



**Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin**

Minutes of a meeting of Student Life Committee

7 April 2026, 11am, online MS Teams

Present: Present: Prof Richard Porter (Dean of Students, in the Chair), Dr Stephen Smith (Senior Tutor), Ms Deirdre Leahy (Equality and Welfare Officer, Students' Union), Ms Camilla Persello (representative, Scholars' Committee), Ms Trish Murphy (Director of Student Counselling Services), Ms Orla Bannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service), Ms Breda Walls (Director of Student Services), Ms Michelle Tanner (Director of Sport & Physical Activity), Ms Louise Staunton (Associate Director of Trinity Global), Dr David McGrath (Director, College Health Centre), Mr Nigel Stevenson (Warden of Trinity Hall), Ms Jane Prendergast (Chair of Trinity Sports Union), Mr Conchúr Ó Cathasaigh (Chairperson, Central Societies Committee), Mr Maximillian Evans-Schmid (Chairperson, Trinity Publications), Ms Eimear Rouine (Transition to Trinity Officer), Mr Aziel Zafar (Postgraduate Taught Officer, Students' Union).

Apologies: Rev Peter Sexton (Chaplaincy), Ms Grace McNally (President, Students' Union), Mr Declan Treanor (Director, College Disability Service), Dr Dónal MacDónaill (Junior Dean & Registrar of Chambers), Mr Martin John McAndrew (Postgraduate Student Support Officer), Mr Joel McKeever (Equality Officer), Mr Peter Dudley (Deputy Head of Readers' Service).

In attendance: Ms Cristina Boccardo (Secretary), Ms Susan Kirwin (Coordinator, Student Learning Development) Ms Wendy Crampton (Director of Trinity Access Programmes), Ms Rachel Skelly (Dignity, Respect & Consent Response Manager).

The Dean of Students welcomed members to the sixth meeting of the academic year 2025/26 which was held online on the MS Teams platform.

SECTION A: Policy and Implementation Matters

SLC/25-26/56

A.1 Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes dated 10 March 2026.

SLC/25-26/57

A.2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes or from the previous SLC meeting.

SLC/25-26/58

A.3 Trinity Sport and Physical Activity annual report

The Director of Sport and Physical Activity presented the Trinity Sport Annual Report for 2024/25, providing an overview of activity levels, student engagement, and key developments across sport and physical activity provision.

The Committee noted continued growth in usage of Trinity Sport facilities, with over 323,000 attendances recorded during the reporting period, representing an increase on the

previous year. Students remain the primary users of the service, accounting for approximately 70% of total usage, highlighting the central role of sport and physical activity in the student experience.

Members noted the breadth of student engagement across sport clubs, with over 6,000 students participating and significant levels of activity recorded in training, fixtures, and events throughout the academic year. A number of notable sporting achievements were highlighted across clubs, reflecting the strength and competitiveness of Trinity teams at national and international level.

The Committee further noted the continued development of high-performance sport supports, including the awarding of over 70 scholarships and the provision of integrated support services such as strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, nutrition, and sports science to a large cohort of student athletes.

In relation to participation, members welcomed the growth in social sport and recreational activity, with a significant increase in attendance at events and programmes, including strong engagement in initiatives such as “Trinity on the Move”. These activities were noted as contributing positively to student wellbeing, connection, and inclusivity within the wider student body.

The Committee also welcomed the impact of the Trinity “Women in Sport” campaign, which received international recognition and demonstrated measurable progress in female participation, leadership, and visibility across sport.

Sustainability initiatives were also highlighted, including emissions reduction measures, reuse initiatives, and biodiversity projects aligned with the University’s environmental objectives. Members noted the integration of sustainability within sport operations and programming.

Finally, the Committee noted the continued development of community engagement initiatives, including the Athletics Ireland Community Hub, which has contributed to increased participation and strengthened links between the University and the wider community.

ACTION: SLC members noted and welcomed the report.

SLC/25-26/59

A.4 Dean’s report

The Dean of Students updated the Committee on the National Student Survey, which concluded in March and involved both undergraduate and postgraduate taught students. The response rate for TCD was 18.2%. The Dean thanked the Students’ Union President and the Transition to Trinity Officer and team for their support, particularly in relation to promotional videos and associated initiatives.

In relation to the Student Space project, while the Dean was unable to attend the most recent meeting, it was reported that progress is being made in a timely manner and that the project remains on track.

ACTION: The Committee received the Dean’s report.

SLC/25-26/60

A.5 Any other urgent business

The Dignity, Respect and Consent Manager advised the Committee of an upcoming HEA survey on Staff and Student Experiences of Sexual Violence and Harassment in Irish HEIs, encouraging participation as the survey aims to gather important data to inform national policy and practice in this area. SLC members noted the item.

Section B: Report from SLC Working Groups

SLC/25-26/61

B.1 Student Centre Working Group

The Dean of Students updated the Committee on progress with the Student Centre Project. Rory Greenan, Project Coordinator, advised that the originally appointed consultants had withdrawn and that the second-ranked consultants would now be nominated. Despite this minor delay, the project remains on budget and on schedule.

SLC/25-26/62

B.2 Orientation Working Group

The Transition to Trinity Officer updated the Committee on the winner of the Three Minute Thesis competition, CW, who will go forward to represent Trinity at the Coimbra competition. It was further noted that the Skills for Success programme is due to commence the following week, with student uptake consistent with previous iterations of the programme.

Section C: Items to note and/or approve

SLC/25-26/63

Revised Sport Sponsorship policy memorandum

The Committee noted the memorandum.

SLC/25-26/64

Trinity Sports Union Constitution document

The Committee noted the Sports Union Constitution document.

SLC/25-26/65

C.1 Student Life Committee circulation and meetings dates 2025-26

Student Life Committee noted upcoming final meeting date for the current academic year.

The meeting ended at 11:42 am.