



Technological University Dublin Students' Union

SPOTLIGHT

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2022/23



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The TU Dublin Students' Union Elected Officer Team 2022/23

Top Row: (Left to Right) James Curry Deputy President Tallaght, Abby Nulty VP Welfare & Equality Tallaght, Niamh Gibbons VP Education Tallaght, Adam Clarke Deputy President City, Ian Kelly VP Events & Engagement, Hazel Doran VP Welfare & Equality City, Saoirse Daly VP Education City, Brian Jordan President, Louise Kavanagh Deputy President Blanchardstown, Kayla Nolan VP Welfare & Equality Blanchardstown.

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Section I: About TU Dublin Students' Union

The Story of TU Dublin Students' Union

TU Dublin Students' Union is the independent, democratic voice of 28,000+ TU Dublin students.

The organisation was formally established in 2020 following the incorporation of Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), IT Tallaght (ITT) and IT Blanchardstown (ITB) into the new TU Dublin. In the aftermath of this exciting development, DIT SU, ITT SU and ITB SU joined forces under the banner of TU Dublin Students' Union, to continue a proud tradition of advocacy, representation, and promotion of students' interests. All students at TU Dublin are automatically members of the organisation.

TU Dublin Students' Union can trace its origins as part of the Irish student movement back to the days of the early Student Representative Councils in the late 1950s, and their successors, the first Irish Students' Unions of the late 1960s and early 1970s. It is affiliated to USI (the Union of Students in Ireland), which is the national representative body for students in Ireland.

The day-to-day operational functions of TU Dublin Students' Union are run by a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), which is owned by the Students of TU Dublin by virtue of their membership of TU Dublin Students' Union.

The following is a summary of some of the key milestones in its journey so far...

Key Milestones

1880s – 1940s

Origins of Dublin Institute of Technology*

1887 – Opening of first 'Technical School' in Ireland at Kevin St, Dublin 8

1890 – Opening of the School of Music, Chatham Row and Adelaide Road, Dublin 2

1901 – Opening of the College of Commerce in Rathmines, Dublin 6

1905 – Opening of the College of Marketing and Design, Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1

1911 – Opening of the Technical Institute, Bolton Street, Dublin 1

1941 – Opening of the College of Catering, Cathal Brugha Street, Dublin 1

**Source – Duff T, Hegarty, J and Hussey, M, The Story of the Dublin Institute of Technology (2000)*

1950s – 1980s

Origins of Students' Unions*

1950s – First Student Representative Committees (SRCs) formed in several colleges

1959 – Inaugural Meeting of Union of Students in Ireland (USI) attended by observers from Bolton Street, who later became members

1960s and 1970s – Students' Unions (SUs) established in individual Dublin colleges

**Source – usi.ie/history (Accessed June 2023)*

1990s

1992 – Amalgamation of 6 CDVEC technical colleges as Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)

1992 – Institute of Technology Tallaght (ITT) established

1998 – DIT gets its own autonomous degree-awarding powers

1999 – Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB) established

**Source – tudublin.ie website (Accessed June 2023)*



(Left to Right) Pierre Yimbog, Amy Keating, Luke Daly, Rebecca Gorman

Section I: About TU Dublin Students' Union

2010s

- 2011 – National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 (Hunt Report) proposed that, 'A process should be put in place to allow institutes of technology that have emerged from a process of consolidation to apply for designation as a technological university'
- The Hunt Report also proposed that; 'Smaller institutions should be consolidated to promote coherence and critical mass...'
- 2014 – Three institutions (DIT, ITT and ITB) begin discussions on a potential merger
- 2017 – All three Students' Unions (DITSU, ITTSU and ITBSU) agree to support this merger
- 2018 – Technological Universities Act 2018 (Number 3 of 2018) enacted
- 2018 – Joint application for designation as a Technological University submitted and approved
- 2019 – Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) established
- 2019 – TU Dublin SU's first Constitution passed by student referendum

**Source – tudublinsu.ie (Accessed June 2023)*

2020s

- 2020 – Formal beginning of TU Dublin Students' Union (TU Dublin SU)
- 2020 – TU Dublin SU CLG established (based on the renaming and reconstitution of the existing DITSU CLG to encompass Students' Union resources across the university)
- 2020 – TU Dublin SU Leadership Team elected via online vote during COVID-19 crisis
- 2021 – TU Dublin SU moves to new headquarters at TU Dublin campus in Grangegorman
- 2022 – Referendum on new TU Dublin SU Constitution proposing a new officer structure ratified by 96.2% of students voting
- 2023 – First TU Dublin Students' Union Officer elections held under the terms of the new Constitution
- 2023 – New TU Dublin Students' Union Constitution comes into effect on 1 July 2023

**Source – tudublinsu.ie (Accessed June 2023)*



The first TU Dublin Students' Union elected officer team 2019/20

Top Row: (Left to Right) City VP Welfare & Equality Moya Brown, City VP Education Daniel Sogaolu, Tallaght VP Welfare & Equality Megan O'Neill, Tallaght VP Education Lee Bennett, VP Welfare & Equality Blanchardstown Haley Keogh, City VP Events & Engagement Barry Egan. Bottom Row: Tallaght Deputy President Amy Keating, City Deputy President Rebecca Gorman, Overall President Pierre Yimbog, Blanchardstown Deputy President Luke Daly.



Mission – TU Dublin Students' Union is the independent representative organisation for students at the Technological University Dublin (hereinafter referred to as 'TU Dublin' or 'the University'). TU Dublin Students' Union acts in the best interests of its members, to advance and defend their rights, primarily in relation to their education and welfare as TU Dublin students, and as citizens.



Vision – TU Dublin Students' Union wants to ensure that each TU Dublin student will have a positive and transformative experience to assist them in reaching their full potential academically, socially, and professionally, and to develop as ethical and informed individuals.



Values – TU Dublin Students' Union is student-led, democratic, inclusive, transparent, accountable, ethical, respectful, empowering, and professional.

**TU Dublin Students' Union Constitution, 2023*



Deiric Ó Broin Chairperson of TU Dublin Students' Union CLG

A Message from the Chair of TU Dublin Students' Union CLG

2022/23 has been a very successful year for TU Dublin SU CLG and I am delighted to contribute to this report which outlines the important work carried out by the Union. The Report reflects the commitment, hard work, resilience, and resourcefulness of the sabbatical team, ably led by Brian, our staff and the large numbers of students contributing as class reps, part-time officers, and members of Council.

Despite the overarching challenges of a post-pandemic higher education system, you will notice the many achievements during the year. These include the recently passed referendum, with the largest turn-out in the history of the organisation, which established a new officer structure and corresponding staff structure reflective of the student experience in TU Dublin, and the launch of the Re:Union Network. Both speak to the efforts of the Union's leadership to ensure that the organisation is best placed to deliver for its members' interests and learn from the experience of previous generations of officers and activists.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Board of TU Dublin SU CLG for their continued support over the last year, retired Board members and new members joining. Their commitment, knowledge, expertise and tireless support for the work of the Union is to be commended. I also want to pay tribute to our interim General Manager, Mary Scally, and all TU Dublin SU staff who have shown incredible determination to ensure continuity and high-quality service delivery in challenging circumstances. In conclusion, the sustained progress made, and positive results are extremely encouraging, and I look forward to the Union building on them and ensuring a stronger, resilient, reflective, and more inclusive TU Dublin SU.



Brian Jordan President of TU Dublin Students' Union

A Message from the President of TU Dublin Students' Union

Pride is important. We all want to be proud of ourselves. Whether it's pride in our grades, or our work with clubs and societies, or being the very first in our family to attend university; we all deserve to feel pride at some point in our lives.

I know that this year, 2022/23, my pride came from leading TU Dublin Students' Union. Given that it was our very first year post-pandemic, we had no script to rely upon. We had no experience orchestrating campaigns across such a geographically and culturally diverse set of campuses.

But we gave it everything we had. We worked so hard, and we overcame so many obstacles. It can be easy to feel like it's never enough. It can be even easier to give up. But we didn't. And now, looking through all of our events, campaigns, policies, and achievements, I feel pride in not just myself, or the team behind me, but in the Students' Union as a whole.

I'm proud of our record-breaking class representative numbers across all campuses (the envy of USI). I'm proud of our Student Council and the activists who make it feel special. I'm proud of our Referendum, which has altered our Officer Structure for years to come. I'm proud of the progress we've made in drafting the first ever Partnership Agreement between ourselves and our University. I'm proud of the incoming team of full-time and part-time Officers, in positions we've never had before.

I'm proud of how much we've fundraised, how much we've fought against injustice against students, and I'm proud of every single student here in TU Dublin.

And that's what I want for every single student here in TU Dublin. In the coming months, we want students to feel pride in their university. We want their facilities to be second to none. We want their events to be all over social media. And we want their time here to be transformative. Students should feel at home here. And we know that's ambitious. But ambition is what drives us to do better. To work harder.

