

## UCCSU Executive Meeting Minutes 03/02/21

**In Attendance:** Jamie Fraser, Tara Coughlan, Stephen O’Riordan, Joel Rajesh, Sinead Roche, Aiden Sheehan, David Giles, Caoimhe Nic Carthaigh, Adam Burke, Beth O’Reilly, Daniel Moloney, Eimear Curtin, Orlaith Geaney, Nada Ni Chuirrin, Naoise Crowley, Sarah Louise Sexton, Adaeze Ireoma Nwosu, Ross Brennan.

**No Apologies.**

### **Election Regulations - 18:05**

- **Election Regulations** - Proposal: Nominations open on the 15th of March, followed by Hustings Week and then Campaigning Week. Results to be out on April 1st. There are only 3 weeks possible to do it.
- **Nominations** - We won’t be asking those running to collect 500 signatures this year. There is the option of self-nomination - to confirm your candidacy you must have a self-nomination form and manifesto in by 5pm? . It is only a matter of time until Nap Pod has a student number.  
**Suggestion:** an expression of interest form.
- Data will come into play with this - **Suggestion:** Nomination Form includes questions as well? This may not be possible.
- ● **Suggestion:** removing signatures completely? We must think of a few years down the line with removing them - **Suggestion:** bring down to lower signatures? **Suggestion:** Work like City Council and ask for a refundable deposit?
- Note that it will be stated that the change is being made due to pandemic - all candidates will be asked to meet Vince on Zoom to confirm candidacy.
- The new Union will be confirmed before the USI election - positions are the same and student card numbers will be needed etc - all regular admin stuff such as Vince’s email remains the same.
- **Approving posters** - this is difficult to police with peoples’ personal profiles - Question asked about why physical posters are stamped? Is there a need to approve them online? If people are breaking restrictions etc then it could be instant disqualification - John and Vince will be busy with it.
- No one can use materials owned by the Students’ Union.
- Going through regulations and nitpicking is good right now!
- Council Teams - be conscious of it around the time in case people write on that platform or other ones such as Canvas.
- **Canvas announcements** - conscious of this also that it cannot be allowed - this is hard to track - we need to be more clear about what we are saying about Canvas - this will be covered in candidates meeting beforehand? It would be a UCC mailing list on canvas so it would be covered in regulations - worth absolutely outlining it to candidates.
- **Lecture announcements?** Is that allowed? It is always at the lecturer’s discretion. Not many lecturers will do it.

- **2 suggestions - 1)** Allow advertising but set an amount you can spend on it alone and reduce it to less than usual. **2)** Keep max cap on spending but allocate an amount to advertising e.g 300 euro spend and 100 max can be on online advertising.
- **Suggestion:** Candidates must list UCCSU as a partner in advertising to track how much is spent. That is the fairest way to track it
- The President will talk to the Returning Officer about it and see what he thinks. The UCCSU as a partner suggestion is brilliant and is the optimal solution.

**\*BREAK FOR 2 MINS\* 10 past 7 be back.**

- **Covid-19 - 1)** If campaign teams meet up in person it is probably an issue **2)** Promo videos and media breaking health regulations.
- **Finable Offences** - a lot of minor ones don't count anymore.
- **Cyber-bullying** - expected to treat all candidates with fairness and dignity.
- **Proposal:** putting the amount to 300 euro spend - anyone thinks it should be more or less? This is more balanced than 500 euro - no more than 1 third of the budget on social media ads.
- **Back to Advertising** - send ads to the SU first for approval ? Swipe up to the website then.  
**Proposal:** Limit the social media spending to 100 euro out of a max budget of 300 euro and ads must be approved first by making UCCSU a partner.
- In the Regulations, should it say "services" rather than "paid services" about what candidates can use as not all services included have a cost?
- College rep elections are taken care of - did this earlier for special rep elections - very doable. Will the vote tally be done by Wednesday 5pm 31st? No. Complaints i.e. on candidates will end then, if you complain about a candidate after this it won't count.
- **Count completed 1st of April 2021.**
- **Proposed opening of vote** at 9am Monday 29th closing 11:59pm 31st March - agreed by all.
- We want to communicate info about elections asap - will have to get more info to people over the coming weeks.
- When the doc is sent around - people who are running: don't vote on it in the interest of fairness.

**Clear Masks - 19:39**

- Advocating for and the implementation of clear masks for lecturers and staff in UCC. People who rely on lip reading and facial expression are impacted by masks - it is having a huge impact on communication and people with communication disorders. This could be needed for small tutorial groups etc - points made that the hearing impaired are already finding it difficult and rely on lip reading.
- To clarify - are they face masks like shields or actual masks? They are exactly the same as normal masks but the mouth is clear.
- Problem would be resourcing the money for it - encouraging people to wear them is a good start.
- Think it is a great idea but how effective are they? They are just as effective as normal masks -

clearfailtemask.ie.

- The Communication and Engagement Officer will look into it.

#### **Kitlocker - 19:46**

- Brexit threw their plans up in the air - they'll cover the VAT bill and reclaim it of DHL for Exec hoodies - if any student gets a bill because of Brexit they will pay for the VAT bill. Commercial and Fundraising to get it out to Class Reps again.

#### **No Academic Disadvantage - 19:47**

- Very comprehensive, best support in the country, really happy with it.

#### **Mental Health Campaign - 19:48**

- Check On Your Mates Campaign - a texting video showing a lad checking up on his friend- it is being edited and will be out next week.
- ORB 3.36 will be a mental health and wellbeing space for people to go to carry out their counselling online, if they need it. Well done Welfare Officer!

#### **History of the SU - 19:49**

- It is soon the 50th anniversary of the SU! - JP Quinn doing a history podcast. Entertainment Officer's relatives can provide history bits. Discussion on old SU times.

#### **AOB - 19:54**

- Arts Week is next week! Keep an eye for the great events!
- Med & Health Rep thinks the clear masks look good.
- Check your taxes - revenue and taxes for wages - officers were underpaid of living wage till last year.
- Garden - Garden McGarden Face - allowed to start moving on it as it is minor public work - paperwork etc needs to be done first - Sensory Garden is pretty much ready and seating will be going in there. We have a lot more outdoor facilities - can develop as it goes on.
- Common Rooms and satellite Common Rooms - WGB need one but staff are reluctant to have it with space issues - rooms that they don't use are there.
- Suggestion of alcove with microwaves. Issue with food in labs - however, space isn't really used - foyer 2nd floor western gateway - wouldn't have to repurpose a room then.
- Brookfield common room is open!
- Meeting next week as well.
- Looking to put SU Rep on UMT. Too much info coming from it - UMT is where it all happens. Was there some movement on that on EUA evaluation last year? EUA IEP - lack of student representation found in report - repurposed strategic plan 17-22 is now a strategic pivot. Ambiguous but there should be a rep on UMT.
- Our Strategic plan hopefully done by the end of year - best practice and direction we want to go in Union - can act as guidance for future officers. Wool over eyes in June and July. Exec to approve this plan? It can go to the council, maybe the last one.

#### **WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK AT 6; GUILLOTINE 7:15pm.**

- **Meeting done 20:08.**