

2. Student engagement with certain aspects of the TCDSU's services such as Leah's Welfare and Equality Committee is great, with over 3700 emails being dealt with in the first semester, but political engagement with the TCDSU is scant and thus the power of our union is weakened. In the recent Constitutional vote, an article titled 'No power in this union' on Trinity News showed that only 652, 4% of the total student body voted. Not only in the running of the union, but many students are not aware of the many benefits we offer. An example of this are the Weekly Emails, which I was surprised to learn that not many students knew about / read despite it being sent straight to our inboxes. A perception of elitism has long haunted our union, further showing that we are disconnected from our voters. One suggestion I can make is that class representatives should be asked to discuss all agenda items before the SU Council with their courses. Do we have any other suggestions as to how to improve the connection between students and our union?
3. Relating to the topic of student disengagement, and as a possible solution, I would like to discuss the issue of mandating class representatives to carry out our union's work. There is strength in numbers, and we have more than 300 politically-active students here when combining the sabbatical officers and the class reps. We, class reps, are here to work for the students in my opinion, but yet we also have an engagement issue with the very union we work for. In the recent petition to reduce the student contribution fee, for example, we were asked to spread the word informally about the petition. How many of us did it? After all, we only got 3400 signatures so far. If all 300 or more of us shared it on our social medias and in our course WhatsApp groups, the results would have surely been much better. This is why I propose that class representatives, if they individually vote affirmatively on a proposal, should be mandated to help carry out that proposal in the aspects wherewith class representatives can help. Either formally mandated just like sabbats are, or that there be an (informal) but highly recommended list of 'actions agreed' at the end of our meetings which is for example sent out by email to class representatives who voted positively so that we can complete them. Non-completion would be grounds for a reprimand and eventual impeachment, just like for sabbats; and although this non-completion is difficult to verify, it is always up to the students in the course of each class representative to verify. What do you think?