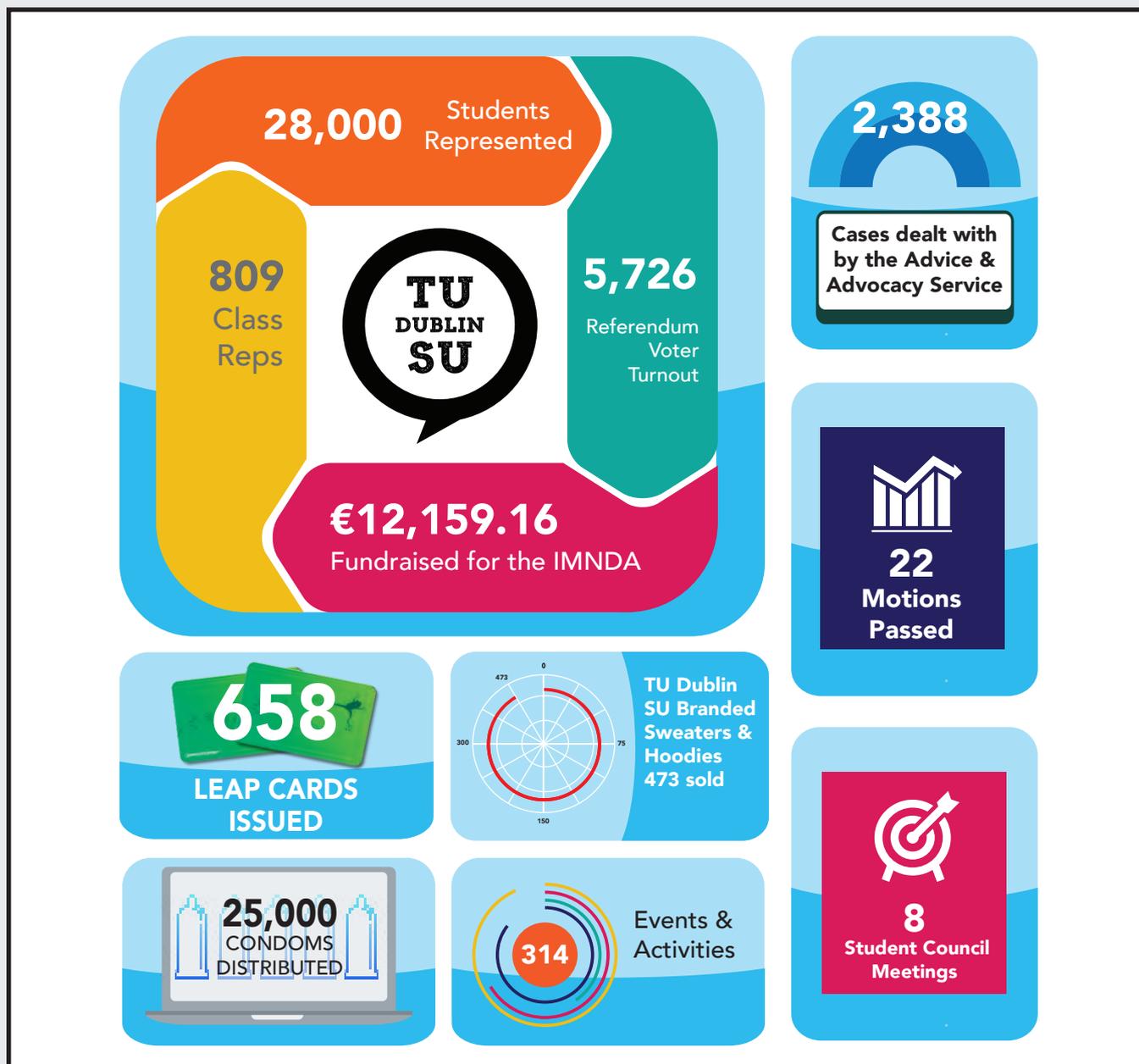
We won't stop until every single student can afford education. Until every student has affordable accommodation. Until every student can afford to eat on campus. Until every student feels safe on campus. Until students wear our Students' Union with pride.

I hope that, after looking through the rest of this document, you feel that way too. And if not? Well, give us another few months; I have a funny feeling we'll change your mind.

The logo features the text 'TU DUBLIN SU' in a bold, white, distressed font, centered within a teal speech bubble. The speech bubble is set against a teal background with a vertical bar of purple, pink, and orange on the left side.

TU
DUBLIN
SU

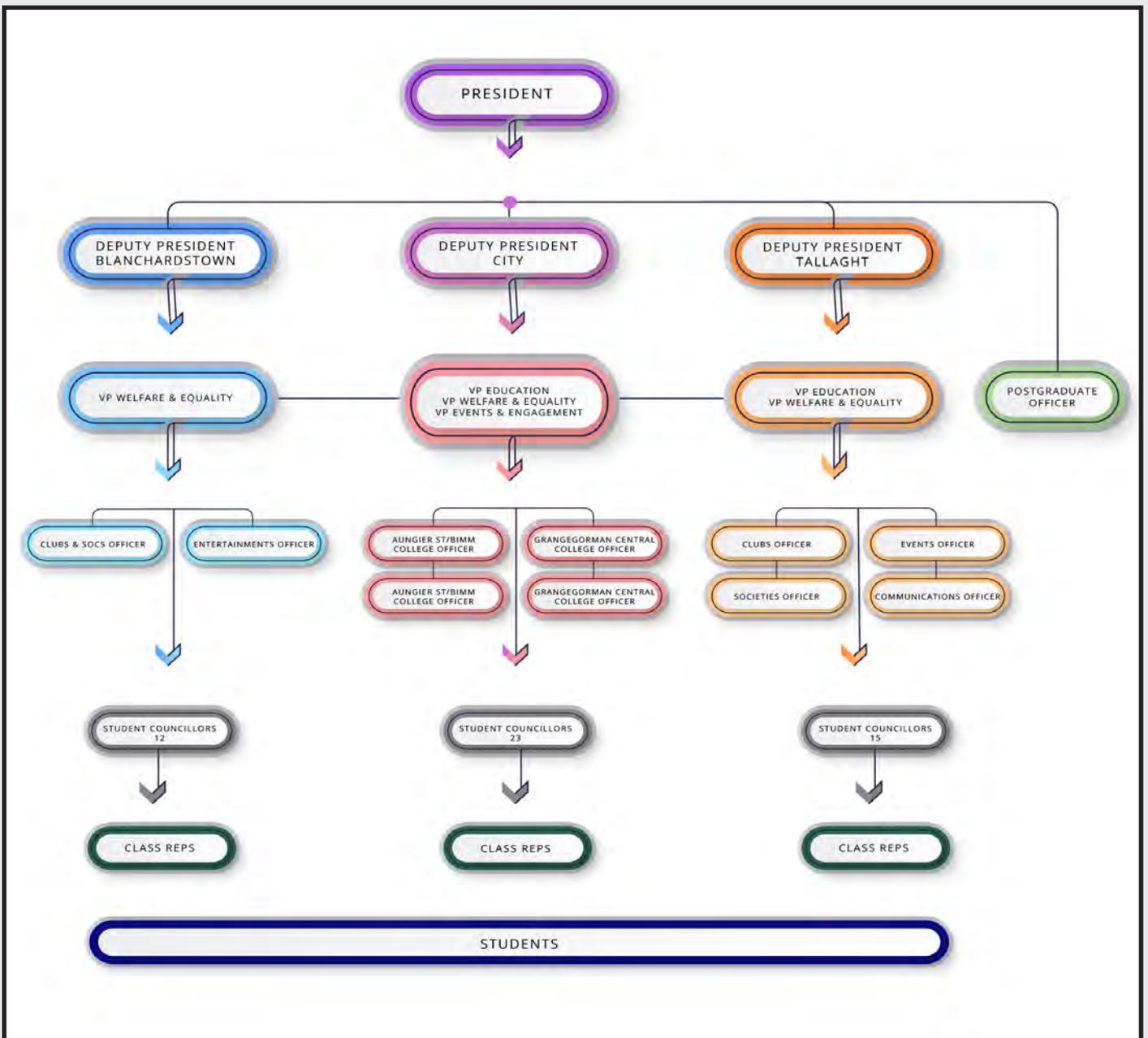
**Section II:
TU Dublin
Students' Union
2022/23
The Year in Review**



2022/23 The Year In Numbers

- 28,000 – The number of student members represented by TU Dublin Students' Union
- 25,000 – The number of condoms and lubricant given out free as part of TU Dublin Students' Union Welfare and Equality Programme
- €12,159.16 – The amount of money raised by TU Dublin Students' Union in 2022/23 for The Irish Motor Neurone Association (IMNDA) as part of the annual Raise and Give (RAG) initiative
- 5,726 – The record-breaking number of students who turned out to vote for change in the Constitutional Referendum of November 2022, paving the way for the implementation of a more streamlined and effective representative structure for TU Dublin Students' Union across all five campuses.
- 2,388 – The number of students who engaged with TU Dublin SU's Student Advice and Advocacy Service in 2022/23
- 809 – The number of Class Representatives in TU Dublin Students' Union, which is the envy of many in the Irish student movement
- 658 – The number of LEAP cards issued as part of the new TUDSU+ Service in 2022/23
- 473 total – The number of 'TU Dublin SU' Branded Sweaters and Hoodies sold as part of the new TUDSU+ Service in 2022/23
- 314 – The number of extra-curricular events and activities, including balls, fundraisers, and parties organised by TU Dublin Students' Union during the academic year 2022/23. 281 of these events were free!
- 22 – The number of motions passed by Student Council in 2022/23
- 8 – The number of Student Council meetings that took place in the 2022/23 academic year

Spotlight: Democracy



Democratic Structure 2022/23



Democratic Structure

TU Dublin Students' Union is a membership-based organisation with democratic structures representative of the student body as a whole.

TU Dublin Students' Union and its Constitution are formally recognised by the Governing Body of TU Dublin, which enables students to be represented collectively by TU Dublin Students' Union at many levels within the University.

The democratic structures of TU Dublin Students' Union are populated by representatives elected by students of TU Dublin to roles including Class Representatives, members of Student Council, and the Student Leadership Team, made up of full-time and part-time officers. Class Representatives are elected by students at the beginning of each academic year, and these student representatives subsequently elect the membership of Student Council, the body that establishes policy, and to which all the elected officers (full-time and part-time) are accountable for their work on behalf of students. A student leadership team is elected by students across all TU Dublin Campuses on an annual basis, in the second semester of each year.



Last Student Council Meeting of 2022/23 in City Hall

Student Council

Student Council is the highest decision-making body of TU Dublin Students' Union. It is responsible for democratically deciding policy and agreeing the yearly work priorities for TU Dublin Students' Union. It is also the body that holds Student Officers to account. In 2022/23 its membership was comprised of 101 Student Councillors elected by Class Representatives from across all campuses, as follows:

- 8 Full-Time Officers (elected by students)
- 1 Postgraduate Officer (elected by postgraduate students)
- 9 Part-Time Officers (elected by Student Council)
- 83 Student Councillors (elected by Class Representatives of each campus).

Council proceedings are overseen by an Independent Chairperson elected by Student Council, who may not have been a member of TU Dublin Students' Union for at least four academic years. The current Chairperson is Graham Hayes.

Following training for Student Councillors at the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year, members embarked on a very productive term of office. Student Councillors began by approving the proposed programme of work for TU Dublin Students' Union at its first meeting in October 2022. They subsequently scheduled and attended eight Student Council meetings, all of which were quorate.

During 2022/23, Student Council successfully passed twenty-two motions and adopted three new policies. These included a new policy on Fair Pay for Work, mandating TU Dublin Students' Union to advance fair pay for work done by all students, and to advocate that student work placements with payment should be the University's preferred option, wherever possible.

Student Council also authorised the holding of a constitutional referendum to make the structures of TU Dublin Students' Union more reflective of the student experience by establishing a new officer and staffing structure.



Student Council voting at City Hall



(left to right) Graham Hayes Chair of Student Council, Brian Jordan SU President, Glenn Fitzpatrick Chair of SU Electoral Commission, signing the new Constitution.

Constitutional Referendum 2022

In October 2022 Student Council voted to hold a referendum on a series of proposed changes to the TU Dublin Students' Union Constitution, in a bid to create a more streamlined, representative officer structure to better serve students across the campuses of TU Dublin.

