

Agenda:

UCDSU Council Meeting 2

Monday, 2nd November 2020, 6pm

Venue - Online

(Presentation from Charity)

(a) The declaration of a quorum by roll call.

The roll checked with sign-in system pre-Council

(b) Minutes arising of the previous meeting.

Minutes were accepted by a majority vote

(c) Matters arising.

No matters arising from the minutes.

Forum elections for remaining vacancies on the campaigns and ents forum.

The Chair handed the floor over to the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer, Marina Lambrakis, explained the run through of elections.

The Speeches for the Campaign Forum elections began, followed by an opening of the electronic ballot. The ballot would remain open for 24 hours to allow members of Council to cast their votes.

(d) Motions on notice.

Motion 1 - Free Pregnancy Tests

Renewal of the current mandate, with one added point to lobby for a university-wide pregnancy policy which can be done through the university management team student experience sub-group.

Question about posting tests.

Ruairi Power (Welfare Officer) - not necessary to add. We will be delivering the service as best we can, including this possibility. It is a standard practice and we wish to continue it with this mandate.

Carried with a clear majority of votes, upwards of 85 votes in favour.

Motion 2 - Student Support Services

Amended version of another mandate due to expire. Separated the issues of student supports and academic supports.

Motion to keep lobbying for increased funding for support services, and extended lobbying for the establishment of a mental health oversight taskforce.

No questions.

Passed with over 85 votes.

Motion 3 - Student Academic Support Services

Renewal of mandate to lobby for academic supports. Just making sure it continues to be a Union mandate.

These academic supports are crucial for students and we want to ensure that they are always promoted and we constantly ask for more funding because they are good value for the students who use them.

No questions.

Passed with over 85 votes.

Motion 4 - Transgender Healthcare

Motion presentation.

Question - what are the specific things that you'll be looking for, which aren't already being provided?

Leighton Gray (C&E Officer) - well, actually healthcare for trans people is not existent. No top surgeon, issues with accessing hormones, not a lot of trans specific mental health care. Barely anything in the Irish healthcare system.

No further questions. Final statement.

Jayson Pope (stage 3 sociology and social policy) - In Ireland, trans healthcare is basically sending people abroad. WPATH have guidelines on how to conduct healthcare for the benefit of trans people, but Ireland clearly ignores it, and very publicly. There's a very defensive approach, questioning how trans people are, it's not considerate in any way. It's about doctors facilitating a safe access to health care rather than preventing it.

That motion has passed with over 80 participants.

Motion 5 - Pronouns

Motion presentation.

Question - just reiterating that pronouns are so important. Being called the wrong pronoun at any stage of your transition really sucks, so please don't.

No further speakers or questions.

That motion has also passed with over 80 participants.

Motion 6 - Inclusive Food Offerings

Motion presentation. Just asking the SU to at least explore options for people with special needs in their diets.

Point of clarity - to ensure correct labelling of allergy information across food providers on campus.

Speaker against - we should perhaps consider the environmental impacts of food too.

Also against - what about ensuring it's affordable too?

Speaker for - I think it's a good motion for, and as it's implemented, we can consider adding more mandates around this.

Speaker against - broadly in support, but on refining the motion, it would be great to also see food with less plastic wrapped around it. And more options for people with allergies.

No more speakers or questions.

That motion has also passed with over 80 participants.

Chair - And I'd encourage you to reach out to your officers to write further motions on this topic!

(e) Items for Discussion

(f) Items for Noting

(g) Items for Approval

(h) The reports of each Executive Officer

On Time

Sabbatical Officer Reports:

Conor Anderson, UCDSU President

Med students' campaign went well! I got recognised at the doctor's office today by a doctor and a nurse.

Next steps - we'll have to see what UCD does next! We hope it will inspire other student groups.

Case work training , class rep training.

Resurrection of the no detriment campaign.

Questions:

- What were the issues discussed with UCD ALL?
- CA - not issues, more a presentation on how it's going. They're lovely, but constrained by what UCD wants to do.

- What does no detriment mean exactly?
- CA - it was an outpouring of students last term asking for grade protections, namely a gpa neutral trimester, as a result of covid. We worked with Joanna and Brian, former officers, worked with management in a working group. They talked a big game, and then didn't follow through. The academic policy was strongly worded, but not enforceable. Many lectures ignored it and graded as they wished anyway. Now, students are asking for similar help because this semester is very tough on them.

- I was one of the students who had a change in my grade. Is there anything that can still be done now?
- CA - there's the guidelines from last semester - and according to UCD it was a great success (average grades went up, 60% of students did better, and only 4 grade appeals). Their perspective is that you had a heads up, so you don't need any more help. We can try again to lobby on it, but we need concerted student action again. And it would probably be another big fight, for not a great reward. But we do need to try.

- Would there be any allowances for first years? We didn't have previous experiences of college learning, hadn't been in school in months and months... it's been a deep end, and very tough in particular.
- CA - that's something that needs to be taken into account. Yes, this time not everyone has an existing GPA. Assuming that UCD sits down with us, we would bring that in. But as it stands, there are no extra policies. Everything that was in place last semester has been rolled back.

- What kind of solutions can we try to achieve?

Chair - I don't want to stop a discussion on an important matter, but maybe we can submit this as an item for discussion for the next council?

CA - Sure, and also to note, I want to respond to the students on fb and hold a town hall to strategise on this. I would like to have this discussion - but maybe Niall is right that the report isn't the best item to have a full discussion on this in.

