

Exec #3 15/11/2021

Attendance: President, Education Officer, Graduate Officer, Campaigns and Engagement Officer, Entertainment Officer, both AHSS college Officers, Law College Officers, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Health Science College Officer, Science College Officer.

Minutes: no issues.

**Item one:**

College council: Health CO brought up issue from college council which they didn't have time to raise in previous exec meeting. A GEM student had raised that there wasn't a crisis pregnancy policy in Medicine unlike that seen in Trinity College Dublin. This is needed as issues can arise in labs if a student is pregnant. President and Graduate Officer brought up that there is a working group looking at a maternity policy in the university and this issue will be raised next time this meets.

**Item 2: Exams**

College Officers raised that students had concerns about rising cases and were wondering what to do if they caught COVID during exams.

Education and Graduate Officer stressed that if you have COVID symptoms you should stay at home and apply for extenuating circumstances. They stated that more information on this was due to come soon.

E-proctoring was mentioned in the discussion around exams. An e-proctoring pilot is being brought in within the university, and some exams may be e-proctored this year and potentially if exams move online then e-proctoring may be used as a form of invigilation. It is important that the university has really good communications around e-proctoring and the sabbatical team will be in communication with Assessments about this so student know what our e-proctoring system does and does not do.

All modules' coordinators are expected to have a contingency plan that will allow them to change from in person exams to online in case of a change with COVID guidelines from the government.

Students who need supports should contact their module coordinator to see if anything can be put in place for them, potential for temporary exam supports,

**Item 3: COVID**

AHSS CO talks about a letter they forwarded to sabbatical officers from a programme that was sent to the AHSS officers.

Questions were asked about live lecture recording, the issue of contractual limitations around lecture recordings is mentioned and that the university would have allowed module coordinators to destroy their recordings in line with GDPR and concerns around intellectual property. However, if you couldn't attend lectures, you could ask, if possible, to have access to those recordings if the lecturer still had them.

Numbers of COVID cases on campus: breakdown in contact tracing so less notices from university, feedback from students also lead the university to believe that they were panicking students due to

the ambiguous nature of the emails and that no specifics on where people are sitting etc., cases on campus UCD are relative to national average are low and better than expected.

The sabbatical team can see if university can do an email about what is happening with covid now, and potentially explain the university's stance.

Currently looking into suppling COVID antigen tests in the SU shops. Want to be careful sourcing them as we are hoping to be able to sell them at cost value to ensure students can access them. Will also look into pushing UniCov more.

#### **Item 4: Events**

Entertainment Officer:

- Next Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> go ahead with Hot Ones collab with FoodSoc, Sarah is asking for help from college officers.
- Starting planning for Christmas events for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of December and is asking for help if people are around.

Health Science CO and Science CO want to give out hot chocolates and mince pies around Christmas in the science building. A suggestion is made that they look into making it a collab with the Chaplaincy.

Sabbat team will look into logistics and guidelines around food-based events such as mince pies and hot chocolate events.

Graduate Officer:

- Post grad week happening this week. Everbrite tickets for events going fast.

C&E:

- Disability awareness training this coming Thursday.

Education Officer:

- Education week next, webinar for exam supports, plagiarism and academic integrity event tea and coffee morning, and potential online quiz.

AHSS CO:

- Arts society contacted AHSS officers about the Arts Ball, and possibility for having a fundraiser night out to help subsidise tickets and fund the AHSS.

#### **Item 4: By election**

C&E: have over 20 nominations, it's been a successful campaign. However, issue of having to reopen constituencies is causing loads of problem and will need to be looked at in constitutional review.

President suggests C&E assigns everyone in exec two constituencies that they should work towards getting nominations from.

#### **Item 5: Irish language**

Oifigeach na Gaeilge has been working to get the constitution translate into Irish. The original quote from a professional translation service was over 3000 euros. O na G and President looked at other possible translation services. They are currently in the process of working on finalizing an agreement with a recent UCD Law with Irish graduate who has worked on Irish translations in the past. He is offering to translate the document for roughly 900 euro. The aim is that by the end of January the SU will be able to launch the Irish constitution. Kudos is given to O na G for all the work they've put into researching translation options and organizing quotes. This is an important process and O na G has done a good job.

**Item 6:** Accommodation:

The President outlines how a number of months ago UCD residences charged the standard €400 deposit and then later, once the term had begun, emailed students on 3 separate occasions asking for remainder of the money for one months' worth of deposit. The SU contacted Threshold about this and they said that this may potentially have been illegal as it was not made clear enough to students what was expected of them and when it would be asked for. Threshold said we may have a case for RTB. Students have contacted us about this issue, and the Student Advisors told us they have students who are taking out high-interest loans. The President of the SU had a meeting with the Bursar of UCD over the phone about this. On this phone call the Bursar acknowledged that they did not have sufficient communication with students about this but admitted no legal liability. The Bursar has said they will cease asking for students that have not paid already for the balance of the deposit. He also said a refund scheme could potentially be put in place for students who are struggling due to this payment. Exec is asked for their input and opinion on this and what the SU should do going forward. The Bursar has yet to come back to the SU with an offer in writing, which he stipulated he would do during the phone call. It has been over a week since the SU was last in contact with the Bursar over this issue, the President will follow up

Action points:

Follow up with the Bursar and follow up with Exec once we have a response or if there is no response in a timely fashion Exec will be informed also.

**Item 7:** campaigns

Want to organize a think in style event to discuss and brainstorm for different campaigns the SU wants to do in the second trimester. It was raised that accommodation had become the dominant issue and so there hasn't been enough focus on other issues that students face, the think in is aimed at working on this.

**AOB:** Accommodation survey, asking college officers to share it and encourage friends and peers to participate.