

Exec #7 21/03/22

Present:

President, Campaigns and Engagement Officer, Graduate Officer, Entertainment Officer, Education Officer, Welfare Officer, AHSS College Officer (x2), Science College Officer, Engineering College Officer, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Health College Officer.

Agenda:

Item 1: Transport issues

Item 2: Political Representation

Item 3: Abortion Review

Item 4: Engagement with UCD management

Item 5: Events

Item 6: College Officer Updates

Item 7: Election

AOB

Item 1:

There is a need to go back to issues raised in commuter town hall earlier this trimester. Those in attendance expressed an interest in a protest either in front of the Department of Transport or at the Go-Ahead Offices. Exec agrees they would like to focus on this issue and look at escalation. The plan is to start with a letter to Minister Ryan relating to the issues commuting students are facing as the NTA holds the tender for Go-Ahead. Exec also needs to publicise the representation the President and Sabbatical team have made and plan to make on this issue to various parties Higher Education spokespeople and following this Exec may look to escalate to a protest.

Item 2:

President has met with two parties Higher Education spokespeople and is due to meet two more soon. Exec are being asked for inputs on what to raise in further meetings. So far, the President has been raising the issues of housing, cost of living for students including commuting costs, fees, and mental health supports for students.

Item 3:

UCDSU will be making a submission to the public consultation section into the review of the abortion legislation in Ireland. The SU's Gender Equality Campaign Coordinator will be leading out on an event to allow students the space to input into the submission (the Welfare Officer is currently working on it). The Gender Equality CC will be working with Amy Hassett a PHD student here in UCD who has an extensive experience in advocacy and activism.

Item 4:

Following the February 14th protest the Sabbatical team sought meetings with President Deeks and Prof Rogers (the current Registrar). Rogers has committed to a meeting in principle, but no date has yet been proposed. Following repeated emails and phone calls the President met President Deeks for a one-on-one meeting. This meeting was not very productive and was quite short with no commitments made, as Deeks is leaving his post as President of UCD the Exec is advised that the focus should now be on meeting with Rogers who will step in as interim President. The next step to the February 14th protest was meet UCD management, however due to the delay from management and apparent unwillingness to engage with UCDSU Exec is asked to consider what we may do next once Rogers takes up his new role.

Item 5:

The Entertainment Officer outlines upcoming events such as the self-defense work shop, Dominos Ball, Mind Body and Soul (a weeklong event), and Battle of the Bands with Music Society.

Graduate Officer: They will be hosting a Scavenger Hunt in Smurfit, a Post Grad trip to Kilkenny, and they are bringing back their successful Wine & Cheese Night.

Education Officer: Two upcoming coffee mornings.

Health CO: Two Daffodil Day events, coffee morning on Wednesday at 10 am and then a sea swim in Dun Laoghaire on Friday. Bus from UCD bus depot with the aim to be over and back before morning lectures. Also has plans to meet with Head of Research in Medicine to talk about a possible research showcase event.

Law CO: Still waiting on confirmation about a possible event with Outlaw on Wednesday 6th of April as an introductory event in UCD. It will be an online seminar event for diversity in law, social sciences, and business. Will be collaborating with units within the Law School also.

Item 6:

Reminder to College Officers that they need 2 College Councils per trimester.

AHSS college council went well. A few local issues arose so College Officers reaching out to relevant people within their constituency. Met with new Student Adviser in Arts and have plans to meet him again soon.

President notes and applauds launch of the Bunreacht and success of Arts Ball.

Item 7:

- President and C&E Officer outlined the issues that arose during the nomination process for Exec elections. In most constituencies there were multiple students running for nomination, but many failed to meet the 150 nomination threshold which is constitutionally necessary. This can't be changed for this trimester although we could hold a referendum for this to be changed for next year. Article 19.3 in the Constitution deals with nomination numbers this could be rewritten and put forward in a referendum brought forward through council. Exec

is asked if they think this should be done to lower the College Officer nomination threshold or whether it should remain as it currently stands. It was decided that it would be best to lower the College Officer nomination threshold in order to boost engagement. Exec discussed whether the threshold for Oifigeach na Gaeilge should be dropped to be in line with College Officers as it's a part-time role or if it should remain at the 150 thresholds as it is not limited to a college based constituency like the College Officers. After a debate relating to this including input from the current Oifigeach na Gaeilge Exec decides to leave the Oifigeach na Gaeilge nomination threshold at 150 signatures.

- Exec also discussed how elections are run under the current constitution and how other SUs organise and run their elections. While the Exec team noted some areas, they believe need to be changed a decision is made to not look at changing these this year as this would require multiple questions to be put to students. Instead, these will be noted as areas to look at during a constitutional review with the aim of a document to be done up and presented to the 2022/2023 Exec team when they take up office.

- Discussion then turns to the issue of turnout in the upcoming elections and how by elections will be run later this trimester. Everyone is reminded of the importance of ensuring they have a contested race for their position in the by elections if necessary. Exec discussed ways to seek out and encourage potential candidates.

- Exec are asked for their opinions on the hybrid nomination collection system used this year where nominations could be collected online or on paper with the nominations later transcribed by the candidate to the online form or would they prefer it be entirely online collection or paper collection only. Members of Exec noted how they heard from candidates that they were not aware of their nomination counts throughout the nomination period. This meant that while coming up to the end of the nomination period candidates did not have a live figure of the number of nominations they had. Exec note that last year candidates got regular email updates of nomination numbers. Exec recommends that Sabbatical Officers speak to the Returning Officer about whether there is a way to ensure that potential candidates can regularly see an updated figure. One potential way this could be done is if each potential candidate has their own individual google doc so they can monitor or a return to paper ballots. Planning for another Nomination 101 session for students to begin.

- College Officers are asked to look over the constitution and their own roles within it. If following this, they have any suggestions they are asked to send these to the sabbatical team to be collated into a document to be presented to next year's team.

- Exec discussed ways to drum up turnout and engagement with elections from coffee mornings to registration drives.

- The Science College Officer notes the persistent issue with constituencies, there is an issue which is particularly prevalent in science whereby students from so called micro constituencies are grouped together and given a generic name e.g., general science. C&E notes that this shouldn't be a major issue in the exec election as your constituency is derived from your college not individual programme. However, if a student is unaware of what to select while registering to vote they should contact the Returning Officer. A member of Exec asks whether we can add a banner explaining this to the registration page. President will ask the Returning Officer if there is a way to remove the need to register by course and rather allow people to register by College to prevent this issue. The Sabbatical team will also talk to the Social Media Manager in the SU about drafting a communication campaign if the need to register by course remains to alert students to this issue.

AOB:

A Friday for Futures demo is coming up, nearly all of the sabbatical team are unavailable at that time. C&E asks whether any College Officers are available to go under the SU banner. Exec are nearly all unavailable at this time so the decision is made to promote the protest on UCDSU social media accounts only.

There are no other matters arising and the Chair adjourns the meeting.