously lobbied against the inclusion of on-campus accommodation to be covered under the scope of the Residential Tenancies Board and the imposition of rent caps.

**Council further notes:** Failure to conduct meaningful consultation during the design processes for Phases 1 and 2 of the Residential Masterplan has produced prohibitive and discriminatory pricing plans that disadvantages students from low-income backgrounds.

**Council further notes:** The design process for Phase 3 of the Residential Masterplan for on campus accommodation has yet to commence.

**Council mandates:** That the President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer lobbies University Management to undertake a widespread consultation on the design process for stage 3 of the residential masterplan.

**Council further mandates:** The Students’ Union to provide specialised rental support services including the provision of office hours to inform students on the tenancy protections available to them and options for off campus accommodation. The responsibility for implementation of this mandate and provision of rental support roles falls under the remit of the Welfare Officer.

**Council further mandates:** That the Students’ Union establish a Renters Rights Action Committee falling under the remit of the Campaigns and Engagement Officer. The scope of such a committee would be to facilitate co-ordinated responses to breaches of the protections provided to student renters under the Residential Tenancies and Valuation Act.

**Council further mandates:** That the Students’ Union President, Welfare Officer and Campaigns & Engagement Officer lobby the Government for the introduction of a nationwide rent freeze, a heavily graded vacant property and dereliction taxes, elimination of tax breaks for REITs and Vulture funds, the adoption of a “Housing First Strategy”, increase in funding for homelessness services and the provision of cost-rental accommodation.

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

**Seconded by:** Darryl Horan (Arts Humanities Masters Class Representative)

### **01/03/21**

### **Lobbying UCD to fix their FOI Office**

**Council Notes:** that the Freedom of Information Act was originally written in 1997 to allow for greater transparency of public institutions such as UCD by legally mandating information to be released to the public with certain conditions. The process is a key tool being used by national and student journalists to break stories and UCDSU to lobby on behalf of students.

The following stories were broken using FOI:

<https://collegetribune.ie/ucd-spent-almost-e15-million-on-off-campus-residential-properties/>

<https://universityobserver.ie/andrew-deeks-claims-over-90000-in-travel-expenses/>

<https://universityobserver.ie/significant-increase-in-class-sizes-at-ucd-smurfit/>

<https://collegetribune.ie/module-failure-rate-no-disadvantage-policy/>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/ucd-spending-millions-buying-premium-south-dublin-homes-1.4167119>

<https://collegetribune.ie/revealed-ucd-spent-e1-3-million-on-exams-last-year-what-did-your-college-spend/>

**Council Further Notes:** that the current Freedom of Information office of UCD was investigated by the Information Commissioner finding that UCD “has not managed to issue original decisions on time in a significant proportion of cases”. An investigation by *The College Tribune* found that UCD FOI was late to issue a decision within the statutory 56-day timeframe in 47% of requests made by members of the UCD community from June of 2019 to June 2020. This rate has not improved since.

Source: <https://collegetribune.ie/ucd-investigated-for-delayed-disclosure-of-public-information/>

**Council Further Notes:** that the Office of the Information Commission noted that “under-resourcing of the FOI Office” was a cause of delayed responses to FOI requests.

**Council Further Notes:** that, per January 1st 2021,UCD FOI currently employs just two people, at a time when “the University has received record numbers of FOI requests” according to the Office.

**Council Therefore Mandates:** that the President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer lobby UCD to increase their compliance with FOI law.

**Council Further Mandates:** that the President and Campaigns & Engagement Officer lobby UCD to increases the current resources and staff available to UCD FOI.

**Proposed By:** Gary Ward (Class Rep Stage 2 Politics) on behalf of Hugh Dooley
 **Seconded By:** Ruarí Power (Welfare Officer)

**29/03/21**

### **Support for the Campaign for an All-Ireland National Health Service (CAINHS)**

**Council notes:** Universal access to healthcare is essential for equity in health. This access should be free at the point of use and paid for through taxation.

**Council further notes:** It has been seen in the past year how vital universal and fair access is during the pandemic, and how having two health systems has undermined the overall approach to establishing and maintaining health on the island.

**Council acknowledges:** The proposed 'Slainte Care' policy will not cover people on the whole island, and an inclusive model should be devised that can cope with the post covid-19 fallout.

