

Motion to council 8th April 2019

8/4/19

UCD Students' Strategic Vision

Council notes: that the UCD Belfield campus is currently entering a period of significant change, with several major developments already under construction or likely to commence within the coming years, including the Student Residences Masterplan, Student Centre Expansion, and Entrance Precinct Masterplan.

Council further notes: that currently, UCD Students' Union has no comprehensive policy on how the campus should develop into the future, and how students would like to see the campus develop into the future.

Council acknowledges: that the UCD Planning & Environmental Policy Society (PEP Soc) have carried out a lot of work over the past 6 months in preparing a "UCD Students' Strategic Vision", which is intended to outline a Vision, from the perspective of students, of how the UCD Campus should develop.

Council further acknowledges: that a significant effort was made to obtain the views of students during the preparation of this Vision, including an online survey, 250 face to face on campus surveys, a panel discussion, interviews with numerous groups and individuals, and two announcements to council in October and February.

Council therefore mandates: that the Union adopts the UCD Students' Strategic Vision as its official position on the future development of the UCD Belfield Campus.

Council notes: that this mandate refers to the overarching "Vision", as communicated through the Vision Statement and the Strategic Priorities, which are attached to this motion. It does not extend to how this Vision should be achieved, or to the endorsement of any measure proposed within the document.

Council further mandates: that the President and the Campaigns & Communications Officer campaign for and support the implementation and realisation of this Vision, and communicate this position to the University, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and any other bodies which could affect the future development of the campus.

Proposed by: Katie O'Dea (Environmental Campaigns Coordinator)

Seconded by: Sophie Sheridan Burns (Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences College Officer)

UCD Students' Strategic Vision – Vision Statement

The UCD Students' Strategic Vision is for a campus that excels in fulfilling its role as a major higher education facility for the Greater Dublin Area, the State, and internationally. The campus will continue to develop in an efficient manner, with new and refurbished facilities to meet the needs of a modern university. Buildings will be of a high quality design, and there will be a strong emphasis to involve students in all stages of the design process for all new developments. The natural environment and parkland setting of the campus will also be preserved and enhanced to maximise biodiversity and amenity spaces.

The campus will be a leader in environmental sustainability, with a strong environmental awareness and culture among the university community. Minimal waste will be generated by the university, while an efficient waste segregation system will ensure that much of what is generated can be reused or recycled. Energy and water usage will be efficient, with renewable and on site generation meeting a large proportion of the university's need. The campus will be easily accessible by all modes of transport, with sustainable travel modes accounting for nearly all journeys to and from the campus.

High quality cycling facilities will make it safe to commute by bicycle, while within the campus pedestrians, cyclists and those with mobility impairments will be able to move freely and find their way around easily. An efficient bus system with high frequency routes and continuous bus priority will reduce waiting and journey times, while a new bus only link from the M50 at Sandyford will provide quick journey times for regional bus services and from park and ride facilities.

Academic facilities will fully meet the needs of students, with plenty of study spaces, computers and internet access available at all times. The additional on-campus student residences will give more students the opportunity to live on campus, while also reducing pressure on the local rental market and helping to lower rents. Students and residents will have access to a good choice of food and retail options, catering for all lifestyle choices and dietary requirements, while also being affordable.

The Student Centre will be further developed to provide additional sporting and leisure facilities, and to support the activities and events of all student societies and sports clubs. During the day, the campus will be a vibrant and lively place, with plenty of places and seating to hang out and socialise, while at night there will be sufficient opportunities to socialise on the campus, without having to leave the campus.

Finally, the campus will be a diverse, inclusive community where students of all backgrounds, culture and ability are treated equally. All activities, events and facilities will be open and readily available to all students, while a range of different supports will be available and promoted to cater for the varying needs of students' physical and mental health and wellbeing.

UCD Students' Strategic Vision – Strategic Priorities

- SP 1:** Promote the orderly development of the Belfield Campus, enabling UCD to fulfil its role as a major higher education facility for the Greater Dublin Area, the State, and Internationally
- SP 2:** Preserve and enhance the natural environment and parkland setting of the Belfield Campus
- SP 3:** Promote a culture of sustainability among the campus community
- SP 4:** Minimise the amount of waste generated by the university
- SP 5:** Minimise UCD's energy and water usage, through infrastructure improvements, and more sustainable behaviour by students and staff
- SP 6:** Make it easier and safer to access the campus by walking and cycling
- SP 7:** Significantly improve access to the campus by public transport
- SP 8:** Encourage a shift from car commuting to more sustainable travel modes, while facilitating car access for those who have a genuine need for it
- SP 9:** Ensure that academic facilities and resources, teaching and study spaces, and library and technology services fully meet the needs of students' programmes and modules
- SP 10:** Ensure that the availability or cost of student accommodation is not a barrier to studying in UCD
- SP 11:** Provide a sufficient choice of food, retail and residential services to cater for the increasing student and residential population of the campus
- SP 12:** Develop and expand sport and leisure facilities, to adequately cater for the activities of students, societies and sports clubs
- SP 13:** Promote a lively, vibrant and safe social life on the campus, day and night
- SP 14:** Promote UCD as a diverse, inclusive community where students of all backgrounds, culture and ability are treated equally and supported appropriately
- SP 15:** Ensure that this Students' Strategic Vision is realised and has a positive influence on the future development of the UCD campus