Following an enthusiastic campaign across all TU Dublin campuses for a yes vote, a ground-breaking referendum resulted in one of the largest turnouts ever seen in the history of the organisation. In November 2022, 5,726 students (23% of TU Dublin's total student population) came out to vote in the cross-campus referendum, with 96.4% of those who took part voting Yes.

The decision by students to ratify the proposed changes and adopt the new Constitution paved the way for the creation of a new political structure to improve campus representation, ensure better collaboration on issues and campaigns, and foster stronger student involvement in the representative structures of TU Dublin Students' Union.

These changes included the creation of a new full-time officer role with responsibility for Communications and Media, and ten new part-time officer positions focusing on student rights in areas including gender equality, disabilities, and sustainability. (For details on how the new structure will look in 2023/24, see Section V).

At a special ceremony in May 2023 the public signing of this historic new document formally marked the implementation of the new structure, signifying an important milestone in the development of TU Dublin Students' Union. The new Constitution came into effect on 1 July 2023.

Student Officer Elections

The first elections under the new TU Dublin Students' Union Constitution took place in March 2023, when a keenly contested leadership race saw eleven candidates contest seven of the eight full-time officer positions.

Three days of polling on all campuses saw 16% of TU Dublin's total student population (4,719 students) participating in elections to choose the new SU Leadership Team for 2023/24.

Graduate students also cast their votes for the role of Postgraduate Officer, while the position of City Campus Vice President was filled in April, following a byelection campaign in all TU Dublin city campuses.

Ten part-time officers were subsequently elected by Student Council in March and April 2023. Following a formal inauguration ceremony at the end of the 2022/23 academic year, the newly elected TU Dublin Student Leadership Team for 2023/24 took up their positions in July 2023.



Vote Yes Campaign for Referendum - Adam Clarke, VP for City Campus (centre) and Moses Ylorse Eusebio, East Quad College Officer (right)



(left to right) All TU Dublin SU Presidents past and present, Pierre Yimbog, Rebecca Gorman, Mark O'Donnell and Brian Jordan.

TU Dublin Students' Union Advice & Advocacy Service

Introduction

The Student Advice and Advocacy Service provides free, confidential, and independent advice, information, support, representation and advocacy to all full and part-time TU Dublin students. Students can approach the Student Advice and Advocacy Service with any issues they might experience during their time at TU Dublin.

Meet the Team

TU Dublin Student Union's experienced Student Advice and Advocacy Team has the knowledge, resources, enthusiasm, and expertise to support students across a range of areas including financial, academic, and personal.

The staff of TU Dublin Students' Union support students in a variety of ways, including the following:

- Explaining and guiding students through university procedures
- Helping students to explore their options
- Providing assistance and/or representation
- Signposting to other services
- Listening
- Providing information

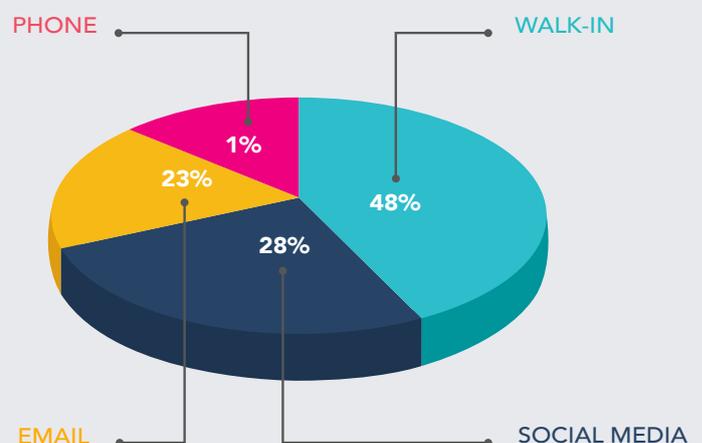


TU Dublin SU Advice and Advocacy Service Team

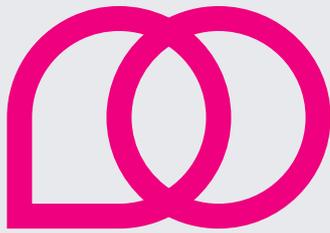
How Students Initially Engaged with TU Dublin Students' Union Advice and Advocacy Service in 2022/23

2,388 students contacted the TU Dublin Students' Union Advice and Advocacy Service in 2022/23. Nearly half of these engagements were through walk-ins, where students had face-to-face interactions with staff. 28% engaged with the service via the social media channels operated by TU Dublin Students' Union, such as Instagram, TikTok and the website's live chat function.

While some students chose to raise certain issues publicly on these platforms, the majority of student contact with the Advice and Advocacy Service was conducted using private messaging on the online channels. Email played a significant role, accounting for 23% of initial casework, with 14% using the dedicated advice service email address advice@tudublinsu.ie, and 9% reaching out to Student Advisors directly on their individual work email addresses. 1% of students who initiated contact with the Advice and Advocacy Service did so over the phone.



