



UCCSU Executive Meeting Minutes

Date: 23/07/21

Time: 17:00

Location: Zoom

In attendance: Asha Woodhouse, Maeve Richardson, Sinéad Roche, Caoimhe Walsh, Luke Mulcahy, Siobhán Murphy, Alex Angland, Abbie Moloney, Alicia O’Sullivan, Stephen O’Riordan, Mary O’Donnell, Cian Scully

Welcome	Asha
Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meadhbh Kehoe, Business & Law Rep - Daniel Byrne, Equality Rep - Darragh Ó Caoimh, Ionadaí Gaeilge 	Asha
Appointment of Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary O’Donnell appointed 	Asha
Appointment of Deputy Chair of the Executive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sinéad Roche nominated by President - No objections - Sinéad Roche has been appointed 	Asha
General Election Standing Orders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deferred until a later meeting 	Asha
Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very excited for the year ahead. Please feel free to contact her at any time. Here to support you all for the year. - 103 meetings so far. Reach out if you would like to have a 1:1 meeting. - Presented at Governing Body about plans for the year ahead. - Part of the selection committee for the appointment of the new UCC President - SU Garden has commenced construction behind the ORB - Calm Zone launch - UnicoV research pilot - help with return to campus - Liaising with senior management in UCC about return to campus etc 	All

B. Communications & Engagement Officer

- Calm zone launch
- Engaging with gardaí about residents
- Engaging with commuter manager about cycling routes etc
- Working with Welfare Officer on rebrand of Keep Well UCC
- Working with UCC Sanctuary Working Group
- If anyone needs anything or has any campaigns they'd like to run please get in touch and don't feel intimidated
- No questions

C. Education Officer

- Many many many meetings
- Updating and meeting staff and committees
- Staff town hall - Interim President has confirmed that lecture recording will remain for semester 1
- Will be lobbying for this to become a permanent part of university education in the future
- Return to campus - UCC wants students back on campus but must facilitate students that aren't comfortable or are vulnerable
- Big push for hybrid learning: live-streaming lectures etc
- Class reps: met with class reps to discuss elections etc
- Question: (Stephen O'Riordan): Is there a change to the recording policy in relation to the opt-in or something else?
- Answer: At the moment, it's a covid policy. Because of covid, they have to record. However, we are pushing to make this a university-wide policy regardless of covid, and to make sure that if lecturers choose not to record that they must justify it
- Stephen: From an accessibility perspective, it'd be great to keep the recordings and to keep the opt-in/out system for panopto.

D. Welfare Officer

- Firstly, if anyone ever needs anything please give her a call or call in at any time
- Currently sitting on a panel to redraft a sexual misconduct policy
- Lots of financial issues: covid payments have pushed a lot of people above the threshold for SUSI grants so that's a big issue at the moment
- Rebranding Keep Well
- UCC Talks - if anyone is interested in participating please get in touch
- Any ideas for welfare campaigns or events please get in touch

- SHAG Week will be huge (Oct 18th)

- No questions

E. Ents Officer

- Struggling to get a venue for a festival (all suggestions welcome)
- Sophomore week (Sept 13th)
- Some indoor events in Devere Hall
- Looking into circus tent for president's garden and marquee for Honan plaza
- Please call into the office or give him a call etc if you would like to get involved in events for Freshers and Sophomore Week
- Question (SOR): Any intention to run an orientation for second years?
- Asha: Yes. Second years can choose to get an orientation and there's a Fáilte Fest for them too

F. Commercial & Fundraising Officer

- Getting a handle on website
- Freshers packs
- Organising sponsorships
- Organising a wall calendar so if anyone is planning any weeks etc please get in touch
- No questions

G. SEFS Rep

- Action working group for Graduate Attributes
- Training with Sinéad for class rep elections
- No questions

H. Med & Health Rep

- Meeting with Sinéad
- Looking at early starters
- Graduate Attributes working group
- If anyone needs a hand with anything she's happy to help
- No questions

I. Environmental Rep

- Talking about doing something for Freshers week to do with climate and environmental issues
- Talking to Siobhán about new sustainability guidelines for sponsorship
- Climate Assembly - putting a working group together
- Meetings with envirosoc and green campus
- No questions

J. Council Chair

- Redoing the standing orders
- Training manual that's been sent out to class reps last year, so

