

UCDSU Exec #4 Minutes

Attendance:

President, Graduate Officer, Education Officer, Welfare Officer, Campaigns and Engagement Officer, Science College Officer, Eng & Arch College Officer, both AHSS College Officer, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Law College Officer.

First item college council:

Eng & Arch College Officer – issues of overlap with science for reps such as biomedical stream in engineering but not clear if they have a rep, raised concerns in relation to covid and exams, Ruairí mentions letter sent from SU to the Registrar asking for considerations around exams such as accommodations for students with immunocompromised students.

Law College Officer – issues around COVID and exams mostly sorted through school of law moving online, good attendance at law soc event about exams.

College Officer update:

AHSS College Officer – issue of consulting students around splitting AHSS college officer constituencies, we need to work on ensuring broad overview of students in both Arts & Humanities and Social Science students. Class reps asking about how to order hoodies, new website is up so they directed them to us.

Item 3:

Think In session – Ruairí gave update on how campaign think in will run.

Item 4: Sabbatt update:

Graduate – Education week update, PHD conference fund open and had 31 applicants, exam planning bulk of the work, small amounts of case work mostly PHD students, mentions Christmas day on Thursday the 2nd.

Welfare – spiking awareness campaign with societies, just launched on social media today. Case work continues. Reimagining mental health event tomorrow on the 30th. SRAs have asked us to put out some messaging relating to congregating and having parties on campus, wants Exec in put on how to go about this and how the messaging should work.

Main aim of the messaging will be to remind students of regulations and be nice to your Ras. Preference for infographic over video. Science CO suggests we remind people of the current regulations both government and UCD's and advise them to follow regulations and be safe.

Education – Education week went well, especially tea and coffee morning, currently working on library breakfasts and exam supports timetabling.

C&E – working on the think in tomorrow and seeing how we can continue this as a tool for future officers, the great donate, and helping Sarah with Christmas day, and helping out with Library Breakfasts.

President – meeting USI tomorrow with aim to discuss possible avenues to work with them for the rest of the year and possible referendum on USI membership. Asks for Execs input on this.

Points raised:

- Lack of attention or concern on campus as people don't realise UCDs past with USI, sometimes they know we left but nothing more. Issue is that students don't notice USI.
- Issues that caused UCDSU to leave in the first place never really addressed.
- Delegate system mentioned and briefly explained, every college gets a certain number of delegates based on their size. How these delegates vote at their AGM is up to each college to decide e.g., do all delegates vote for the winner of the vote in their SU college, is it a free vote etc.
- Issue of how students already spend lots of money when they attend college. Often it can seem like they don't feel the benefits of all these fees and don't know where the money goes. If it happens that students would have to directly pay dues to USI they may not feel it is worth it. This may spark a bigger conversation around SU's including our own and their place within universities today. This may be positive or negative and we should consider this.
- Discussions around the benefits of having a stage at a national level. USI offers more concrete support to smaller colleges with small or young SUs through support, advice, and access to their staff if needed. Due to the size of UCD, the history of its SU, and the permanent staff we employ these supports would be of marginal use to us and the benefits to rejoining are related to protests and campaigns and how USI has a seat at a nationally recognized and consulted table.

Item 5:

Student Representative Review Update to UMT EG update for exec:

The President goes down through the update document to talk about it

There is a mention of locally appointed class reps on board and in governance, and the Graduate Officer has raised this issue with UPB and was told to contact the Dean of Students as there are issues with colleges and school boards selecting their own reps and we don't have input there and can't be effective help to them

Science CO – mentions issue that class reps not allowed on to staff student forum as they had picked their own class reps.

C&E – we need schools to promote and engage with SU elections especially class reps, there needs to be an obligation on this.

Main points the language in the document needs to be stronger to ensure that the university really works with the SU to ensure that student union reps are given their place in decision making and consultative bodies in the university. This is because the SU is the recognized representative body in the university and the SU can stand over its elections. Currently it appears that only Schools and Colleges that have good relationships with individual sabbatical officers seem to be willing to engage with the SU and work to ensure that students are properly represented through elected representatives.

A Student Partnership forum is proposed in the document, there are some questions about its position in relation to other student focused committees on campus. However, this forum will include students from units such as Global, Residential Assistants, and Access Students who don't normally have a voice on university committees and will ensure there is as wide an input as possible from students into the forum. Questions of workload were raised but the forum is only due to meet twice a year at the beginning and end of the academic year so this shouldn't have a major impact on the sabbatical officer's workload.

Point raised that widening the Access representatives to include the different subgroups within Access such as HEAR, DARE and Mature etc. The Sabbatical Team will raise that with the author of the document.

Issue raised that at one point in the document there is a statement which says that in some instances the SU class rep may be the same as the local class rep, the sabbatical team will ask that this be changed to call the 'local class rep' something different. There should be an acknowledgment that locally elected student representatives are not the same as Class Reps to ensure that schools and colleges are encouraged to promote engagement with the SU as much as possible.

Topic of staff/Student Forums raised and class reps position on them. The sabbatical team will look into seeing whether there is a way to have SU class reps be given preference when selecting students to sit on the board. Some schools do this already others do not. This does pose problems in relation to schools and colleges where there are lots of what are known as micro courses where, under the current SU constituency, they do not qualify for their own class rep and so their class rep may be on another course and so not eligible to sit on the staff/student forum. Mentioned that a change of wording from local class rep may help this. Idea that they give preference were possible to SU class reps first was mentioned. This may become less of an issue if the constitutional constraints on constituencies are removed.

Annual Partnership Plan Template: no real issues with this were raised.

AOB:

We discussed correspondence with the Literary and Historical Society.

Possible issues with residence, Sabbatical officers will look into this.

Action points:

President and Oifigeach na Gaeilge to set up meeting with stakeholders in the Irish language within the SU.