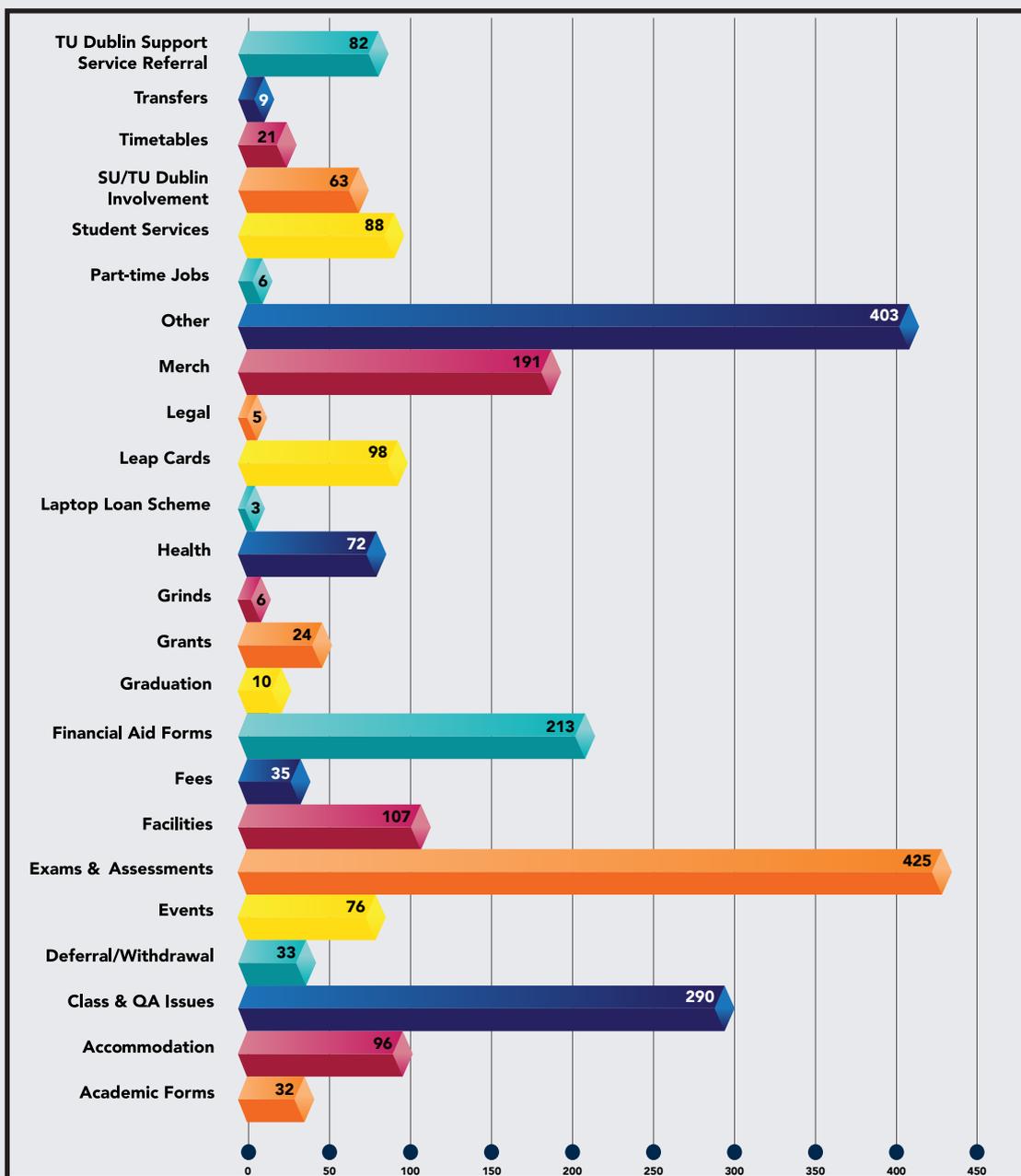
2022/2023 Academic Year Casework Origin



STUDENT ADVICE & ADVOCACY SERVICE

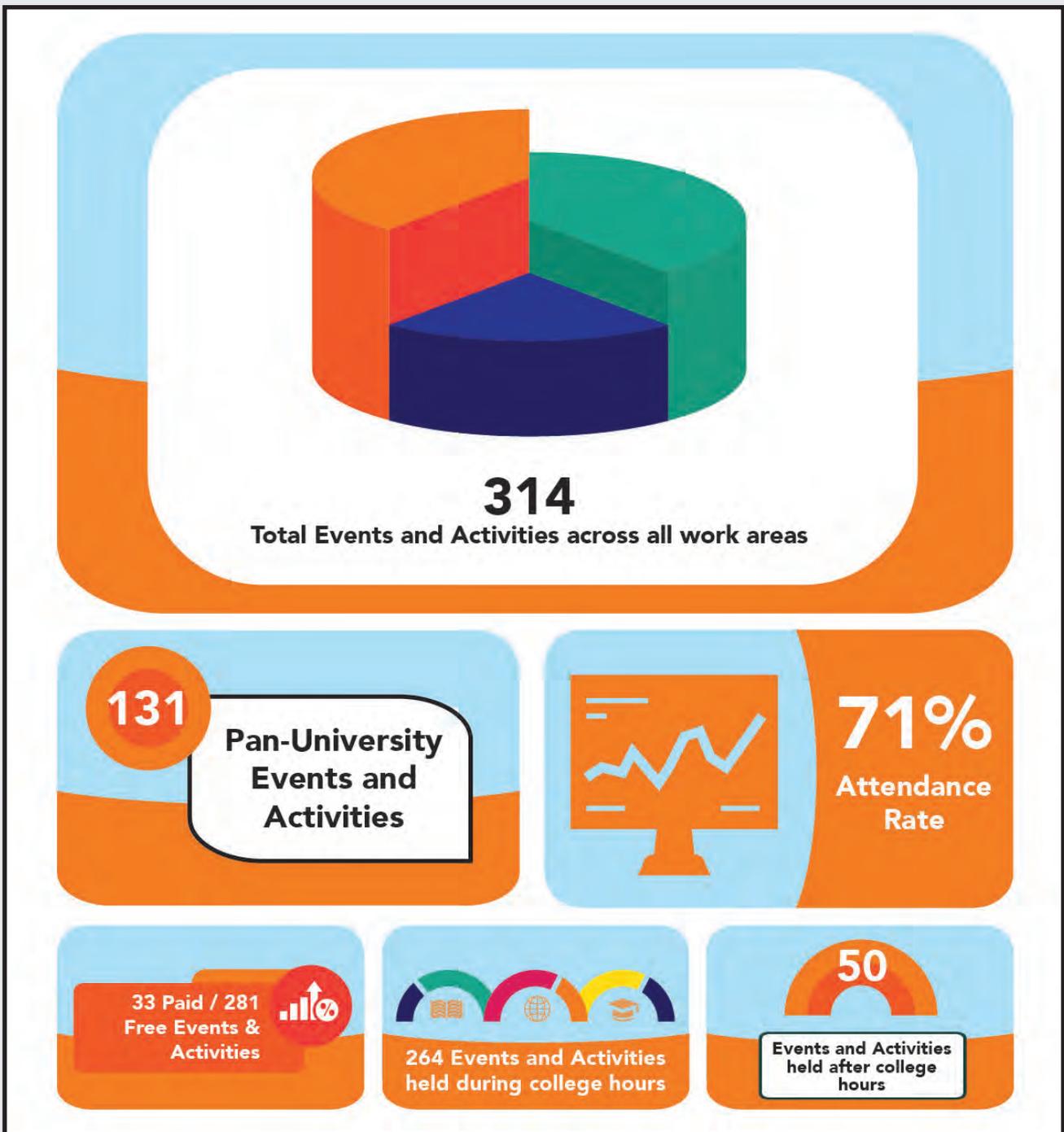
Casework Trends

Students had a variety of reasons for contacting the TU Dublin Students' Union Advice and Advocacy Service during 2022/23. Queries encompassed social, academic, and financial areas, ranging from interest in getting involved with TU Dublin Students' Union, to queries on financial aid and grants, and questions about the University's quality assurance processes and facilities. The most prominent area of concern among students was exams and assessments, followed by queries related to class and quality assurance issues.



2022/2023 Academic Year Casework Reason

Spotlight: Events & Engagement



Section II: TU Dublin Students' Union - 2022/23 - The Year in Review

Introduction

As part of its mission to ensure that each student enjoys a positive and transformative experience during their time at TU Dublin, the Events and Engagement team at TU Dublin Students' Union is tasked with enhancing student life through the provision of extra-curricular events and activities, encouraging students to explore new interests and meet people beyond their immediate courses.

An impressive total of 314 events and activities were organised in 2022/23. These ranged from seminars and film screenings to fundraisers and formal balls, with events taking place both on and off campus.

While traditionally evening events such as the Freshers' Ball and RAG Ball have always been a big success, TU Dublin Students' Union made a conscious effort in 2022/23 to provide a wider range of offerings during college hours, to ensure that the programme of events could cater for as many students as possible.

Throughout 2022/23 the team also endeavoured to increase participation and engagement amongst students affected by the cost-of-living crisis. As a result, most of the events and activities run under the auspices of TU Dublin Students' Union were free. The following are just some of the key highlights from a momentous year:

Student Orientation

At the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year, TU Dublin Students' Union welcomed thousands of new students to the campuses of TU Dublin. The Student Officer Team and staff worked in collaboration with the University to facilitate class addresses and organise a variety of events and activities to make students' first day on-site as exciting and fun as possible.



(Bottom left to right) Adam Clarke, Brian Jordan and Ian Kelly meeting incoming students during Orientation Week

Freshers' Fortnight

In planning Freshers' Fortnight, TU Dublin Students' Union was keenly aware that many returning students did not have much of an opportunity to make the most of their college experience in TU Dublin during the previous two years, due to restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 crisis. To address this, the 2022/23 academic year kicked off with two weeks of packed events and activities between late September and early October 2022.

In all, seventy-seven different events took place across the multi-campus University, as well as at off-site venues, with activities provided both during the day, and in the evenings. It is fair to say that students' engagement was phenomenal throughout Freshers' Fortnight, resulting in all major events selling out within days. TU Dublin Student Union's flagship event, the Freshers' Ball, proved particularly successful, with almost eight hundred students hitting the dancefloor for one last party to wrap up two weeks of fantastic events.



Freshers' Ball in the Academy during Freshers' Fortnight

Halloween 2022

A fiendishly good programme of events took place during 'Halloweek' at the end of October 2022. The specially organised Haunted Tours of Grangegorman proved particularly popular amongst students, after which they got to sink their fangs into some great food and refreshments at local Dublin 7 hostelry Boco's.

A monster week of activities concluded with a spooktacular Fancy Dress Ball, as TU Dublin Students' Union teamed up with IADTSU for an epic Halloween Costume party that saw over seven hundred students partying until late at the Academy Theatre on Abbey Street.

Christmas

In the lead into the Christmas Break, the team put on a week of seasonally themed festive events for students to enjoy. These included 'Drink and Draw' in the Smithfield Grá Bar, Smashed Monday in the Academy, an incredibly special Christmas Day Party in Ohana, and the ever-popular annual Jingle Ball featuring festive jumpers galore.

Graduation Ball

In November 2022 the crew pulled out all the stops to organise a formal Graduation Ball for the class of 2022 at the Radisson Blu Hotel on Golden Lane. The ticketed event saw graduates donning ball gowns and tuxedos and celebrating in style with a three-course meal, followed by dancing until late to music from a live band.

Inauguration Ceremony

In May 2023 TU Dublin Students' Union concluded a packed schedule of events and activities for 2022/23 with the much-anticipated Inauguration Ceremony for newly elected officers at St Laurence's Church, Grangegorman.

The formal ceremony, which was chaired by former SU President Mark O'Donnell, also saw the official signing of the new Constitution by Graham Hayes, the independent Chairperson of the Student Council and TU Dublin Students' Union President, Brian Jordan. Glenn Fitzpatrick, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, also signed the new constitution as a witness.

In addition to the ceremonial inauguration of the newly elected Student Leadership team for 2023/24, the event also recognised and celebrated the achievements of the outgoing 2022/23 Student Leadership team, before the last event of the year wrapped up with a convivial reception for activists, friends, and family.



Halloween Ball, The Academy



Saoirse Daly, VP for Education giving out popcorn and candyfloss for RAG Week



Students enjoying the sumo suits on the Bolton Street Campus



Student Volunteers Absailing from Smithfield Skyview Tower in aid of IMNDA

Section II: TU Dublin Students' Union - 2022/23 - The Year in Review

Student Awards Ceremony

The annual TU Dublin Student Awards ceremony took place at Dublin's Radisson Blu Hotel in early May 2023. The awards, organised by TU Dublin Students' Union, recognize and celebrate the achievements of students demonstrating exceptional leadership and commitment in areas as diverse as Welfare, Education, and Events and Engagement. A total of fifteen awards and honours were presented on the night, including five Class Rep Awards which were jointly sponsored by the University. Awards were also presented to those who represented their local campuses with pride and enthusiasm during the 2022/23 academic year.

One of the highlights of the evening saw Honorary Membership of TU Dublin Students' Union bestowed on Brian Gormley. The honour, which has only ever been awarded on a handful of rare occasions, was presented in recognition of Brian's passionate advocacy and unwavering allyship to the Irish Student Movement over the past three decades.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of a cheque for just over €12,000 to the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA), TU Dublin Students Union's designated Raise and Give (RAG) charity partner for the 2022/23 academic year. (For more about RAG see Section III).



TU Dublin Students' Union Awards 2022/23

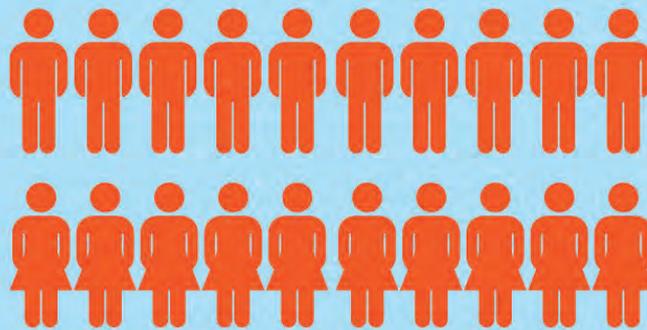


Student Awards Ceremony at Radisson Blu Hotel Golden Lane.



(left to right) TU Dublin SU President Brian Jordan presenting Honorary Membership to Brian Gormley, Head of Sustainability Education for TU Dublin.

Spotlight: Education



809 Total Class Reps (2022-2023)

Aungier Street: **99%**
Bolton Street: **93%**
East Quad: **75%**

Blanchardstown: **94%**
Central Quad: **87%**
Tallaght: **76%**

500 TOTAL NOMINATIONS

196 Individual Class Representatives nominated.
1 Student from each Faculty received an Award at the Students' Union Awards Ceremony.

Arts & Humanities: **54**
Engineering & Built Environment: **53**
Business: **38**
Sciences & Health: **46**
Computing, Digital and Data: **5**

Section II: TU Dublin Students' Union - 2022/23 - The Year in Review

Introduction

The Education Team at TU Dublin Students' Union oversees the development and delivery of core services for the membership, covering critical areas such as academic policy, student representation, the Class Rep system, and education campaigns. It also works in conjunction with the Welfare and Equality Team to staff the Student Advice Service.

Academic Policy

Policy Review and Feedback

Throughout 2022/23 TU Dublin Students' Union has been collaborating with TU Dublin's Academic Affairs in developing and updating a range of key academic policies, to ensure that the student voice is represented and that these policies protect and enhance the rights of students into the future. TU Dublin Students' Union provided feedback to the University on a number of proposed policies in March. These included:

- Assessment Board Process
- Guidelines to Handling Violation of Assessment Regulations
- Extenuating Circumstance Related to Assessment
- Procedures Following Publication of Results
- Student Academic Complaints Procedure
- Digital Education Policy

TU Dublin Students' Union is delighted to report that most of the feedback given was accepted. Out of a total of 41 comments made by TU Dublin Students' Union, 36 were accepted, while five were mooted.

Student Representation

Faculty Board Meetings

January 2023 saw the introduction of a new Faculty Board structure in TU Dublin. This new structure entailed the selection of thirty Faculty Board Reps and six student representatives from the 2022/23 cohort of Class Reps for each of TU Dublin's five Faculty Boards.

