



## Item for Agreement of Class Rep Council

### ITEM NO. 2328-21 USI COMHDHÁIL PROTOCOL

#### Proposed by

Thomas O'Dowd (President)

*This protocol shall affect the following parties: Coiste Gnó, Class Representative Council (CRC), Union Members and members of the Comhdháil Delegation.*

*USI Comhdháil is the supreme and sovereign body of the national students' union. USI Comhdháil is the platform from which the majority of USI policy is created and where the USI Officerboard (Coiste Gnó) is elected. As a Member Organisation (MO) DCU Students' Union will be given delegate passes, and where appropriate observer passes, to send a delegation to represent the union at the Comhdháil.*

#### **Definition**

**Code of Conduct** A set of rules regarding personal conduct and responsibilities which must be adhered to by members of the Comhdháil Delegation.

**Comhdháil Report** A report composed by the Delegation Leader which gives an account of the Delegation's progress; the voting positions taken on motions and elections and any other anomalous events that occur at Comhdháil.

**Delegation Meeting** A meeting of the Comhdháil Delegation that is chaired

by the Delegation Leader where minutes are taken and held during Comhdháil to decide a stance on a particular motion or election.

Stipend A monetary sum paid for the attendance, appropriate conduct and the performance of duties of applicable members of the Comhdháil Delegation.

## **DCU SU USI Comhdháil Delegation**

1. A delegation of members of DCU Students' Union known as the 'Comhdháil Delegation' will be sent to represent the union at USI

### **National Comhdháil.**

2. The Comhdháil Delegation shall consist of Sabbatical Officers, Non Sabbatical Executive Members, Class Representatives and ordinary Union members who have been appointed to be members of the Comhdháil Delegation.

3. The Comhdháil Delegation shall always have an additional two people on call who shall be able to act as substitutes for Delegates.

4. The Delegation Leader shall be the outgoing Union President who will be responsible for the delegation and upholding the spirit of this protocol.

5. If the Union President is unable to attend Comhdháil, then the Union President shall appoint someone to deputise.

6. The Union shall sufficiently supplement the food, accommodation and transportation costs of the Comhdháil Delegation to attend USI Comhdháil.

7. The Union shall provide a daily stipend of €X (to be determined by the Delegation Leader) to all members of the Comhdháil Delegation, which shall be managed by the Delegation Leader. This may be withheld from Delegates who have broken the Code of Conduct.

### **Comhdháil Delegation Selection**

1. The 19\* Voting (Delegate) Delegation positions to attend USI Comhdháil shall be divided into the following lists:

- Outgoing Sabbatical Officers: 5.\*
- Incoming Sabbatical Officers: 5\*
- Union Members: 9\*

2. The 2\* NonVoting (Observer) Delegation positions to attend USI Comhdháil shall be divided into the following lists:

- Union Members: 2.\*

3. The items in this protocol marked with an asterisk (\*) may be altered to reflect increases or decreases in the Delegation size.

4. Those selected to be members of the Comhdháil Delegation must sign and be bound by a Code of Conduct supplied by the Delegation Leader, and must agree to the terms of this Protocol, otherwise their membership of the Comhdháil Delegation will be forfeited.

5. Where Delegation Positions become vacant, the Delegation Leader shall offer unfilled positions to those applicable for the respective lists who are deemed deserving on the basis of their merit and work within DCU Students' Union. If they still remain vacant, the Delegation Leader may offer those positions to candidates not applicable to specific lists. Sufficient notice shall be given to all Union members of their right to contest for Delegation positions.

## **Delegate Duties**

1. Delegates shall be required to attend and vote at motion workshops and election hustings at Comhdháil.

2. Delegates shall be required to vote in line with the policy position of the Union.

3. Delegates shall be required to follow the direction of Class

Representative Council in voting for motions and Coiste Gnó candidates where the Council has outlined a position.

4. Where there is no active mandate or policy given by Council or held by the Union, the Comhdháil Delegation shall convene a Delegation Meeting and via simple majority decide a voting position on a given issue or election.

5. Delegates conduct shall be accountable to the Delegation Leader.

### **Breaking Mandate**

1. Any delegate who votes against the position of DCU Students' Union, Class Representative Council or a voting decision made by the delegation group shall be considered to have 'broken mandate'.

2. Those who intentionally break mandate shall immediately be suspended from the Delegation and another Union member shall be asked to substitute in their place instead.

3. Those who break the mandate of DCU Students' Union will also lose access to their stipend for the remainder of Comhdháil.

4. The delegation leader shall include a list of all Delegates who break mandate to the next Class Rep Council.

### **Coiste Gnó Elections**

1. All potential USI Coiste Gnó candidates may seek a formal nomination from DCUSU, which shall be granted by the Union President whose decision may be appealed to the Class Representative Council. The nomination of a candidate is not an endorsement or a commitment of delegation support, which shall be subject to rules further outlined by this protocol.

2. DCU Students' Union shall hold a special sitting for the purpose of USI Coiste Gnó Candidates Hustings.

3. The Coiste Gnó Candidates Hustings shall be run and overseen by the Returning Officer, in conjunction with the SU President.
4. All registered Coiste Gnó candidates for relevant positions to DCU Students' Union shall be invited to address Union Members and present their manifestos.
5. The decision of the DCU Students' Union after Hustings of Coiste Gnó candidates shall be binding on the Comhdháil Delegation and they must vote in accordance with this decision, save for where the decision is deferred to the Comhdháil Delegation.

### **Comhdháil Floor**

1. All Voting Delegate Members must be on Comhdháil Floor for motions proposed by the Union, relating to Union policy and where Council has taken a position.
2. The Comhdháil Delegation shall maintain a minimum presence of half of Voting Delegate Members on Comhdháil Floor at all other times unless otherwise directed by the Delegation Leader.
3. The Delegation Leader shall be the Chief Whip of the Delegation on Comhdháil Floor.
4. The Delegation Leader may appoint a whip in their absence on the Comhdháil Floor.
5. All members of the Comhdháil Delegation shall be encouraged, where appropriate, to participate in debate on Comhdháil Floor.
6. All members of the Comhdháil Delegation shall endeavour to speak at least once on Comhdháil Floor.

### **USI Comhdháil Report**

1. The Delegation Leader shall compile a report following the USI Comhdháil which shall be presented at the next meeting of the Class

Representative Council.