

UCCSU Executive Meeting

16/12/21

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

No apologies.

Academic Update - 18:05

- No Academic Disadvantage mentioned. It includes a longer time to defer exams - up to or on the day. You can repeat a module uncapped and free of charge. You can apply to re-sit only 100% of a module, not just one part - that is important. What the assessment looks like is up to Module Co-ordinator. A repeat will be as valid as the previous assessment. It was originally discussed in the sense of on-campus exams - the case numbers at the moment and their impact is what made this happen. This one is hard to celebrate as it's a sign of how hard the situation with Covid-19 is for students. It is a good recognition that people need assistance to do the best they can.
- A question about repeating - can you fully repeat a continuous module eg. labs that are throughout the year? - There is a possibility you won't be able to as it's very specific. It depends on if you can fit it into the supplemental period, which has a natural limitation to it. It's the nature and the diversity of modules. It will be up to that specific Module Co-ordinator.
- A question about accreditation - heard that repeats won't be accredited for some modules of Financial Maths? - It will be on a module-by-module basis. Suggestion to look in the Book of Modules and it should be there. It is out of UCC control and at the mercy of the accrediting bodies. Why are accreditation bodies testing how quickly someone can learn? A lot of places in Europe don't have any cap on repeats in general and that should be noted.
- Does it apply for assignments as well as exams? It is module-by-module - it is up to the coordinator to decide how it will be done.

RAG Week - 18:12

- RAG Week is being moved to the week of the 19th to the 22nd of April this year. Not appropriate to hold in February with the state of Covid-19 in the country at the moment. More time will be had to gauge how the week will be received by the public and students. Will be announced Monday coming.
- Charities have been picked. They are Cork Simon Community, Cork University Hospital Charity and The Sunshine Fund (House). They are great charities that will be announced Monday coming also.
- Fundraising ideas include: making it a community effort by going to local businesses like Cafés and Restaurants and getting them to put a 'RAG item' on their menu, where some of the profit goes to our charities. Another idea is competitions and giveaways that encourage donations to the GoFundMe page.
- If anyone has any ideas, please let us know.

Elections - 18:15

- This year, running elections for the Students' Union will be quite challenging given the

move to online for the first time in our history.

- We are using an online election system used iUCD and UUSU and about 100 other colleges in Australia and the UK use them for their elections. It is clear that it won't be possible to do in person. The Semester is 2 weeks later and St. Patrick's Day is usually avoided when deciding when to hold elections. We are looking at the last week of March/early April.
- IT are currently looking at the software that is used - very difficult and never done here before.. In person relationships won't be built as much. Hustings etc and how people interact are very important in how it all works. Would be great to get input from Exec.
- Point made that the last week of March ends on Good Friday and it's the Easter break. It might not be an issue but there is a week off there for Easter. Suggestion that it could start the week after St. Patrick's Day. Suggestion that it could be done over Easter break as with campaigning online, it doesn't matter if it is in term. We don't have to follow the same path and there is a bit more flexibility with online voting. So, we are looking at either not doing nominations or giving an option of virtual signatures.
- Suggestion given to do signatures etc by email. 500 signatures may be too difficult. Students could self-nominate and then the Exec could host nominations? As long as students consent to giving their student numbers, there's no GDPR issue.
- We are meeting with UCDSU to see how it works. They have the highest tally of votes in the country and we have the highest per capita - 20/25% on average - we may get an increase in votes this year online.
- Suggestion that we could host an info session for candidates online. At the USI meeting about elections, they said to lower the amount of money candidates can spend on their campaign. They will have to submit receipts regardless of what they spend. It could end up with 25 candidates spending too much on ADs.
- Need for a code of conduct that everyone has to sign. Clause will be put in about Covid-19. A strike if they break Public Health Guidelines - This is a necessity.
 - Will the separate voting of within colleges eg. CACSSS, SEFS be facilitated? Yes it will be facilitated. We must sit down with IT with a list of students who can vote in what college. Is it the intention to hold voting open for a 3 day period? 3 days is a good balance as it is not too short or long. Hustings will be hard to host - a lot more changing of speakers etc - all the USI stuff coming up as well at the moment. By the waaaay...
- Our Commercial and Fundraising Officer is running for USI VP for Campaigns - woohoo (clapping). It should be really fun - any issues that anyone thinks the Campaigns role could fill get onto us.
- Congress will be online this year also. Congress would usually be mad craic but won't be happening this year in person.
- USI referendums) are now every 2 years.. Important to have a referendum so the students are deciding on it. We need to be conscious of decisions we make now for the future. Every student who was in 1st year last year will get 70 euro back from UCC. It is being given as fee credit. It should be there now -
- Back to elections - UCD had hustings online last year which is good for insight. We also equally fear that there will be lower numbers for part-time positions. Could do 'a day in the life' of a part-timer in the lead up so that people can get a well-rounded look.

