

Students4Change Uncovers College Plans to Undermine Student Representation

Students4Change has obtained documentation from the Board of Trinity College Dublin and is now revealing it to the public. We are uncovering an attempt by senior management to undermine student representation by allowing the Students' Union to be replaced by any other capitated body - Central Societies Committee, Trinity Sports Union, Trinity Publications - on Board. Power is not in students' hand to do this - it is in the hands of the Board, dominated by senior management, to replace the TCDSU. This change to the 2010 Consolidated Statutes was passed on the 16th of November 2022 and is in the process of being voted on by the Fellows.

The TCDSU rightly dissented from these changes according to the minutes of the Board meeting. We follow suit in condemning this attempt at undermining student democracy and call on the Fellows to not give their assent to the proposed changes. Student representation has faced a series of attacks in recent times, not the least with the HEA Bill 2022 which provoked criticism across the third-level sector.

László Molnárfi, Chairperson of Students4Change said, "Since students tend to ruffle the feathers, and stand up to the increasing commercialization of academia, it is our power to organise which is under attack by authorities, both local and national. This is a good example which shows that when joint student-staff decision-making is posed as an answer to the question of power, senior management and the government are united in opposing democratisation".

Gavin Duffy, Students4Change member, said "The undemocratic authority granted by the board to remove the Student Union's seat once again shows the contempt that college leadership shows towards the student opinion and decision making. All we ask for, as fee-paying attendees, is fair and equal stake in decision making regarding matters that affect us."

Alessandro Corraei, Students4Change member, said "It's disheartening to know truly how little management trust and care for us as students that they want to have the ability to make undemocratic decisions. It's unjustifiable".