Student representatives attended three Faculty Board meetings during the second semester of 2022/23. Ahead of each of these meetings, they were invited to attend a preparatory session arranged by TU Dublin Students' Union to work through and discuss any issues arising from the agenda. These pre-meetings proved very successful, with Class Reps reporting that they were enjoying their new roles.

As part of their work as Faculty Board Reps, some students also served as the student representative on the various Faculty Academic Quality Enhancement Committees, where they performed an important function representing the student voice as part of the University's Quality Assurance and Enhancement processes.

TU Dublin Students' Union is currently in discussions with the University about the addition of a standing 'Student Update' on the agenda of all Faculty Boards. TU Dublin Students' Union believes that this will help give students a greater voice, while also enabling them to promote student-led initiatives amongst the academic community of TU Dublin.

Class Representatives

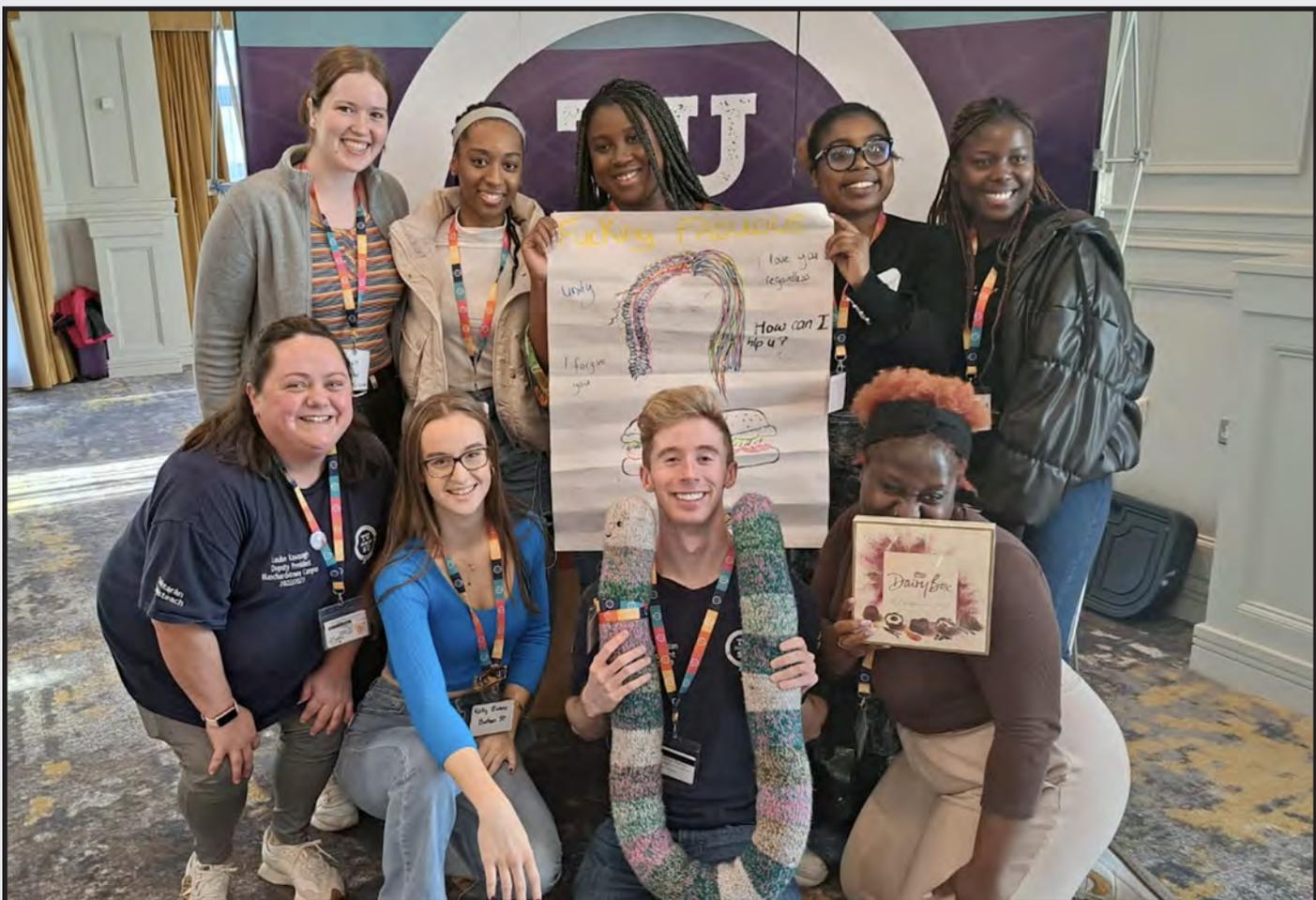
The democratic structure of TU Dublin Students' Union includes the election of Class Representatives from each academic programme at TU Dublin. A total of 809 Class Representatives were elected in the 2022/23 academic year, and the percentage of elected TU Dublin Students' Union Class Representatives per campus was as follows:

- Aungier Street: 99%
- Blanchardstown: 94%
- Bolton Street: 93%
- Central Quad: 87%
- East Quad: 75%
- Tallaght: 76%

TU Dublin Students' Union also organises a range of capacity building initiatives and networking events designed to help student representatives develop the skills and knowledge to be as effective as possible in the role. As part of this process, ninety participants attended the Class Representative Training session in Westgrove Hotel in November 2022. National Student Engagement Training (NStEP) was held online in December, while forty Class Representatives attended the Christmas party in Wigwam in December 2022.



Saoirse Daly, VP for Education presenting awards to Class Reps



Brian Jordan and Louise Kavanagh with Union mascot Wormy at Class Rep Training



Overnight Class Rep Training at Westgrove Hotel in November 2022

Section II: TU Dublin Students' Union - 2022/23 - The Year in Review

Class Rep Awards 2023

Faculty	Programme	Name
Arts & Humanities	TU791, Bachelor of Arts Applied Social Studies in Social Care	Caitlin Cunningham
Business	DT341 Bachelor of Science (Hons) Marketing	Zainab Apako
Engineering & Built Environment	TU823 Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) Manufacturing Engineering	Emer Meagher
Sciences & Health	TU882 Bachelor of Science (Hons) Nutraceuticals in Health and Nutrition	Joanna Carroll
Computing, Digital & Data	TU856 Bachelor of Science (Hons) Computer Science	Éadaoin Ó Snodaigh

The 2023 Class Rep Awards attracted great interest, with 196 individual Class Reps nominated across TU Dublin's five faculties. The names of the successful Class Reps were announced at the Annual Awards Ceremony in May 2023, where each winner was presented with an Award certificate and a €200 voucher, jointly sponsored by the Students' Union and TU Dublin.

Education Campaigns

Examinations Campaign

Education staff worked in tandem with members of the Welfare and Equality Team on the Examinations Campaign, which ran throughout the University exam periods of December 2022 and May 2023.

Acknowledging that students would not have time to engage in events during the exam period, TU Dublin Students' Union opted for a strong social media campaign featuring to-the-point graphics with helpful tips and advice, light-hearted TikToks and informative articles on TUDSU.tv.

The Exams campaign primarily focused on the provision of information and encouraging motivation amongst students. The Information element of the campaign took the form of social media posts and stories, featuring topics such as exam etiquette and dealing with stress. Details were posted on the dedicated Exams and Assessments Hub, as well as being provided directly by members of TU Dublin Students' Union's Advice team.

The 'Motivation' aspect of the campaign centred around the setting up of daily stands, where officers and members of the TU Dublin Students' Union Advice Team could provide any advice students might need in between exams on each campus. Students could also avail of additional contributions from other support services, including TU Dublin's Student Counselling Service, the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Service, the USI Mental Health programme, and out-of-hours peer support service Niteline.

National Student Survey 2023

In 2023 TU Dublin Students' Union worked in a spirit of partnership with colleagues in the University to promote the annual national Student Survey. Funding of €3,000 was secured from Student Services to run a campaign publicising the survey through a variety of methods including the use of graphics, social media, posters, branded merchandise, pop-up stands, and the promotion of a national competition.

As a result of these efforts, the participation rate for 2023 showed an increase across all categories, with the survey recording:

- Almost 3,500 TU Dublin responses, equating to a 26% response rate
- A 2% increase in the number of student responses compared to 2022
- A 5% higher response rate than the university average nationwide
- A 2% higher response rate compared to the Higher Education Institution average nationwide

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Officers hit the ground running for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023, a week dedicated to promoting the Irish language. Several dedicated language and cultural events were held throughout the week, including Cupla Focal, Learn on the Leithreas, a Piper Session at The Cobblestone in Smithfield, Pop-up for learners (Bingo), and an Irish language Movie Night.

Postgraduate Week

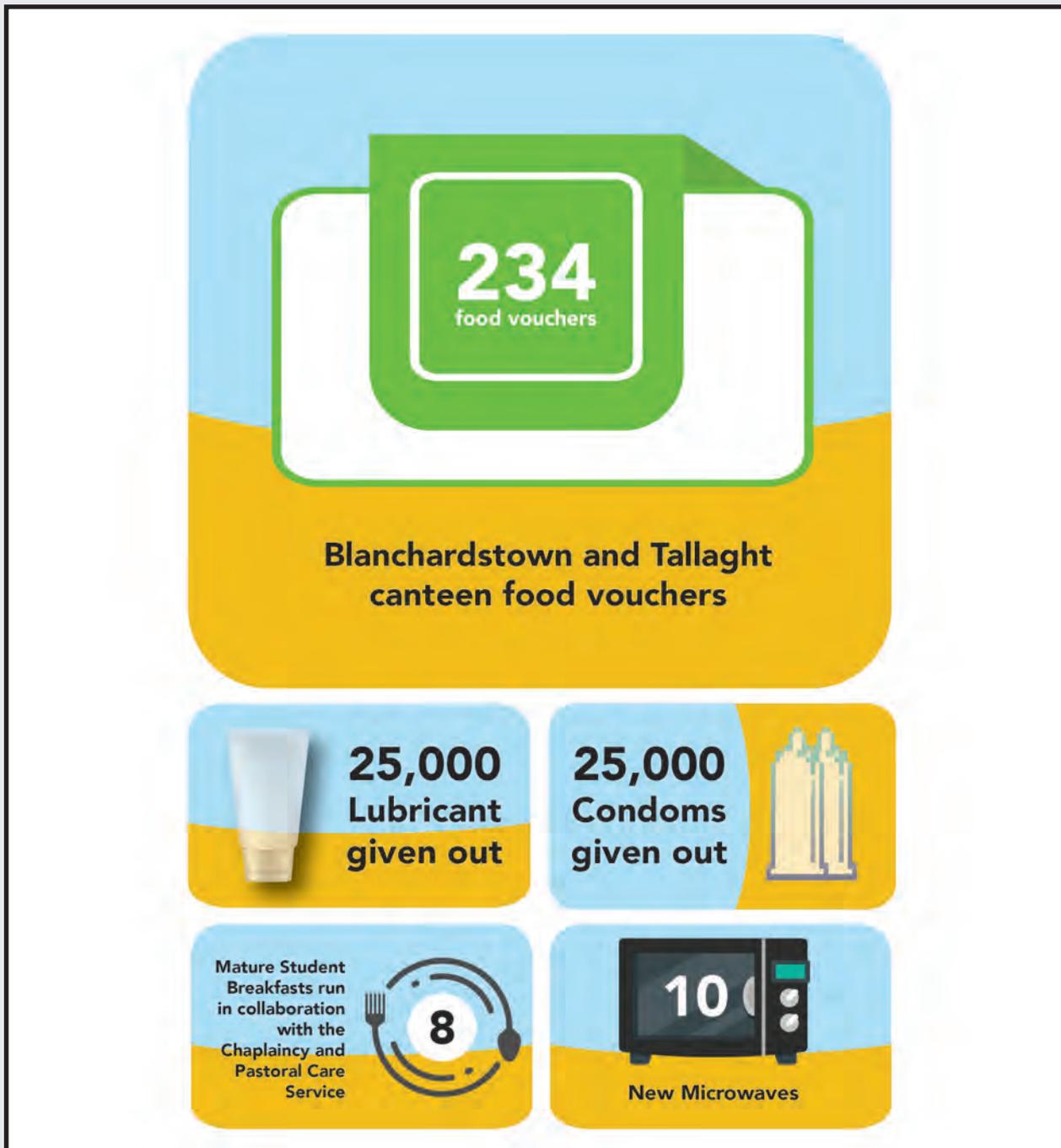
The first ever Postgraduate Week was held in spring 2023, with a packed programme that featured a variety of events facilitated by TU Dublin Student Union's Postgraduate Officer, working in collaboration with the VP for Research and Innovation and a number of University services.

