



**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

**Minutes of a meeting of Student Life Committee
30 April 2024, 11am, Trinity Boardroom, Trinity Business School**

Present: Prof Richard Porter (Dean of Students, in the Chair), Dr Stephen Smith (Senior Tutor), Mr Laszlo Molnarfi (President, Students' Union), Ms Aoife Bennett (Welfare Officer, Students' Union), Mr Andrew Burgess (representative, Scholars' Committee), Ms Trish Murphy (Director, Student Counselling Services), Ms Breda Walls (Director of Student Services), Mr Declan Treanor (Director, College Disability Service), Ms Michelle Tanner (Director of Sport & Physical Activity), Dr Donal MacDonaill (Junior Dean & Registrar of Chambers), Mr Nigel Stevenson (Warden of Trinity Hall), Mr Martin John McAndrew (Postgraduate Student Support Officer), Ms Eimear Rouine (Transition to Trinity Officer), Mr Jovan Jeromela (Postgraduate Student Representative), Ms Susan Kirwin (Coordinator, SLD), Ms Siobán O'Brien Green (Equality Officer),

Apologies: Dr David McGrath (Director, College Health Centre), Rev Steve Brunn (Chaplaincy), Ms Louise Staunton (nominee, Director of Internationalisation), Mr Fergus O'Brien (Chair of Trinity Sports Union), Mr David Wolfe (Secretary to Trinity Publications), Ms Sorcha Mulcahy (Acting Director, Careers Advisory Service), Mr Samuel Isijola (President, Central Societies Committee), Ms Claudia Peroni (Postgraduate Student Representative)

In attendance: Ms Cristina Boccardo (Secretary)

The Dean of Students welcomed everyone to the Student Life Committee meeting of 30 April 2024.

SECTION A: Policy and Implementation Matters

SLC/23-24/46 A.1 Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes dated 19 March 24.

SLC/23-24/47 A.2 Matters Arising

The Postgraduate Representative mentioned they had a meeting with the Postgraduate Student Support Officer in relation to the item previously proposed to SLC, in that occasion, they had an opportunity to discuss that the student representatives' proposal did not have budgetary implications, but it was instead a request for a source of information from College to postgraduate students. The Postgraduate Representative suggested they would revise the document in light of this and propose an item for SLC at the next meeting.

SLC/23-24/48 A.3 Capitation Committee Semester II update

The Senior Dean presented a verbal update on Capitation Committee, Semester II status. Three meetings were held by Capitation Committee since the last update. On 29-11-23 all Capitated Bodies annual accounts and reports were presented and approved with no issues. A sub-

committee had been established, led by Neil Crowley, to implement the revision of the Terms of Reference, in the interest of transparency of operations.

On 18-01-24 the Committee reviewed the referendum which introduced a new Irish Language Officer in the Students Union and agreed on the introduction of a € 4 levy for 2024/24 to cover the related costs. The Trinity Ball Committee was also established with all the necessary plans laid out for the ball to happen on 12/04/24.

On 23-03-24 it was agreed that the funds previously allocated to the Graduate Students Union should be divided in different proportions between SU, CSC, TSU and Publications, with SU to receive the majority of 64%. The reallocation is decided on an annual basis and will be reviewed each year.

A Committee member asked about the students' spaces funding and the Senior Dean confirmed that there is some budget to carry out renovations of the Atrium Building room; while the renovations to students spaces in the Old Stone Building, SJH and in the Hamilton Building have not been budgeted yet.

Another Committee member asked if the Capitulated Bodies will be taking any initiatives towards the postgraduate students' body, particularly in light of the increased budget received from GSU. It was suggested that, given that there is no Postgraduate Officer in the SU, perhaps a case might be made for the appointment of 2 part-time officers, one for research and one for taught postgrads. If any support were to be put in place for postgraduates, it would also be beneficial to receive an annual report on spend by the Capitulated Bodies.

ACTION: Student Life Committee noted the Senior Dean's update and thanked him.