**Council further acknowledges:** It is unknown how long restrictions will remain in place due to COVID-19 and how the British/Irish governments will address COVID-19 problems, which may ultimately lessen health outcomes on the island. It would be easier if all stakeholders were using the same system.

**Council believes:**That universal access to healthcare should be free at the point of access, that private healthcare should not be needed, that private insurance should not be tax-deductible; instead, the public service has more funds to provide a better service to all. All tax deductibles, state investment and/or incentives that contributed to the planning, building or operating of private hospitals should be reclaimed against fees charged, incurred by the state for public patients in private beds, and that a plan to take over the private hospitals is agreed upon, whether that be by compulsory purchase order or other means.

**Council also believes:** That direct democracy should be used to organise and run the new public system, that management be inclusive of all stakeholders, and that finances and contract details should be transparent.

**Council mandates:**council members are active in promoting events run by CAINHS and lobby state officials and other parties to sign the group's open letter.

**Proposed by:**Aisling Hudson (she/her)

**Seconded by:**Ruairi Power (he/him)

**29/03/21**

### **Addressing Classism and the Experiences of Working Class Students in UCD**

**Council notes:** UCD has the lowest proportion of students from low income backgrounds in the country across all third level institutions.

**Council further notes:** Anecdotally,students from low income backgrounds report a sense of “not belonging” in UCD due to the culture and environment of the university.

**Council further notes:** Anecdotally, students also report specific comments from students and staff alike regarding the presence of working class students in UCD, ranging from ignorance that any working class students attend the college, to actively disparaging working class students.

**Council further notes:**

**Council acknowledges:** All actions and measures that UCDSU takes regarding affordability, fair pay, fair rent, etc are addressing the economic inequalities within UCD and the wider community, and as a result do address issues of classism.

**Council mandates:** That the Campaigns & Engagement officer and the Welfare officer consult with working class students regarding the issues they experience in UCD, and follow this consultation with an anti-classism campaign.

**Council further mandates:** That the C&E officer and the Welfare officer work with Access and Lifelong Learning regarding the staff and university-level issues of classism, such as economic barriers to participation and classism from staff.

**Council further mandates:** That the Welfare, C&E, and Graduate officer collaborate to host an event where UCD graduates from low income backgrounds are invited to share their experiences and perspectives from their time at UCD with current students.

**Proposed by:** Jayson Pope (Social Policy & Sociology Stage 3)

**Seconded by:** Lee Fitzpatrick (Social Justice Stage 3)

**29/03/21**

### **College Officer Constituencies**

**Council notes:** Currently, there are three “combined” college officer constituencies - Arts & Humanities and Social Science (AHSS), Architecture and Engineering, and Agricultural, Food, and Veterinary.

**Council further notes:** That there are ongoing discussions about whether these constituencies should remain combined or should be split into separate constituencies in future.

**Council mandates:** That the Campaigns & Engagement officer and the college officers from each combined constituency should consult with the class representatives and the students within the constituency regarding whether the constituency should remain combined or should be separated.

**Council further mandates:** That any vote to change the composition of the constituencies should be in line with the perspective of the majority of students and class representatives in the constituency.

**Proposed by:** Jayson Pope (Social Policy & Sociology Stage 3)

**Seconded by:** Lee Fitzpatrick (Social Justice Stage 3)

**29/03/21**

### **Mandate to develop Virtual UCD Student Card**

**Council Notes**

That having a physical UCD student card can limit students when accessing resources on

campus.

**Council Further Notes**

Developing a digital version of the UCD student card would allow students to access exams on

campus and in the RDS, laboratories, UCD libraries and other facilities on campus that require

the presentation of your ucard.

It can be a great source of stress if a student forgets their card on the day of an exam. Having

the second option will reduce stress and dependency on having your physical ucard on you

whenever you need to present your ucard, especially during exam season.

**Council Mandates**

That there is an investigation period into the viability of a virtual ucard led by Campaigns and

Education Officers.

**Council Further Mandates**

Lobbying to the stakeholders of relevant bodies and to investigate the option of attaching the

virtual ucard to the UCD mobile app.

**Proposed by:** Louise Costello, 1st Year Promotion’s Officer, ENT’s Forum

**Seconded by:** Carla Gummerson, Graduate Officer

**29/03/21**

Visibility of the Irish Language: BÉARLA THÍOS // ENGLISH BELOW

**Tugann an comhairle:** faoi deara go bhfuil pobal láidir Gaeilge i UCD agus go bhfuil go leor mic léinn ag iarraidh a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid nó a chleachtadh.