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will be updating it this year too - Will be sending it out to exec also - No questions <p>K. Socs Exec Rep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working on Freshers' Magazine for Freshers packs - Organising Societies Day for September 29th - Organising Societies Festival (Give It A Go) for September 13th to October 1st (hybrid: mix of in-person and online events) - Working on Fáilte Fest and T2Y2 for Orientation <p>L. Clubs Exec Rep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25 active clubs at the moment - Working from a 2 person executive - Doing a big facelift (tying in with procurement) - Involved with DSPCA - Sports scholarships interviews this week - We've got 7 students and 5 graduates competing at the Olympics and we're hanging banners around the place 	
<p>SU Policy Booklet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will be sending them around and keeping them updated all year - Any policies from before 2015 don't exist anymore <p>A. Bystander Intervention Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Exec members are mandated to complete the Bystander Intervention training and active consent training - Question (SOR): If you completed it last year, does it hold up for this year? - Asha: Yes it should. Any objections to that interpretation? (No) <p>B. Part-time Officer Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part-time campaign officers have to present officer reports at council - Stephen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No template for reports but will be sending one out - Leaning towards letting part-time officers send out reports in advance (not "taking as read" at council anymore) - Please keep track of all meetings etc for reports 	<p>Asha</p>
<p>Student Town Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with Interim President about setting up a Student Town Hall with senior management - Scheduled for next Thursday - Answering questions from students - open to all to attend 	<p>Asha</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Details are not finalised but similar to staff - MS Teams - Attendees can submit questions through a Live Q&A - Aim is to give students the opportunity to express their concerns and get some level of clarity for the return to college - Stephen: Current idea is that the first 2 councils will be open to everyone (Town Hall format). Want to call it a Town Hall with 20 minutes at the start where students will be able to come and ask questions to officers etc. If people think it'd be better to do it separately that can be explored also - Asha: had an SU Town Hall in plans for the year so that sounds good - Abbie: Completely agree. Students would appreciate getting to ask and be heard. Rebrand of council to open it up and make it more accessible and informal at the beginning. - Sinead: Agreed. Students don't fully feel like they're being listened to so bringing the Town Hall up next week will be great and it'd be great to bring that into the Council format. - Asha: We can look into it and update at the next Exec meeting - No further questions 	
<p>Return to Campus & September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UCC restricted by whatever the Government (Department of Higher Education and NPHET) says - Return to campus seemed definite from the department but the Minister seems to have backtracked slightly recently - Stephen: Any indication from senior management as to the return to campus? - Asha: At the moment there's a push to return. It's hard to know at the moment as the details haven't been worked out and NPHET hasn't given any clear instructions and won't for some time. - The one guarantee we have is that students will be accommodated to study from home, but we don't know about returning - Very department dependent. Some immunocompromised staff that can't return unless there's a guarantee they're safe - Sinéad: One thing that's clear is that management does want students to be in classrooms and on campus. What's coming up a lot is that lecturers can decide for themselves. Working on drafting letters with college reps to department heads to try and get a clearer picture of the department's plans for the year - Asha: On-campus classes will be 45 minutes instead of an hour to facilitate students leaving and entering without close contact - Management want big classes in lecture theatres but logistically it presents challenges e.g. who's job is it to enforce covid rules and regulations during lectures, crowd control, etc - We think it would be better to prioritise small classes like tutorials, 	<p>Asha</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> seminars, etc as they are easier to manage re health & safety - SOR: There were concerns about a cohort of students that don't want to get vaccines - has there been any update on how scenarios will be dealt with? - Asha: University is an essential service so students can't be stopped entering campus if it is open without being vaccinated - Sinéad: Every student has to get the same level of education. All live-classes have to be live-streamed as well so no student will be disadvantaged 	
<p>RAG Week:</p> <p>A. Charities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application form is being drafted for charities to apply - SOR: Normally there is a rule that any charities awarded don't get to reapply the next year. Would it be possible to lift that rule this year? Last year's groups didn't receive as large a donation as normal - Pushed to next meeting <p>B. Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would people be interested in forming a committee that consistently raises money for RAG charities throughout the year? - Luke: Since the pandemic etc people don't have cash on them. If we could have a sumup machine etc to take donations electronically and contactless? - Asha: SHARE brought in card donations at Christmas and it was genius - Maeve: There is some sort of document about trialling them from two years ago. Previous Ents Officer was investigating this in the past 	Siobhán
<p>Jigsaw Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with Jigsaw - Normally run mental health workshops during mental health week but uptake is slow - Want to run workshops for the SU Exec and then potentially roll out to the class reps - 3 workshops they want to run <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - My mental health: What? Help? - One good adult - Self-care for one good adult - How to support and promote the mental health of young people - August? - Will be back to you all with dates and times for these workshops - SOR: Might suggest that bringing it down to 30/40 minutes for class 	Asha

<p>reps to make sure as many as possible attend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will be online unless public health guidelines closer to the time allow us to meet in person 	
<p>SU Branding</p> <p>A. Co-branding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have been contacted by organisations, groups, etc wanting to co-brand with us - Reviewed on a case-by-case basis - SOR: Believes a policy was put in place for when and when not the SU should accept co-branding, not sure if it was put through but there's definitely something written about this somewhere - Maeve: I think it might have been a discussion point. Will have a look for it <p>B. Merch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposition that this year we're not going to put the UCC logo on our merch (due to trademark tender process currently ongoing) - We're autonomous - independent of UCC so don't need to have the logo on it - SOR: Class rep hoodies: people might want to have the UCC logo on those hoodies - Asha: Just for the Exec jackets and hoodies - Maeve will send on picture of one of her UCC branded hoodies as an example 	<p>Asha</p>
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maeve: Unicov: probably not going to launch until mid-August. Rapid antigen testing programme. Going to help us in response to NPHET on return to campus policies etc. Linked with three other colleges. Will be relying on exec to promote and share the programme. Any campaign ideas etc please get in touch https://unicov.org/join-the-study-ucc/ - Asha: Because of the nature of our positions etc, we can often have students approach or message you directly about an issue. Social media removes formality etc which is great but it blurs the line - are you acting in your own personal capacity or in your capacity as an officer? Would advise to use SU email as much as possible. Also refer welfare issues etc to Caoimhe and Asha. Don't feel under pressure to do more than your specific role. - In the academic year we are due to meet every second week. We might meet twice more before we start back? In three weeks perhaps. 	<p>All</p>

We will set a specific time and day for the rest of the year once part-timers know their timetables for college etc	
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