SLC/23-24/49 A.4 Student parent/carer survey report

The SU and the Senior Tutor's Office conducted a survey directed to undergraduate students with parenting or caring responsibilities. Such survey aimed to highlight the issues faced but this category of students and a report was produced upon the surveys' results, including the following recommendations:

- Allowing Student Parents/Carers to register as Student Parents/Carers upon entering College,
- Allowing for lecture recordings and accommodations,
- Expansion of creche facilities, running subsidised Mid-Term Break Camps for children of student parents and, where possible, aligning Mid-Term Breaks with Reading Week.

There has been great work done in the past two years to increase the visibility of student parents and carers on campus which TCDSU is confident will continue.

The Committee received the report very positively and there was a lot of interest in pursuing the recommendation stemming from the survey, in particular, about contacting Academic

Registry with the view of registering student with caring or parenting responsibilities, but also to initiate talks with the Creche and TCD Sports to investigate the possibility of organising extended hours at exams time and subsidised camps at crucial times.

SLC/23-24/50 A.5 Fitness to Study Policy Review update

Mr Martin McAndrew presented the SLC with an update on TCD Fitness to Study policy review, which is well under way and within the expected timeframe.

The policy has seen some minor updating, mainly around the concept that the FTS policy is supportive in its intent to students continuing their studies in College, while incorporating clearer language, better scoping – in line with Statutes and other policies, improved outline of definitions (e.g. ‘notice of concern’) and levels of intervention.

If approved by SLC, the policy needs to be approved by both UG and PG Studies Committees, University Council and, finally College Board. In the best case scenario the process may be completed by June 2024, more likely by September 2024.

ACTION: Student Life Committee received and approved the Fitness to Study Policy Review and thanked Mr McAndrew for the work on the document.

SLC/23-24/51 A.6 Dean’s Report – April 2024

The Dean of Students updated SLC about his continuous effort to engage, connect and communicate with all students; in particular he highlighted recent Mixer events with postgraduates, which is proving very useful. Undergrads and postgrads are being surveyed about students’ spaces until 05/05. Furthermore, the Countdown to Olympics event has been so well received and fantastic to be part of, the Dean extended his gratitude to the Sports Team and to all the Olympians who are taking part to this.

ACTION: Student Life Committee noted the update from the Dean of Students.

SLC/23-24/52 A.7 A.O.B

N/A

SECTION B: Reports from SLC Working Groups

SLC/23-24/53 B.1 Mental Health Policy

The Director of Student Counselling advised that:

- The mental health policy reviewed document has been sent to all stakeholders for reviewing, the document, incorporating received feedback, has been sent to the College Solicitor. A flowchart will also be made to map the process. It is hoped that the document will reach SLC at the May meeting for approval, after which it will also require the EO Group’s imprimatur.

SLC/23-24/54 B.2 Student Centre Working Group

The Dean of Students and President TCDSU advised that:

- A SCWG meeting was going to be held on the following week, with no agenda yet, and that the group was meeting regularly. The Bursar had addressed all stakeholders and the group is looking forward to seeing the output of the students' space survey.

SLC/23-24/55 B.3 Orientation and Transition Working Group

The Transition to Trinity Officer advised that

- January orientation went very well, the early module enrolment translated into a much calmer orientation.
- The 3-minutes Thesis Competition was held and proved again quite a successful event, this year the winner was offered the opportunity to present to the Provost at Council meeting.
- The Skills for Success series for postgrads was again very well received, with the exception of the one live event, attended by just one participant, so the corollary is that next year events will only be online.

SECTION C: Items for noting and/or approval

SLC/23-24/56 C.1 Student Life Committee Membership 2023-24

The Committee was informed that Mr Joel McKeever replaces Ms Sioban O'Brien Green, now Head of Equality Diversity and Inclusion.

ACTION: Student life Committee noted and approved the change in membership.

SLC/23-24/57 C.2 Student Life Committee circulation and meetings dates 2023-24

ACTION: Student Life Committee noted the remaining Student Life Committee dates for this academic year as follows:

Circulation date	Meeting Date
14 May	21 May

Venue: Trinity Boardroom, Trinity Business School

Meeting times: 11am – 1pm

