

## **UCCSU Executive Meeting**

### **18/11/20**

**In Attendance:** Stephen O’Riordan, Nada Ní Chuirrin, Adam Burke, Daniel Moloney, Daniel Kelleher, Naoise Crowley, David Giles, Jamie Fraser, Aiden Sheehan, Ross Brennan, Beth O’Reilly, Orlaith Geaney, Tara Coughlan, Sinead Roche, Joel Rajesh, Eimear Curtin.

**No Apologies.**

**Meeting starts - 18:08**

#### **Student Representative Council**

- Will formalise what happened in the last Student Council with a vote. Next one is on Tuesday 24th November at 6:15pm and the deadline for Officer Reports is Friday 20th of November at 6pm. Submitted motions will have more time to be discussed this time.
- Steering Committee was called. Went through all options regarding voting, moderations, timing etc.
- Microsoft Teams with new moderating options. More control over people cutting across one another. Voting methods - Google Form was chosen as we can restrict with umail - will have a record of everyone who voted and every Class Rep, so it will be easier to check validity.
- Votes don't have an automatic right to be anonymous - distinction was that there should be no tracking of votes on motions in Council.
- Voting records will be kept - no reason to restrict the audience of Council to class reps only - if there's questions, Council Chair has a list of all Class Reps and can verify who has voted.
- Timing on votes - we don't want the impression given that the vote is open long enough to swing it - 2 minute timer - when majority is reached it will close early. Votes from last council - will re do and hold as non-contentious - pass them in 1 vote rather than separately.
- Clinics - College Reps - all have been added in Teams in individual channels with your reps from your college and Clinics will be held there. Someone who isn't a Class Rep can join the general channel.
- All of the above will all be sent out in an email for anyone who wants bedtime reading. We want to make Student Council as accessible as possible - engagement at the moment is incredible - other Unions have had serious difficulties - great set up and must be commended - thanks to the Steering Committee and Class Reps - there could be issues again and we will deal with them.
- Submitted a motion this evening to campaign for the legislation against Image Based Sexual Abuse. We as a Union can get involved as best we can. Best to pass it through Council. Not political, but just to make sure students are aware and give us feedback in how we campaign for it. Would appreciate everyone's backing on this motion.

#### **Minutes - 18:22**

- Edits have been made to the previous minutes to reflect the changes that had been passed in. Will formalise that with a vote in the morning and reply yes or no as to whether you approve the minutes.

- When will the vote be closed? 5pm Friday the 20th of November.
- Have to put them on the UCCSU Website under Your Voice section - template from 2018 is already there - Beth's gotten very good and can do it!
- Add a Council Folder to the website and Beth will put them in - Exec meeting minutes there too.
- Council Handbook and Policy Booklet - Stephen changed Booklet - used to be chronological and difficult to see and differentiate motions - Now, current active ones are at the start and then completed, then expired ones.
- Make AOB issues from the last meeting minutes more general.

### **Welfare Update - 18:31**

- UCC Counselling - will be operating soon enough hopefully and hiring of new staff very soon.
- There are 2 mental health nurses being hired into Student Health and Counselling, another counsellor being hired, Mental Health Advisory Group set up and a very successful Wellbeing Crew.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Week - a lot of collaboration with societies. Addiction Awareness Week is the week after - will reach out to societies. Movember going well - Societies heavily involved, Men's Sheds events are running which has been great - open to all questions.
- New hiring of staff on Student Health and Counselling will really change how the service operates. More on campus next semester and students will be looking for services. A lot of Unis are going fully online for next semester.
- Talk that UCC Campus Accommodation will push payments back a couple of weeks while figuring out - Simon Harris said he wants a lot more on campuses - We need to be ready to go online but may be reviewed.
- Presidents meeting - trying to prepare their own staff in the case of being online for preparation etc. If we can be safe and be on campus that would be great; anything in person learning should be recorded and put online also - everyone should be prepared to be online.

### **Academic Update - 18:37**

- Registrar's email about exam support - not well received - impression that Academic Disadvantage is gone in one way, there is room for improvement. Students are very panicked - this brought loads of emails last week - confusion amongst staff also.
- We are proposing: 7 day extensions in which you self-certify rather than ask for permission. 2 X 5 credits that if you fail them, you can repeat uncapped - you can reset to improve your grade.
- Mixed reviews among staff. Self-certification not approved really. Student Health supporting it - a lot of things you can't go to the doctor for but will need an extension still, such as your housemate having Covid-19.
- Uncapped exams as an option. People need to know what mitigation is. There needs to be a respect there that it takes time to learn these things.
- College Reps - there should be some supports for students for exams but not like last March .
- Did these figures include only people who applied for mitigation or did they decide on the day? Would it be possible to get those figures? Those who decide to defer on the day of exam are marked as absent.
- Exam period is shorter - if you are sick for a shorter amount of time it will affect more of your

exams due to a shorter exam period. Mitigation query - Continued assessment is handled by the department - Final exams handled by university.

- Mitigation might not cover enough scenarios - any half decent lecturer will give extensions but we want Uni to give a directive for all staff to do that - disparity between students who will be allowed an extension and who won't. Info should be available and sent out to every student.
- Document to share with Exec about mitigation - anything you want raised, put it in there and we can ask for a reasonable amount and get back less.
- If you are talking to lecturers - say we are pushing practice for exams. Help students to practice the format multiple times - run through the software and format of the exam. President says practice before the game - wait! No the exam!

#### **AOB - 18:58**

- Issues with Teams name and IT done on a case by case basis - has the problem arrested itself? Students had meetings with SREO - Welfare will send follow up email to see how they are getting on.
- NUIM and Maynooth - they have a gender or name change form - no reasons given etc - an easy process to change name on student card here in UCC.
- Contacted EDI about the procedure - you can have them changed on internal systems - unless you go through legal processes it will be the original name on the transcript. You must present to some document to confirm the name change legally. Query that the head of SREO did something about that? Will be looked into.
- Goes through University of Ireland not a UCC decision - that's why it's legal. Action going forward - send email to IT about the issue and what steps can be taken to make sure it doesn't happen again.
- Christmas exams - will there be spaces made for people with unstable wifi etc? - not 100% but we would support that. Talks at the moment on how exams on campus would work. Aula maxima temperature logs - there's no cold in there I tell ya!
- Equality Week next year - week of 15th of March possibly. Or 1st of March - SU elections haven't been decided yet - hopefully no post in ballots this year!
- Transgender Day of Remembrance on the 20th of November - UCC LGBT Society will hold something and everyone should put that in their diary - Vigil at 5pm and event at 5:30pm.
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Week is next week. Includes a drafted email to send to TDs - there is an event with Co Op Soc on Tuesday evening as part of it - appreciate if people could send that email to their TDs.
- College reps - please circulate resource guide for Mental Health for the Winter to reps.
- Earth Week is the week of the 8th of March and it is an All Ireland week. Build Back Better will be a slogan for the New Year. Plans to meet and run workshops with people. Any improvements people are thinking of and what people would like please let Enviro Officer know - Biden's campaign slogan is Build Back Better the Green New Deal!
- RAG Charity Applications closed. 19 charities have applied. Will be selecting them as an Exec with Council Chair's PRSTV software - will pick top 5 and then bring it to Council to pick the top 3 as it is better to get the students involved to boost donations. We would like to raise as much money as possible. **19:27 - Meeting finished**