These events were hosted in various locations across the university and the wider county of Dublin, and included a welcome event, talks on LinkedIn and academic writing, Mindfulness with Chaplaincy, and a Counselling Services Talk. The week also offered opportunities for Graduate students to connect with each other through social activities such as walks, talks and a pizza and soda night.



Jessica Perez wrapping up a successful Postgraduate Week of Events

Spotlight: Welfare & Equality



Introduction

The Welfare and Equality team of TU Dublin Students' Union is committed to promoting inclusivity, raising awareness, and supporting students throughout their time at TU Dublin. As part of this work, TU Dublin Students' Union organised a series of impactful campaigns addressing critical issues and fostering a supportive environment for students throughout the 2022/2023 academic year.

Welfare and Equality Campaigns

Mental Health Week

In October 2022, a week-long campaign was run dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of mental health. University-wide activities were organised, such as speed venting, pinata smashing, self-care packs, compliment notes and information stands hosted by the youth mental health service, Jigsaw.



Students enjoying the Rodeo Penis on our Tallaght Campus as part of SHAG Week

SHIFT Week

TU Dublin Student Union's annual SHIFT Week (Sexual Health in The First Term) focused on promoting sexual health and consent positively and inclusively. Featuring sex-positive workshops, and a variety of engaging activities, the highlights of the week included a sold-out Sex Toy Bingo and Active Consent's play 'The Kinds of Sex You Might Have at College' which was held in the East Quad Black Box Theatre and run in collaboration with the TU Dublin Student Counselling Service.

Abolishment of Violence

TU Dublin Students' Union decided to do its own spin on the Official UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. With a student body as diverse as that of TU Dublin, the organisation strives to be as inclusive as possible in its campaigns, so TU Dublin Students' Union chose not to limit it to women and instead hold its first-ever Abolishment of Violence campaign. Domestic abuse support services Sonas and Saoirse came in to do pop-up information stands across all campuses and also hosted the powerful Sonas '16 days – 16 Lives' exhibition, featuring sixteen portraits of victims of femicide and filicide, raising awareness of the impact of domestic abuse in Ireland.



SHIFT Week Poster



(Left to Right) Hazel Doran, Brian Jordan, Prof. Yvonne Galligan Director of EDI TU Dublin, Irene Gallagher Exec Assistant of EDI TU Dublin and Jessica Perez, with SU mascot Wormy at International Day of Disabilities Event

Social Justice Week

In partnership with the TU Dublin Pastoral Care & Chaplaincy Service, the Welfare and Equality team rolled out the annual Social Justice Week. The week-long series of events aimed to create awareness, inspire action, and address global and national challenges related to social justice.

SHAG Week

Building on the success of SHIFT Week, SHAG Week (Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance) focused on providing inclusive and informative activities on sexual health to students. The Big Sexy Quiz and TU Dublin Students' Union Drag Race were among the engaging events that garnered significant participation.



Mature Student Breakfast Event in Aungier Street Campus



Hazel Doran (right) with students at the Black and Irish talk during Black History Month

EDI Week

EDI Week (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) ran in February 2023, promoting equality and inclusion for all TU Dublin students. Collaborations with external organisations, workshops, and multicultural festivities, including Neuro Pride Ireland and a screening of 'How to Tell a Secret', all showcased the dedication of TU Dublin Students' Union to celebrating diversity.

Lift the Lid on Equality

TU Dublin Students' Union ran its debut Lift the Lid on Equality webinar in April, striving to empower underrepresented students, encouraging them to pursue leadership positions and work towards a more inclusive society. Inspiring speakers shared their experiences, making the event a resounding success.

TU Dublin Students' Union Campaigns

THE YEAR IN PICTURES



Students enjoying the Petting Zoo on Grangegorman Campus during Freshers' Fortnight



Our Elected Officers and Students at the Pride Parade



Students participating in the National Walkout on Blanchardstown Campus



TU Dublin SU Leadership Debate in the Generator



Rock 4 RAG Event in the Workman's Club



TU Dublin SU Elected Officers meeting incoming students during Orientation Week

Section II: TU Dublin Students' Union - 2022/23 - The Year in Review



Students participating at the National Walkout Campaign on Grangegorman Campus



Drag Race Event in the Workman's Club



Student Volunteers Abseiling from Skyview Tower in Smithfield for IMNDA



Student Sleepout, Grangegorman Campus



Students voting during Student Council Meeting



Women in Research event at St Laurence's, Grangegorman

The logo features the text 'TU DUBLIN SU' in a bold, white, distressed font. The text is centered within a dark blue circle, which is itself set against a white speech bubble shape. The background of the entire page is dark blue, with a vertical bar on the right side containing segments of teal, grey, pink, orange, and yellow.

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Section III: TU Dublin Students' Union and The Wider Community

TU Dublin Students' Union RAG Charity Partner 2022/23

'Raise and Give' (RAG) is an annual fundraising drive organised by students' unions throughout Ireland and the UK to raise funds for specific causes and charities nominated by their respective student bodies. The initiative engages students in a host of events to collectively raise funds for their chosen charity throughout the academic year. In the past, TU Dublin Students' Union has fundraised for organisations including Belong To and Saoirse Women's Refuge.

TU Dublin Students' Union's chosen Charity Partner for 2022/23 was the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association (IMNDA), an organisation dedicated to working on behalf of people living with MND and their families and carers. This charity partner was a particularly special one for the Events and Engagement Officer, Ian Kelly, who was the Student Councillor who initially suggested partnering with IMNDA ahead of it being formally chosen by Student Council as TU Dublin Student Union's designated Charity Partner for the 2022/23 academic year.

IMNDA was a charity very close to Ian's heart, due to the support his family received from the organisation when his mother became ill with the disease during his childhood. As the officer responsible for organising all fundraising events, Ian was determined to ensure that students raised as much as possible for this worthy cause. He organised an extensive programme of high-octane events and fundraisers including the annual RAG week, Rock for RAG, Drag Race, Vegan Bake Offs, Officer Dunk Tanks, and a Charity Abseil from Smithfield Skyview Tower over the May Bank Holiday weekend.

These efforts resulted in the presentation of a cheque for over €12,000 to IMNDA at the annual student award ceremony in May. The amount raised demonstrates the generosity and compassion of the TU Dublin student body, who came together to support this worthy cause and make a real difference in the lives of those living with the disease. Expressing his delight at the amount raised for IMNDA, Ian said, "For me it is a nice way to honour my mother's memory."



Brian Jordan (right) presenting cheque for €12,159.16 to representatives from TU Dublin SU's RAG Charity of the Year, IMNDA

Spotlight: National Issues and The Crisis in Education

Words by TU Dublin Students' Union President, Brian Jordan

It can be tempting to focus solely on the positives surrounding our Students' Union and TU Dublin in general. However, as the representative body for almost 30,000 students (that's nearly the population of a town), we need to look beyond our campuses. We need to constantly remind ourselves that the issues affecting the population of Ireland are what affect our students the most. Students are some of the most vulnerable citizens we have.

Our students, more than ever, are at risk of poverty, of homelessness, and a whole suite of mental health issues. The ever-worsening Cost-of-Living and Accommodation Crises are turning third-level education back into an elitist system only accessible by the wealthy. The rise of the far right and extremism is making students fear even coming onto campus. And our failure to properly address a crumbling healthcare system or reach our carbon emission targets is putting our very lives in danger.

TU Dublin Students' Union is proud to say that we have not forgotten this.

In October, thousands of students, on every single campus in TU Dublin (and beyond), stood up from their lectures, and walked out. Students and staff came together to protest the cost of education, the cost of living, the cost of accommodation, and the cost that is having on our students. We demanded that the Government do more.

In February, in the wake of a string of racist attacks beside our largest campus, our students came together again to protest against the far right, and everyone who threatens the safety of our students. We stood together in solidarity and once again demanded that the Government do more.

In April, following their abject failure to address the myriad of issues we flagged thousands of times, our National Student Movement (USI) passed a motion unanimously regarding a Vote of No Confidence in the Irish Government.

And this is only a snapshot. We have demanded the complete abolition of fees (which would cost less than 2% of this year's budget surplus), the improvement of transport in our most underprivileged campuses, and called out those who fail to protect our students.

And guess what? We are nowhere near done. The University recently promised that it would do better for our students, by offering free gym access to our students, by building affordable accommodation, and by connecting our city campus students like never before. Our next goal? Hold them, the Gardaí, and the Government accountable. We will not stop until TU Dublin, Dublin itself, and Ireland, is somewhere where students feel proud to be.

Sleepout Event

A sleepout event was organised for a rainy night in chilly October in solidarity with fellow students affected by homelessness and the accommodation crisis. Twenty-two student sign-ups and participation from Executive team members highlighted the Students' Union's commitment to addressing societal challenges.

