

From: **Laszlo Molnarfi** <molnarfl@tcd.ie>
To: **Provost Linda Doyle** <Provost@tcd.ie>
CC: **Eoin Hand** <president@tcdsu.org>; **Megan O' Connor** <education@tcdsu.org>; **Gisèle Scanlon TCDGSU** <president@tcdgsu.ie>; **editor@trinitynews.ie** <editor@trinitynews.ie>; **Emer Moreau** <editor@universitytimes.ie>
BCC: **sconnol1@tcd.ie** <sconnol1@tcd.ie>
Subject: Students4Change - RDS Exams in December
Date: 30.09.2021 15:57:38 (+02:00)

Dear Provost Linda Doyle,

I am writing to you to highlight an urgent issue as the Chairperson of Students 4 Change. It has been brought to our attention that our University's reopening plan leaves individual Schools to decide whether to hold exams in person or online for the Semester 1 assessment period.

This proposal is an affront to students. After one-and-a-half years of online learning and digital note taking, many students will suddenly be told to sit in the RDS as if nothing happened. Outrageously, this plan has no regard for the immense stress that our 17,000 or so students faced last year, and with the same disregard to student wellbeing has absolutely no support structures in place.

Yourself, despite recognizing in an email that the counselling services at peak time (build-up to exams) can average '100 on the waitlist and several weeks to see a 1-1 counsellor', seem to have no issues with the plan. This issue would be even more excarbarted with such a shock-therapy-style return to in-person exams.

I would thus like to ask you to consider the following:

- The possibility of using the same exam format as last year, both for standard assessment in Semester 1 and for Schols. Open-book exams are a holistic way of assessment and should be encouraged all-around.
- Making sure that in all cases, assessments are the least stressful possible. For example, put a permanent end to the use of the invasive Proctorio monitoring software, which is racist, does not work for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and has serious data privacy issues.

In your election manifesto, "Imagine Trinity", and throughout your campaign, you have consistently pledged to put the wellbeing of all stakeholders first. Let me stress again the importance that our College maintains the community's well-being as one of its primary focuses, and how essential the latter is for the provision of education in a fair, equitable and inclusive way.

In CC, the Trinity College Dublin Students' Union, Trinity College Dublin Graduate Students' Union, Trinity News and University Times.

Best Regards,

László Molnárfi

Students 4 Change

Chairperson



is an alliance of students from Trinity College Dublin focused on the housing crisis in relation to student accommodation, Irish neutrality, SU reform and other matters of student politics. Go on our website students4change.eu, follow us on social media or email us at contact@students4change.eu!