



Agenda:

UCDSU Council Meeting 3 Monday, 7th November 2022, 6pm
Venue – Fitzgerald / Hybrid upon request

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A. The declaration of a quorum by roll call.

B. Minutes of the previous meeting.

a. Approved

C. Presentation by members of USI

a. Sierra (VP for Dublin) and Beth (President)

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFKsiu-n8k/f9EySNgeiMsY0nP8SKJjAQ/view?utm_content=DAFKsiu-n8k&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton#7

b. Presentation to be done and then options for questions after

c. USI stands for the Union of Students in Ireland, representing most of the HEI. Functions similar to the councils that SU's have, except instead of class reps it

d. Regional officers work directly with the SU's on campus, going to college councils and events on the different campuses.

e. President of NUS USI, Regional Officer for the North and a policy officer is the one person. Explanation of other roles.

f. Pyramid. Bottom are students, above that are sabbatical officer, above that are Elected people, above that are Comhairle Naisúnta, then Comhdáil at the top

g. Only presidents have votes at the national council.

h. In the constitution it says that any members take on the policies as their own.

i. Examples of current policies:

1. Constitutional Review

2. Drug policy on decriminalisation

i. Engagement

i. You don't have to go to your sabbatical officers, you can go straight to us.



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- j. What have we done since July:
 - i. Submitted USI pre-budget
 - ii. Met with Simon Harris
 - iii. Passed amendments to the HEA Bill
 - iv. Launched investigation into SUSI Estrangement
 - v. Demanded a review of the PHD and Postgrad working conditions
 - vi. Digs legislation
 - vii. Supported students whose colleges names have changed.
 - viii. FOI's on the DARE and HEAR schemes
 - ix. Successfully lobbied for SH24.ie
 - x. Visiting campus twice a week
 - xi. Wrote and support objections to student accommodations changing use
 - xii. Walk-out

Questions:

MB Diversity & Inclusion: What are the biggest challenges that international students face and how will you be able to help UCD international students.

USI Response: One in particular is how the fees vary on the international fees themselves based on the choice by the college. It is not something that is chosen by the government but by the college themselves. Also accommodation, the cost of living, we have visa mandates because many international students cannot travel to the UK from Ireland because of visa restrictions.

ER LGBTQ: Why should we join?

USI Response: Before we would have said that you get representation on boards and committees. The student movement has taken a huge knock from Covid, so now more than ever we need a united student movement, so when it comes to fighting for something, we will have a mandated idea that we all agree on that we can bring to the government.

Y masters student: What is the meaning of digs legislation?

USI Response: Students in DIGS or owner occupied rentals do not have rights. Working with opposition TD's to have minimum standards for where they live. It is a fine line as we do not want people to stop giving accommodation to students.



RC Science CO: Question regarding access provisions for international students.

USI Response: On the board of ICOS and our equality and citizenship officer, off the top of our head it has not been an issue in other colleges, but I will gladly follow up.

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MM Graduate: How can you guarantee that UCD's identity and sovereignty will not be compromised by this.

USI Response: Colleges are not impeded by being a part of USI. We do not overstep into the democratic process, we seek to assist with it, not impede it. We have no decision over elections, policies, constitutions and mandates.

MNR Education: Question regarding SUSI estrangement.

Two officers in USI are working on this . At first it was direct work with SUSI, now it has to go above SUSI and there is work done with TUSLA and working group called funding the future.

ROK Campaigns: USI is an affiliate member of COLC and so are we. So if we become a member of USI, will we lose our seats?

USI Response: No, the more representatives the better and it is great that UCD get that option. So what we can give you is extra representation.

MG President: Question regards the opinion piece that was written over the summer by a Trinity student. We left during 2013 and we would like to know what has changed since then?

USI Response: At the time the article was written I did understand where it was coming from. I ran for president to change the toxic atmosphere. Since I have taken office we have changed the chair, deputy chair, steering committee and given more breaks. We are also hoping to do a constitutional review. Anything that is not functioning for students needs to be changed and why we would like you to be on board is to help this.

We no longer have a finance committee, we have a governance committee instead. We have tried to really change the toxic atmosphere.



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BM Sociology and Social policy stage 1: How do we know that things will get better? What came out of the walkout?

USI Response: No SU is neutral completely, all we are doing is on a national stage and your union have done an amazing job on. There is not a political risk in terms of getting involved in USI, everyone supporting each other is a buffer for criticism. An example is the petition done by Maynooth university and the other students unions came to help. We wouldn't get anywhere without a united front.

The walkout was a remobilisation of the student movement. It was a first step, but it got student issues on the minds of people who aren't students. We are looking towards more radical actions.

GEM stage 1: What are the plans to drive student engagement?

One thing that we have done is letting students run for USI campaign strategy committee. We also host town halls. Another thing would be roadshows and have more of a presence through them.

SMA Oifigeach: What is the timeframe for the referendum/review? What benefit would USI give to Oifigh na Gaeilge

USI Response: One thing is working with the Cumann naGaeilge on campus and 40% of our campaign materials are as Gaeilge. Hoping to start working groups to work with Irish speaking students. There is a Gaeilge working group for sabbats and part-time officers and we have another Irish language committee for students. A lot of work with the Irish language across the border.

MC philosophy stage 2: Is there anything in our constitution that conflict with USI constitution?