Ohana Suicide Prevention - 19:03

- This programme was developed by the NHS. It is accredited in England. B&L rep did the course and got onto the people who ran it and came up with an idea to do a nomination trend. You do the course as part of it and get a certificate, then you put it up on Social Media and nominate friends to do the same. Also put up a list of MH resources. All reps know about the campaign and we are hoping to have Wellbeing Crew and Ents Crew on board too. Tomorrow at 6pm it will kick off. Exec members to get involved in a personal capacity.
- Great initiative and we should tag other institutions and get them to do it. It is a goal to make UCC a suicide safe community. It is one of the most important things we can do this year. Will send out to all Societies and Clubs.
- The phrasing needs to be right. We need to be careful how it is put on class reps. We should get it out to people and make it an option, not a responsibility. Ohana is a lot more lighter than the intense training that is out there. Contact welfare@uccsu.ie if there are any issues.
- It will be difficult to get any analytics on this. Tag uccsu? Helpline resources? We can use a bitly link and info will show up on how many people click the link. Commercial and Fundraising Officer to do that.
- **Guillotine set to 19:25.**

SU Thrift Shop and Advertising portal - 19:16

- In the Thrift Shop you can exchange clothes completely for free. A contribution to the Hardship Fund will be an option on it.
- Student Advertising Portal is also up and running. Businesses on the portal at the moment and it is great to promote them. G.A.P to help with the promotion of it hopefully. You can open a storefront on it and can encourage businesses to make a fee free storefront. It is also an opportunity to help charity. A UCC student helped to build the site - could operate through the coming years and could be big - looking solid - growing in potential.

UCC Garden - 19:19

- The location of the UCC Garden has been moved to behind the ORB. Proposal is shown on screen. It was put on the back burner with Covid-19. It includes a plaza space which is a social area. Also, the Sensory Garden is being built. It will be ready quite soon. In regard to the Garden, there will be seating, heated benches. It includes a raised platform and canopy. It is really exciting and the Union can have events there - shouldn't take too long to build - Buildings and Estates will give us a timeline.
- Is it going to be covered? Some of it will be covered with the canopy - could be a stage etc great for subsequent SUs.
- One staff member in the ORB makes complaints - not everyone.
- Aiden the engineer will get on it ASAP.
- Will be an overhanging sign also.
- Working on Healthy Campus at the moment. - It is to provide a more accessible and healthy campus.

A.O.B - 19:24

- Student Council deadline is tomorrow - Officers to highlight two points in report. rather than only saying it is taken as read.
- Tomorrow is Body Positivity Day - We have an event with Jennifer Barry at 6pm for it. Get on the Ohana trend first and pop over then if you like.
- Kitlocker - possible issue with Brexit and customs. Will be investigated with Kitlocker - that shouldn't be the case. DHL are claiming we owe them customs for our exec hoodies also. Kitlocker said it shouldn't be subject for VAT and there should be a grace period until March. Noted that a Possible meeting next week on elections.

Meeting finished - 19:31