

UCCSU Executive Meeting Minutes

Date: 28/09/2022

Time: 6.45pm

Location: Orb 244



Attendance

1. President
2. Deputy President, Communications & Engagement Officer
3. Education Officer
4. Welfare Officer
5. Entertainments Officer
6. Commercial & Fundraising Officer
7. B&L College Representative
8. M&H College Representative
9. Equality & Diversity Representative
10. Environmental & Sustainability Representative
11. Irish Language & Culture Representative
12. Postgraduate Representative (online)
13. Mature Student Representative
14. International Student Representative
15. Council Chair
16. Societies President

Apologies:

17. SEFS College Representative
18. CACSSS College Representative
19. Clubs President

I. Welcome New B&L and Irish Reps

- President welcomed the new B&L College Rep and Irish Language & Culture Rep

II. Apologies

- SEFS College Representative
- CACSSS College Representative
- Clubs President

III. Minutes of Last Meetings

(a) August 31st

- Approved without objection
- Action Items:
 - Living Wage Policy to be circulated after this meeting
 - Everything else completed

(b) September 13th

- Correction: Discussion of timeline of nominations and elections to add more detail
- Approved without objection
- Action Items:
 - All items completed

IV. Review of Activity to Date and Upcoming Plans

- Recent activities: Sophomore Week, Orientations, Mature Student Coffee Mornings, Vendors on Campus, Global Climate Strike, Freshers' Ball, Class Rep Elections (Ongoing Students)
- No additional comments from Executive

(a) SHAG Week

- Welfare giving update
- Running on 3rd - 6th October
- Activities planned:
 - DASH Van for 3 days
 - SHAG Stands on campus (Boole, WGB, Brookfield). Condom Guessing Jar.
 - LGBTQ+ Sex Ed talk
 - How to have the best Sex talk
 - Songs to Have Sex to night in New Bar
 - Sex themed baking competition with Vegan Soc
 - Sex Toy Bingo with Steve Bennet
 - "Safety over Stigma" talk (Covers mandate on image based sexual abuse)
 - Live podcast with Active*Consent
- Mature: Has there ever been a targeted event to mature students because of anxiety with asking for condoms etc.
- Welfare: Any student can get contraception from my office confidentially
- President: We can give condoms or information at mature student coffee morning
- Environmental: STAND on campus from Tues-Thurs if we wanted to link in with sustainability aspect and SDGs

(b) Special Rep Elections

- Timeline:
 - Nominations open next week from Mon-Wed (3rd - 5th October)
 - Husting will be the following Tuesday evening at 6.30pm in Shteppe
 - Wednesday is voting from 7am - 11.59pm
 - Friday is results announcement
- Signatures will be required but only 20. Any student signature is counted
- Manifesto will be required but one A4 page limited to 500 words
- This will be the first year of Special Rep elections after COVID
- President: We want to do information sessions for students interested in running on 3rd October. Special Reps and Education officer to check availability to attend.

(c) Union Week

- CommFund giving update
- Running on 10th - 14th October
- Timeline:
 - USI Campaigns Officer doing sessions on PG and International students rights
 - United Voices for the World Union Architectural Society talk
 - Debenhams worker going to speak about her experiences. Longest pickett in the world. Hopefully include information on historical union activity
 - Activist evening (Several societies)
 - Week at Work podcast from Left Block recording in Shhteps on anti-apartheid Dunnes strikes in 1984-1987
 - National Student Walkout
 - CATU hopefully going to do anti-eviction training
- Council: Mandated to run anti-apartheid week

- President: Will be ran in semester 2
- President: Are there events in Irish language for both Union Week and SHAG Week?
Target for us to do that
- Irish/Socs: USI have Irish LGBT information
- CommFund: Stíofán (TradeMark Belfast) could do event in Irish for Union Week
- Enviro: Envirosoc are working on Activist evening so if SU content wanted to be included they could help
- Mature: Could content be shared so that they can distribute to mature students on Facebook.

(d) Student Forum

- President explained the concept of the Forum. 68 students randomly selected by sortition to discuss issues currently facing the student body.
- Mature Student Rep received an invite as one of the 68 students.
- Potential for conflict with UCC in trying to replace the Students' Union.
- Current project manager is quite dedicated to having a democratic voice and equitable selection process
- Question being put at the forum is "What actions do you need to take to be a good ancestor for future students?"
- Funding has limited it to 1.5 days when it was originally planned on being 2.5.
- Happening on Sunday 9th and Monday 10th October

(e) Student Walkout

- CommEng giving update
- Happening on October 13th at 11.11am
- Campaigns Crew applications have opened up today. If the Executive know individuals who would be good for it, encourage them to apply.
- Walkout is happening nationally but we need a local strategy on how different campuses will be handled, assembly points etc.
- Class Rep Elections will be used to promote the Walkout as well
- Using as many promotion avenues as possible (Leafleting, Social Media, Lecture addresses)
- Graduations will be happening that day also. We have to be aware of disruptions to them.
- Information will be sent out to lecturers but management are aware of it happening already
- Walkout is over accommodation, cost of living, inadequacy of budget 2023
- If members of Executive have free time the week before to hand out leaflets that would be appreciated.
- M&H: Would students have to return to lectures? Complication for M&H students with placement
- CommEng: M&H is more difficult to get students walking out so strategy will need to be developed
- President: There was a meeting with IFUT yesterday and they were informed of the walkout