Black History Month

TU Dublin SU was the only students' union in Ireland to hold a month's worth of talks, workshops, and activities supporting Black History Month. Throughout this four-week period, the Union hosted twelve events over seven locations to promote diversity, inclusivity, and cultural understanding among students.

Vigil for Earthquake Victims in Turkey and Syria

In 2023 TU Dublin Students' Union organised a vigil across all campuses to honour those affected by earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The event allowed students and staff to come together, express their solidarity, and pay their respects to the affected communities.

Rally Against Racism

A powerful Rally Against Racism was held outside East Quad on the Grangegorman campus, gathering staff, students, activists, and victims of the racist assaults on the TU Dublin campuses. The event served as a platform for speakers to address the issue, advocate for change, and demonstrate solidarity.

The logo features the text 'TU DUBLIN SU' in a bold, white, serif font with a stippled texture. The text is centered within a large white speech bubble shape that has a tail pointing towards the bottom left. The background is a vibrant magenta color, with a vertical bar on the right side composed of teal, dark blue, red, orange, and yellow segments.

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**Section IV:
TU Dublin
Students' Union
Services 2022/23**

TU DUBLIN SU TUDSU+ Services

Introduction

TU Dublin Students' Union continues to develop and source a range of additional services and products in response to the evolving needs of its membership. This includes the supply of merchandise and items such as lab coats and goggles, university branded clothing, etc., that the University is not able to provide.

TUDSU+ Services

As part of its efforts to meet student demand for a variety of items and services, TU Dublin Students' Union has set up TUDSU+, an innovative new venture that covers all the Students' Union's common room events and activities, as well as the distribution of promotional products and the sale of TU Dublin SU merchandise.



TUDSU+ Office Lower House Grangegorman Campus

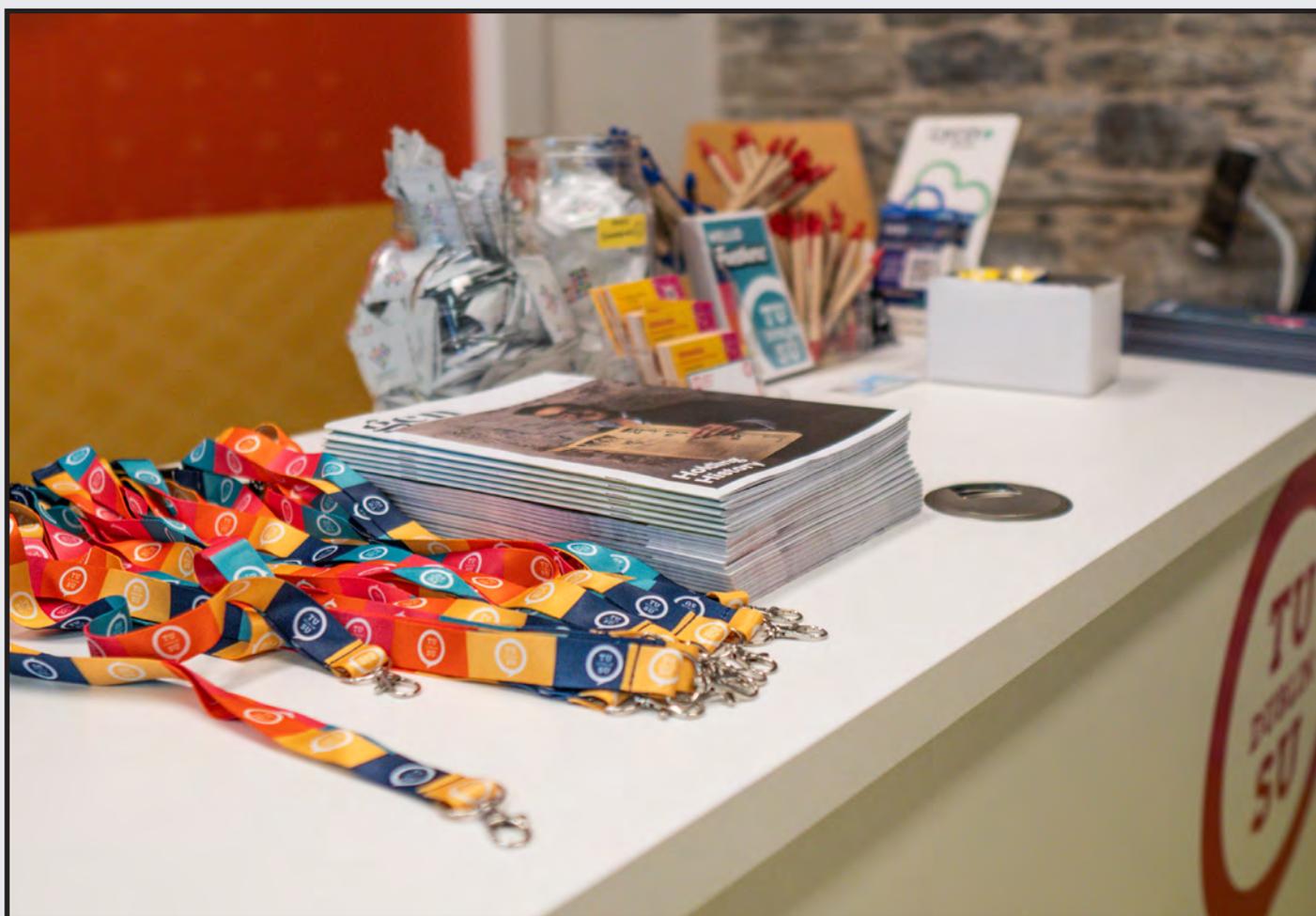
The TUDSU+ service covers the following: *

- Sale of Student Leap Cards
- Sale of Branded Merchandise
- Sale of Lab Coats and Goggles
- Distribution of TU Dublin SU Branded Promotional Materials
- Provision of themed events and activities in TU Dublin Students' Union
- Common Rooms
- Provision of Pool Tables, Games Consoles, Table Tennis and Vending Machines

**Services may vary across campuses*

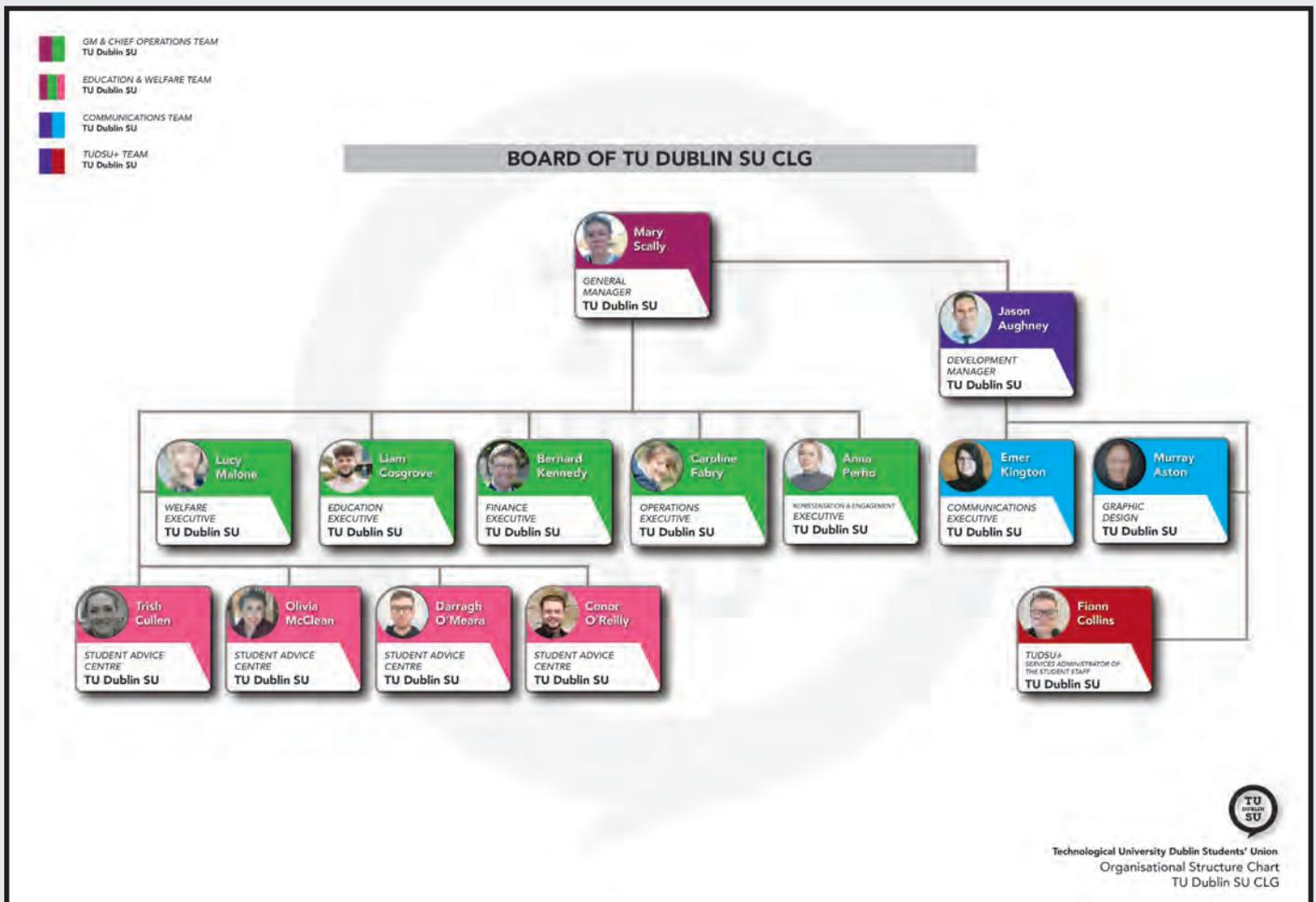
The 2022/23 academic year was a busy one for TUDSU+ and the following is a summary of the kinds of activities undertaken by the service:

- 473 TU Dublin SU Branded Sweaters and Hoodies sold
- 26 Class Orders consisting of 296 Hoodies and 8 Sweaters
- 658 Leap Cards issued
- 39 Total Marketing Activations including Tallaght (8), Blanchardstown (5), Grangegorman (18), Aungier Street (6) and Bolton Street (2)



TUDSU+ Office Lower House Grangegorman Campus

TU Dublin Students' Union Staff



The logo features the text 'TU DUBLIN SU' in a white, distressed, sans-serif font, centered within a large white speech bubble shape. The background is a solid orange color. On the left side of the image, there is a vertical bar with four colored segments: teal at the top, dark blue below it, pink below that, and yellow at the bottom.

