



UCCSU Executive Meeting Minutes

Date: 06/12/21

Time: 17:00

Location: Zoom

<p>In attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asha Woodhouse: President - Sinéad Roche: Education Officer & Deputy President - Stephen O’Riordan: Council Chair - Siobhán Murphy: Commercial & Fundraising Officer - Luke Mulcahy: Entertainments Officer - Meadhbh Kehoe: Business & Law Rep - Maeve Richardson: Communications & Engagement Officer - Niamh Kiely: CACSSS Rep - Alex Angland: SEFS Rep - Alicia O’Sullivan: Environmental Officer - Abbie Moloney: Medicine & Health Rep - Caoimhe Walsh: Welfare Officer - Amanda Landzaad: Mature Student Rep - Mary O’Donnell: Societies President - Daniel Byrne: Equality Rep 	
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Asha</p>
<p>I. Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None 	<p>Asha</p>
<p>II. Minutes & Matters Arising</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>III. Action points from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fáilte Refugees - in progress - Dietary Requirements - in progress - Poster painting for FTF - complete 	
<p>IV. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - B&L Rep: CUBS Week is third week of February 	
<p>V. Exams & Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spaces have been made available for students sitting online exams on campus 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bookable through resource booker 	
<p>VI. F*ck the Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with President of UCC on January 11th to discuss comments around “cheap fees” - Meeting with Minister Harris recently discussing fees as well as other things. Indication that there is no intention to move towards a loan scheme like the UK’s. - Mature Rep: Perhaps when we return to campus we could run a silent protest in which students place an application form or book representing a student that couldn’t make it to college because of the fees that are in place. - President: Good idea. That could work even if covid restrictions are in place. - Communications: Nothing has been mentioned at USI campaign strategy committee about the future of F*ck the Fees but I will keep you in the loop about that. 	<p>Asha</p>
<p>VII. Sanitary Products in UCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have partnered with the EDI Unit to place free sanitary products across campus in ground floor bathrooms. They’re in vending machines but they’re free to take. Taking a sustainability focus rather than period poverty. Partnered with Riley who are an Irish company that make sustainable products. The college are funding it. They will want our support in promoting it. - B&L: If it’s “green”, is it plastic free? How does that work? - President: It’s biodegradable packaging. The EDI Unit are rolling it out in staff and student bathrooms into all bathrooms, not just female bathrooms. - President: They have requested a list of the priority buildings for the first roll out. Kane, ORB, Boole Basement, WGB, Brookfield, Butler, CCAE, Sunday’s Well - President: Hoping to engage with the Student Centre and the Mardyke as well. The hope is to roll this out in January but it may take longer than that. It will take a large amount of pressure of UCCSU (mandated to supply period products but very expensive) 	<p>Asha</p>
<p>VIII. Postgraduate representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postgraduate Council - Concerns have been raised with regards replication of work between PG Council and SU. PG Council structures are very different to SU. - Postgraduate rep on the SU is a part time role but very demanding. Considering the establishment of a full-time Postgraduate Officer - Also concerned about dual-representation between postgrad rep and postgrad council leading to issues in the future 	<p>Asha</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council: With the postgrad rep, there could be two main barriers. Most students finishing an undergrad won't know if they have been accepted to a postgrad until much later than SU elections. - Societies: How would we go about electing a postgrad rep? - President: I would envision it as only students already in a postgrad running for it. Needs to be some sort of system for research students as well as taught masters programmes - Mature: Strongly in favour of this - B&L: For CUBS, postgrads held their own elections and just sent me the list rather than engaging with me. Has this been done in other colleges as a sabbatical role? - President: UCDSU have a Postgraduate Officer so I would like to speak to them about how it works for them and whether or not it's worthwhile. The real catch is that if we go ahead with this we'll need to secure funding from the university. The university fell down in its IEP report on its engagement with postgrad students so this may help. We also have gotten funding for Commercial & Fundraising from SCFF and we are moving into funding that ourselves through fundraising, so we could possibly suggest funding this through SCFF first, and if we can prove it works then the university may fund it. (SCFF: Student Charges and Fees Forum) - Communications: Queens University Belfast also have a postgraduate officer on their SU - President: I can write up a proposal in advance of next meeting for us to approve before bringing it SCFF. 	
<p>IX. Precarious contracts re staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mature Rep: Do we have representation on Academic Council? Very little concern seems to be placed on students' academic experience. Currently cannot see any way of accessing Academic Council as a student to address concerns such as the loss of lecturer Miranda Corcoran from Department of English - President: When it comes to staff and quality of teaching, you could bring it up at Academic Council, but it's more of a formality than a forum. They grant authority to other committees. - Mature Rep: The QQI has invested in the Mature Student Programme. Our degrees aren't being looked at outside of the QQI circle which is an external company that assesses our college. - Education: We do sit on some relevant committees but I'm not sure how helpful they'll be with this. - Mature Rep: Doing research on Academic Council it is concerning that they are focused on bringing in externals as a means of securing funding etc rather than the focus being on UCC students. - President: All the colleges would have recently gotten their budgets 	<p>Asha</p>

<p>so they would have taken cuts etc, so that is likely playing into it.</p>	
<p>X. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mature Rep: Feedback from numerous people on the Mature Rep role. The Mature Student Office is involved with a number of committees or groups that run separately to all other bodies in UCC. I think there are a lot of very lonely mature students who have been separated out into small groups. I have several people who are interested in setting up a mature student sub-committee. - Communications: Just a note on the student parents who have been working with the mature student office, there is a mature student peer support leader that I have been planning to introduce you to. <p>Asha says Happy Christmas to everyone Everyone cries A very emotional ending Merry Christmas xx</p> <p>“Semester 1 - you’re done” - Sinéad Roche</p>	<p>All</p>