(f) University Strategy

- UCC is developing a strategy for the next 5 years
- President & CommEng have been primarily involved with it. PostGrad attended some
- Consultation Coffee Mornings are being used to gather feedback from staff.
- President has been discussing with the organisation running the feedback session to

figure out the best method to gather feedback. Current idea is to ask for student feedback on different topics that are set as a priority by UCC

- Will have to be limited to ~50 students. There's an outstanding question of how those students will be selected
- Education: It will be difficult to have a wide selection of students without asking personal questions
- PostGrad: We could ask department, course, year of study
- Can use the Class Rep Training to gather initial feedback
- Education: Should the student feedback be led by the priority of the university or should it be more open forum
- President: Feedback could be that the priorities aren't aligned with student goals. Previous priorities were accommodation, mental health and sustainability. It's likely it could be the same this year again

- President: Should we make our own submission to the group?
- Education: Only benefit of making our own submission is if we are suggesting something radically different
- Multiple Exec members expressed interest in having our own submission
- President will make a form where people can submit suggestions for how the planning should occur

V. Student Governance Project

- Socs, Clubs, President planning a meeting between all three executives
- Discussion on student governance project postponed until that meeting
- Socs: There's a proposal to migrate society emails under @ucc.ie domain

Education Officer left the meeting. Council Chair took over minute taking

VI. Lecture Recording

- President: We don't have an official position, but we do have a mandate on it. Strong feedback from students in favour of forming a position. Need to create a strong position as an SU
- CommEng: At meetings last year the idea that recordings didn't have to be mandatory sounded ok, but the culture from management is still not in favour of it
- President: When IFUT want progress, Management cite the SU and it creates a false reality
- CommEng: Unless there are repercussions for not recording it will not be done
- President: We need to be approaching it through a lens of education rather than in terms of COVID
- Mature: Mature students are willing to strike if action is not taken. Acting as a barrier and exclusivity. The parameters for inclusivity are too restrictive (eg. for disabled students). Urgency for mature students in particular
- President: The approach needs to be taken as a tool for education
- Mature: The facilities are in place to do lecture recording and there is no reason to not do so
- President: Blanket recording will not solve the problem, types of assessment, etc. That it still is being discussed by management. Tools being developed by IT to make it automatic. The sense we get is that management claim this is what the SU want without the nuance behind it.
- CommEng: Understands the frustration of the students, that lecturers are on precarious contracts and that a partnership needs to be created between staff and students. That letters have been sent to all heads of departments in relation to this. That lecturers need to be identified that are not complying.
- Mature: This is an issue for another Union and therefore should not be concerned as a

Students' Union

- CommEng: Working together will be more effective and that we have the same end goal
- President: Accessibility to the classroom is key and that lecture recording doesn't necessarily fix this, but the utopia of this problem not existing is unrealistic. That some hands-on classes simply cannot be recorded, and it is not practical
- CommEng: Go to (Education) when such problems arise so that lecturers can be identified
- Welfare: That we are arguing over the same issue but different approaches, and that long-term and short term plans overlap
- B&L: To put this issue into UDL
- President: (agrees)

VII. Situation in Iran [TW: Gender Based Violence]

- President: (gives context for email)
- Many: Vigil organised by FemSoc next week
- President: We should support FemSoc
- Council Chair: That this should be voted on at council
- CommEng & President: That Council is in about a months time and that for now President & CommEng work on a statement in relation to this
- International: That it is more powerful if we got the likes of USI involved

VIII. ROSA Abortion Rights March

- President: That a march is being held in Dublin on 29th October to mark the 10 year anniversary of Savita Halappanavar. We should probably get in touch with FemSoc and maybe LGBTQ+ soc to try and go as many of the Exec cannot go.
- Majority not available that weekend or unsure of availability. Agree to respond to ROSA nearer the time if there is availability to attend.

IX. Date of Next Meeting

- Thursday 13th October 5pm (Provisional)

X. AOB

Postgraduate Tutor Rates

- PostGrad: Previous 'We are UCC' project manager is trying to increase the pay for PG students who are tutors to reflect the work they do outside of hours. Going from 24 euro to 54 euro
- International: That there are contracts for PG students
- Mature: That this is an issue between management and the PG students
- President: That PG students fall under a weird bracket of both staff and students
- CommFund: We can refer to the likes of IFUT instead of the SU getting involved directly
- President: (To PostGrad) to request for more information about the situation

Le Cheile

- Welfare: Le Cheile is run by the chaplaincy and we may be interested in participating. Also wanted to discuss the Nursing iPad situation but Education Officer not in attendance.

Gap Between Lectures

- Equality: Should reinstate the 15 minutes between lectures instead of 10 minutes. Students, especially those with disabilities, find it difficult to get from one side of campus to the other.
- President: This can be sent to the registrar to lecturers to remind them about this. It can

also be included in Class Rep Training.

Policy Booklet

- Council chair: They will send on the updated policy booklet and any questions are welcome.

Action Points

President

- Set up Special Rep info drop ins with Special Reps - Done
- Strategy Workshop with students - In progress
- Send around a feedback form for UCC Strategy submission - In progress

CommEng:

- Student Walkout Strategy - Done

CommFund

- Irish event for Union Week - Done

Postgrad:

- Follow up re PG tutor rates - Done

Council Chair:

- Send policy booklet - Done