**Ar bharr sin, tugann an comhairle**: faoi deara cé go deirtear sa bhunreacht go bhfuil sé mar aidhm an Aontais an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ar fud an champais (Airteagal 12.3 agus Airteagal 12.1 (ii)), go bhfuil sé fíor-dheacair, fós, cúrsaí reatha a phlé leis an Aontas, seachas na cúrsaí a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge fhéín.

**Admhaíonn an comhairle:** go mbíonn éagsulacht sa méid Oifigigh an Aontais le Gaeilge ó bhliain go bliain agus nach bhfuil an an Ghaeilge á labhairt ag fórmhór de mhuintir na hollscoile ach ag an mionlach.

**Ach creideann an comhairle:** Nuair atá sé de chumas ag daoine, gur cheart go mbeadh mic léinn inann cúrsaí a phlé leis an Aontas as Gaeilge, agus gur cheart go mbeadh sé soiléar nuair is feidir é seo a dhéanamh.

**Sainordaíonn an comhairle mar sin**: go gcinnteoidh Oifigeach F&R agus Oifigeach na Gaeilge go bhfuil cumas teanga na hOifigigh Shabóideacha agus Choláíste fógraithe ar suíomh idirlíon an SU agus é a fhogairt ar meain shóisialta an SU ag tús na bliana acadúil.

**Molta ag:** Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich (Oifigeach Choláiste Dlí)
**Tacaithe ag:** Tadhg Ó Maoldhomhnaigh (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

**Council notes**: that UCD has a vibrant Irish-Speaking community and that many students want to use and practice their Irish.

**Council further notes:** that despite the constitution stating that the SU shall seek to promote a bilingual policy and culture within the union and across the university (Article 12.3 and Article 12.1(ii)), it is still difficult to engage with the SU on any matter through the Irish language except when dealing with issues relating to the Irish language itself.

**Council acknowledges:** the fluency of Sabbatical and College Officers varies from year to year and Irish speakers make up a minority of the student population.

**Council believes, however:** That where ability allows, students should be able to conduct their business with the Union in Irish, and that it should be made clear to students when this is possible.

**Council therefore mandates:** The C&E Officer and Oifigeach na Gaeilge to ensure that the ability of Sabbatical and College officers to deal with students in Irish is signposted on the SU website and highlighted on SU socials at the beginning of the academic year.

**Proposed by:** Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich (Law College Officer)
**Seconded by:** Tadhg Ó Maoldhomhnaigh (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

**29/03/21**

### **Universal Access to Higher Education**

**Council notes:** That Ireland has the most costly contribution charge for Higher Education in the European Union (€3000).

**Council further notes:** The associated costs (rent, travel etc.) of accessing higher education has increased significantly in recent years, locking large cohorts of low and middle income students out of studying at UCD.

**Council acknowledges:** That Universal access to Higher Education is a reality among many European Countries, funded through a progressive taxation system. This removes major cost barriers for students to pursue further education opportunities.

**Council recognises:** That the UCD President has previously advocated for a student loan scheme to make up funding shortfalls.

**Council mandates:** That the Students’ Union Sabbatical Team lobby Government Officials for the abolition of the student contribution charge and establishing a sustainable model of public funding to create Universal access to Higher Education.

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

**Seconded by: Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich (Law College Officer)**

**29/03/21**

### **Seizure awareness for university college Dublin staff members**

Council acknowledges: There are 40,000 people diagnosed with epilepsy in Ireland. Seizures affect a wide range of conditions and anyone can have a seizure for multiple reasons.

Council notes: That in the event a person has a seizure and first aid or the wrong kind of first aid is given, that the outcome for the individual can be bad, resulting in unnecessary injuries.

Council notes: That the first aid surrounding seizures is easy/non-expert and that any staff member would be capable of providing this care if shown.

Council also notes: That when this basic first aid is given, that, the person is generally unharmed.

Council Mandates: That the UCD student union will seek to work with the university to instil adequate knowledge amongst their staff, including but not limited to, lecturers, security & nominated first aiders of seizures and seizure first aid.

The Student Union

Proposed by: Oliver Kilmartin

2nd year Law (bcl) Class representative

Seconded by: Shane Lynch S1 Politics and IR Class Rep