USI Response: It would be more in regards to policies, so if your union does not have a policy on a particular thing, you can use the USI one if needed. Just because it is USI policy does not mean that it has to be the SU policy.

DOB History stage 1: Question regarding voting?

USI Response: Any election is weighted by number of students.

CM stage 4 modern language: What type of media manifesto do you have.

USI Response: We do a lot of media, but it depends on what the media prefers. USI have been prevalent not only on the walkout, but of course there is room for improvement. In terms of more radical movements, we want to get back to the time where we would protest without the ignorant messaging. We are the 2nd largest member lead organisation behind the GAA. We need to build up our numbers and our engagement.



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MNF Welfare: Question on Policy making

USI Response: You can pass interim policy and could hold it will still have to be passed at Comhdáil as other than that it can not be removed from the policy file. We can check with our chair.

Chair: Thank you to the members of USI.

D. Matters arising.

- a. None

E. Motions on notice.

F. Items for Discussion

- a. UCDSU Annual Accommodation Survey (President & Welfare)

MG President: This is the second survey and it is being relaunched this year. So it is one to be brought out to all students. It will launch tomorrow. Please share this with your class reps as it is used as information to push at UCD management meetings.

MNF Welfare: The numbers are the best way that we can push UCD management and it is good to be able to compare this to last year.

LC stage 1 English, Film & Drama: Is just for people in accommodation?

MG President: No, it is for all. It includes “would you like to move out if you could”

MNF: There are options for this.

RC Science CO: An idea is going around campus with a meg

F Gem 1: The best way of reaching my group is through whatsapp is there a text that can be made:

MG President: Yes this can be done



RJ Law CO: How long is it open for?

MG President: 4 me

MG Master biotherapeutics: We got an email from the bursar, is this something that we mention at the meeting.

MK: Is there a plan to get it our to rez?

MG President: We just have to get permission from Rez, last year they gave us car

SS: If there could be something to incentivise students.

MNF Welfare: There are 4 fifty euro one4all vouchers up for grabs.

BM: Is there a way to make it easier to access for students who are not tech savvy.

MNF: We have leaflets coming out so they will have a leaflet that they can scan.

- b. Mobilise Peace-- Civil Disobedience/Climate Action in the New Year
(President) (Pushed to next council)

G. Items for Approval

- a. Terms of Reference for UCD Students' Union Constitutional Review Group.
 - i. Chair explains that the only thing that can be changed is the membership.

MG President: Explaining the importance of having a constitutional review. Explains the group of people. Everything will be brought back to council so even if you are not on the committee you can still contribute. Elections will be held and it will be our policy officer and the secretary who will look at that. Wednesday evening is the deadline for expression of interest. Secret ballot will open.

MM stage 1 French: Speaking from experience there are more officers on this than there are non-officers, so is there a way to support that there

Molly gives speaking rights to a student in the gallery

PPE final stage: Something that could be an idea is to have some who are not on council on the constitutional review.

MG President: This will be chaired by an independent person and Emily will make sure that all opinions are heard and at this everyone is on an equal playing field. These will be every Tuesday evening and we are going to try to host focus groups, so students can feed in on different parts.

Motion proposed by EG mental health campaign coordinator: to add two seats that are non-exec seats.

EG Mental Health Campaign Coordinator: There were valid poin

MB diversity & inclusion: Good Idea

KM: How will council vote for someone outside student council

MG President: We might have to reach out to the returning officer



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Vote for two seats that cannot be held by UCD Students' Union Exec: approved

Vote for the motion with the proposed change: Approved

H. The reports of each Executive Officer

Entertainment Officer: Approved

Education Officer: Approved

Campaigns and Engagement Officer: Approved

Welfare Officer: Approved

President: Approved

Question: Question about being a sabbat

Graduate: Approved

College Officers:

Business: Approved

Architecture and Engineering: Approved

Science: Approved

KC: When is the cycle and what is the donation cost

RC Science: 27th Jan to the 29th, 20 euro.

AHSS: Approved

AHSS: moved to next meeting

Law: Approved

Ag Food and Vet: Approved

Health Science: moved to next meeting

Oifegeach: Approved



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LGBTQ: Approved

Diversity & Inclusion: Approved

Environmental: Approved

JB: Can we change the fact that we have new stickers every week.

EOH: Yes we can work on this.

Y: Can you repeat the details of the debate?

EOH: It will be next week in the fitzgerald chamber next week.

International Campaign Coordinator: approved

Gender & Equality: Approved

Ents rep coordinator: moved to next council

1st year promotions: approved

Non-alcoholic: moved to next council.

RAG: moved to next council meeting.

I. Questions on notice.

J. Questions not on notice.

K. Motions not on notice.

L. Items for noting

- a. Class Hoodies (President)
- b. UCD's Accommodation Town Hall--- Save the Date (24th November from 11am-1pm in the Auditorium of the UCD Village) (President)
- c. Cost of Living Demonstrations Across the Country-- 12th of November (this Saturday) (Campaigns)
- d. For the month of November, UCDSU Shops will only charge for hot water until 3pm daily. (President)
- e. UCDSU will be sending a survey to Class reps in the coming two weeks with regards our 3 year strategy (2023-26). (President)

M. Submission of motions to be on notice for next meeting.

Motions to be submitted by the 14th at 5pm

All other items: November 18th 5pm

Next council is 21st of November.

N. Any Other Business.



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