Chair - yeah, it would be more appropriate to give it time and space as an item for discussion, because it is a very important topic.

Report was approved.

Leighton Gray, UCDSU Campaigns and Engagement Officer

Presented report for 2 mins.

Focus group with UCDSU, UCD and TENI to look at the gender recognition policy.

Mandate renewals.

Sabbat update videos.

Campaign with Mick Barry on citizenship for children who were born in Ireland to non-Irish-citizen parents.

Questions:

- It's been great being a part of setting up the SU discord. I would encourage everyone to use it!

Report was approved.

Sarah Michalek, UCDSU Ents Officer

Defer to the next meeting.

Late Sabbatical Officer Reports:

Carla Gummerson, UCDSU Graduate Officer

Defer to the next meeting

Hannah Bryson, UCDSU Education Officer

Myself, Ruairi and some college officers are looking to write a right to disconnect policy.

Also, looking into expected workloads according to module descriptors - because a lot of students are reaching out completely overwhelmed and being expected to do a lot more

hours than what they should be. We want to continue to highlight and work on this, and ensure that this does not persist as an issue if college remains online next term.

Report was approved.

Ruairí Power, UCDSU Welfare Officer

(The report was not put to a vote due to late submission. The vote was deferred to the next meeting, but it was nonetheless presented.)

Spoke on right to disconnect - it also was raised in training.

Good meeting with ALL, as Conor mentioned.

Set up some workshops, one is coming up tomorrow on coping mechanisms, and there will be another one on medicinal cannabis.

And, we are addressing the workload issue that Hannah mentioned.

Emily (college officer) and some other college officers have come to me with issues on res, so we are preparing a submission on that too.

Questions:

- Question about covid close contacts in res being allowed to remain in res untested and use shared facilities. Have you heard about this?
- RP - I received an email on this from a student and I responded. Please reach out to us on this! We were told that accommodation is made available for students in such a situation and that rigid protocols are in place, so we will follow up.

No further questions. Vote deferred to the next meeting.

College Officer Reports

Marta Geszczak, UCDSU Health Sciences College Officer

Taken as read.

Report was approved.

Lauren Mausnell, UCDSU Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences College Officer.

Taken as read.

Report was approved.

Corey Power de Jong, UCDSU Engineering and Architecture College Officer

Taken as read.

Report was approved.

Liam Coyle, UCDSU Business College Officer

LC - take as read except for one reoccurring issue with the library. They want to charge students for not returning books on time. The library says they've solved it, but they keep applying charges to students who have not been able to return to campus.

- I'm facing an issue of being charged for a late return, I'm unable to renew the book online and have no way to return to campus. What are you proposing that might happen to students like me?
- LC - I'm working with Hannah Bryson to waive these fines, because travelling to campus to return books is not an essential journey. There seems to be a miscommunication between the library and students on that, so we are working to address it.

Report was approved.

Late College Officer Reports

Sophie O'Leary, UCDSU Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Officer

Taken as read.

Report was approved.

Míde Nic Fhionnlaioich, UCDSU Law College Officer

Taken as read.

Report was approved.

No reports received from the Ag, Food and Vet College Officer and Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

The latter has emailed the Secretary and we will follow up. Ag, Food and Vet - elected in a recent by election and finding her feet, will submit regular reports on from here.

(i) Questions on notice.

(j) Questions not on notice.

(k) All discussions deferred to the instant meeting from any previous meeting, which discussions shall include the hearing of the report of any committee of Council and the taking of any vote consequent upon such report or discussion.

Council 1 report of Tadhg Ó Maoldhomhnaigh, UCDSU Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

- Not present.

Council 1 report of Lucy Reid, UCDSU Ag, Food and Vet College Officer.

- Only just elected in the last 14 days, so not much to report on. The first report was just upon election, so it's rather short, but I will be submitting more as I find my feet in this role.

Report was approved

(l) Motions not on notice.

(m) Submission of motions to be on notice for next meeting.

(n) Any Other Business.

Emma Gregg, promotions officer - reports for ents, will they be due next week?

Chair - we will double check with sabbats. I believe it should be monthly, so we will share that info with Council.

Monday 9th - deadline for motions

Friday 13th - deadline for reports and for items for discussion and noting.

Rachel Toal, politics stage 1 - on hoodies, can we personalise them and when will be able to do that?

LG - it will take a couple of months, but we are moving towards customisation.

RT - and why does it take a couple of months?

LG - probably mess with constituents, but could be an issue on the supply end. Need to liaise with the relevant staff member to double check what the delays are.

Gary Ward, st 2 politics - have others noticed that all lectures for next semester in the timetables have been shifted online. Is that something that sabbats have heard of? The head of spire this afternoon told me that they've been told to prepare to be teaching online

CA - we have been asking that from the beginning, with staff as well, that we need an answer sooner rather than later. But they seem to be delaying as much as possible in their communication. It would be great to find out where this head of school got that message from.

Chair- maybe further details on that can be discussed between Gary and the officers.

Zuzanna Krakowska - is the SU going to campaign for a reduction of the student contribution charge?

RP - our plans going forward, we want to put forward at the next governing authority meeting to have a formal stance in favour of publicly funding education.

Chair - No further matters of AOB.

Thank you for attending. We will communicate relevant dates.

Please submit reports on time in future!