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Section V: Looking Forward to 2023/24

2023/24 TU Dublin Students' Union Elected Officer Structure



Technological University Dublin Students' Union
Elected Officer Structure 2023/2024
TU Dublin SU



2023/24 sees the implementation of a new representative structure for TU Dublin Students' Union, reflecting the changes agreed by students in the referendum held in 2022. This structure includes an overall President, who is one of eight full-time officers, and ten part-time officer positions, all working together to serve the interests of students across all TU Dublin campuses.

Student Leadership Team for 2023/24



TU Dublin Students' Union Full-Time Officers 2023/24

President – Brian Jordan
Blanchardstown Campus Vice President – Jeremy Lawler
City Campus Vice President – Peter McCann
Tallaght Campus Vice President – Sheran Bahadir
Vice President for Events and Engagement – Ian Kelly
Vice President for Academic Affairs – Shauna O'Toole
Vice President for Welfare and Equality – Nekesa Khisa Nancy
Vice President for Communications and Media – Louise Kavanagh

TU Dublin Students' Union Part-Time Officers 2023/24

Gender Equality Officer - Silvie Molloy
Sustainability Officer - Magdalena Sedlmayr
Access Officer - Jack Jennings
Ethnic Diversity Officer - John Benedict Divinagracia
Mature Student Officer - Roberto Leahy
International Student Officer - Marco Nocerino
Gaeilge Officer - Éadaoin Ó Snodaigh
LGBTQ+ Rights Officer - Samantha Corcoran
Disabilities Officer - Ciara McKenna

Section V: Looking Forward to 2023/24



Blanchardstown Campus



Tallaght Campus



Grangegorman Campus



Aungier Street City Campus



Bolton Street City Campus



Lower House Grangegorman Campus

Launch of The Re:Union Network



The Re:Union Network is an exciting new initiative that sees the Union reconnect with the many pioneering officers and activists who helped lay the foundations of the organisation now known as TU Dublin Students' Union.

Throughout its history, the Students' Union has had incredible individuals serving it and helping it to navigate its way through the myriad changes and challenges it faced. In recognition of their valuable contribution over the years, the Union is delighted to establish a network of former Students' Union Officers and activists.

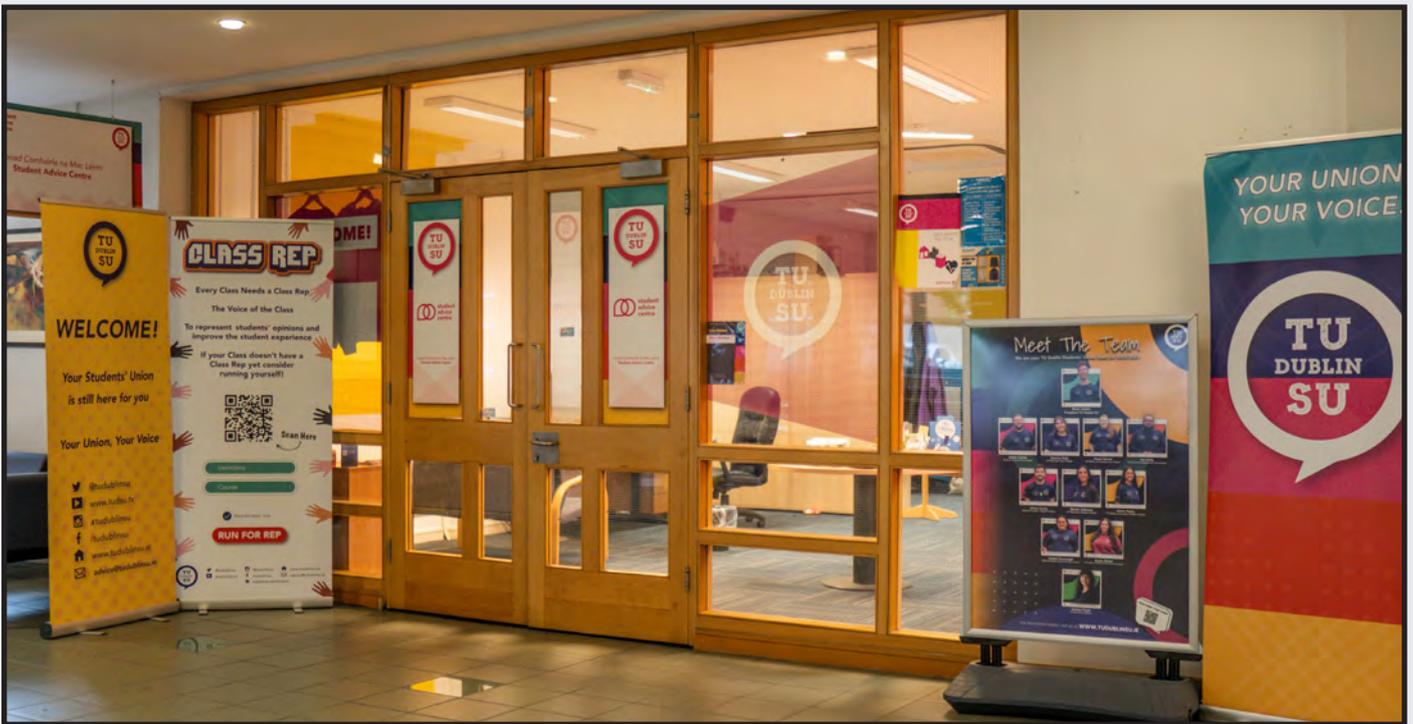
This timely new development follows on from the amalgamation of DIT SU, ITB SU and ITT SU who joined forces under the banner of TU Dublin Students' Union in 2020, and who continue a proud tradition of advocacy and representation and promoting students' interests.

The Re:Union Network forms a crucial part of capacity building efforts by the Board and the Student Leadership Team to ensure that TU Dublin SU is well resourced to deliver for its membership, through learning from the knowledge and experience of previous generations of officers and activists.

To mark this exciting new development, a celebration of the story and achievements of the Union so far will take place at an inaugural Re:Union Network event at the SU's head office in Grangegorman in early September.

re-union@tudublinsu.ie | www.linkedin.com/in/tudsu-re-union-network

TU Dublin SU Offices



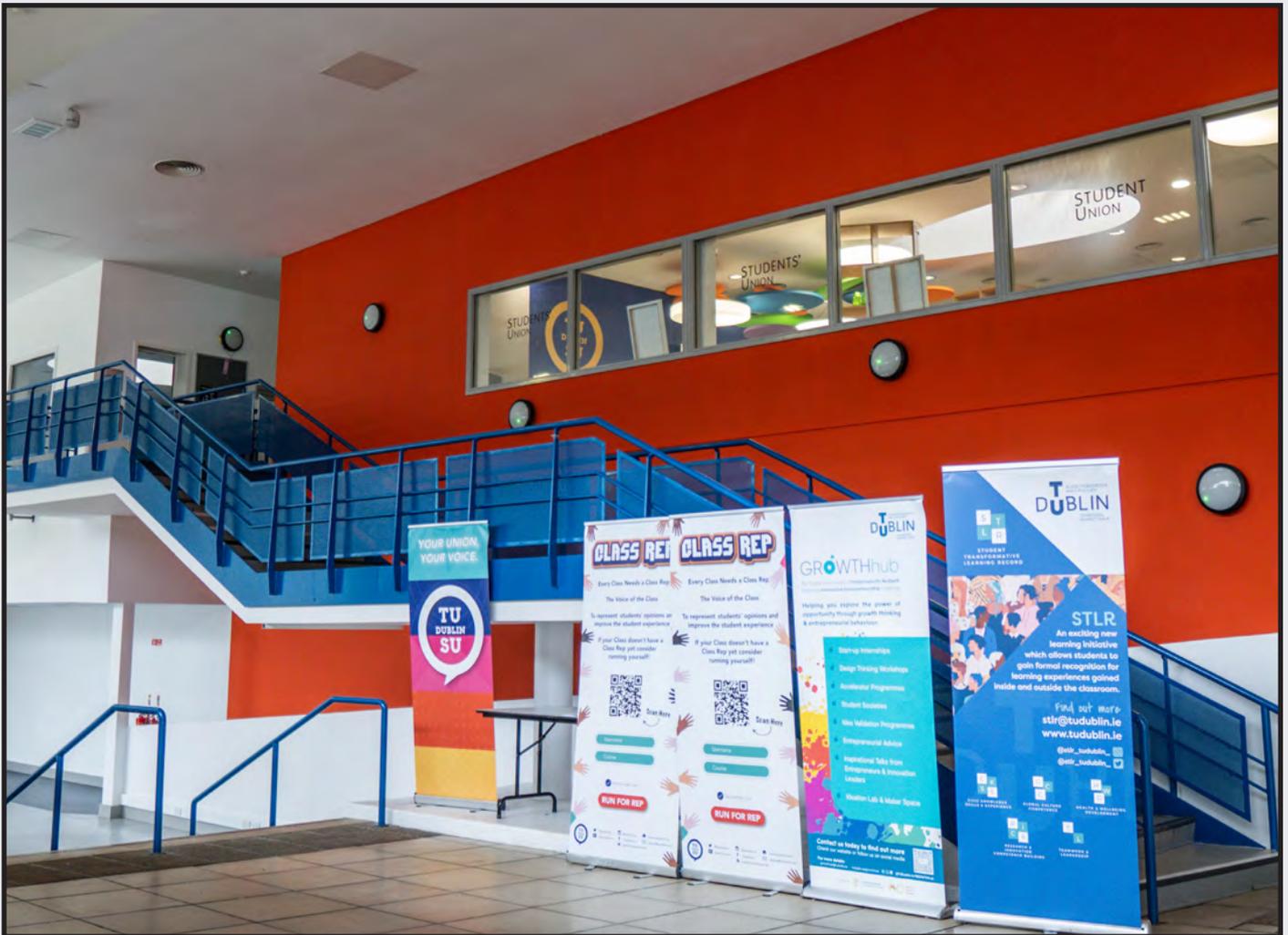
TU Dublin SU Office, Aungier Street City Campus



TU Dublin SU Office, Bolton Street City Campus



TU Dublin SU Office, Lower House City Campus



TU Dublin SU Office, Blanchardstown Campus



TU Dublin SU Office, Tallaght Campus



TU Dublin SU Office, Brabogue City Campus

Thank You!!

A heartfelt thanks from all at TU Dublin Students' Union to everyone who supported and contributed to all the hard work and campaigns for and on behalf of students throughout the 2022/23 academic year.

Stay Connected!

How To Reach TU Dublin Students' Union:

- Email: advice@tudublinsu.ie
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tudublinsu/>
- Live Chat: <https://www.tudublinsu.ie/>

