

Apologies:

- Tadhg Ó Maoldhomhnaigh
- Hannah Bryson
- Marta Geszczak

In attendance:

Conor Anderson (CA), Leighton Gray (LG), Ruairí Power (RP), Carla Gummerson (CG), Sarah Michalek (SM), Liam Coyle (LC), Míde Nic Fhionnlaoich (MNF), Lauren Maunsell (LM), Sophie O'Leary (SOL), Emily Moore (EM), Corey Power de Jong (CPdJ), Lucy Reid (LR).

Agenda:

- Executive updates
- Conor's update and discussion on organising on campus
- Sarah's 10 days of Christmas campaign.

Exec Updates

CA - the mission to keep aggravating management with students around UCD is going well! Very good meetings with Richard Boyd Barrett and groups of students.

- Also, many rolling meetings and rolling tasks.

LG - also quite short. A lot of nursing stuff, a lot of trans stuff and this week a lot of environmental stuff. But they are all things you should all know about already.

- That has been the jam.

CG - it's coming down the barrel that your final results will be coming out two days later than expected. Everyone will get an email about it.

- And on the GAP process (grade approval process). Communication from registry will be coming out to students, and we can do an explainer video after too.
- We have discussed at the Academic Committee international students who have gone back home and exams, and the issue around scheduling exams considering the great time differences.
- Lots of meetings!
- Speed quizzing went great.
- Fair play to Ruairí on the medicinal cannabis events!
- And a group of PhD students want another speed quizzing event.
- More res breaches that I had to deal with.

SM - Mostly working on the 10 days of Christmas, so I will come back to it after updates.

RP - just a quick update, a few workshops that went well and we are also working on a panel discussion. A lot of students have been affected by the online image-based abuse, so we want to have a discussion about it.

- One more issue, but I'll bring it up under AOB.

MNF - EDI committee was positive last week.

- One thing that came in today - the issue of returning books to the library. Liam, I know you've dealt with this issue, maybe you have some advice?

LC - Best to chat directly with the library. It appears to be dealt with on a case by case basis.

LG - I think they can send envelopes/packs and stamps, so that UCD covers the cost of posting books back.

EM - very low engagement, despite some issues still ongoing. Tough to mobilise online.

- International students and exams are coming up too - my school was notified that no accommodations will be made for students in other parts of the world. For academic integrity reasons there will be no flexibility, we have been told.

CA - yeah, the problem is that while some schools/ colleges are providing open book, 12 hour exams and other structures which accommodate students who are doing remote exams around the world - there is no way of getting this done for the whole university. The decisions are taken at a local level. Emily - do you think students would want to organise around that?

EM - the science reps were a bit intimidated about attending big meetings on this, but when I suggested a more local level town hall for students, they seemed more up for it. With help from you guys, maybe we could organise that.

SOL - mostly as per my last report.

LR - had my first college council last week. Hoping to engage more in semester 2 with everybody.

- Good feedback and chats.
- We've also across the school had trouble with lecturers and not great responses when you raise issues with lecturers.
- Working on making sure students also know about the shorter periods for raising grade appeals.

CA - yeah, this issue of lecturers not responding well to student complaints is definitely recurring, and it's easy for lecturers to ignore individuals. So if you can mobilise a number of classmates to email the lecturer, a template that clogs their inbox or writing one letter and getting the class to sign it off.

LR - people are annoyed, but also kinda want to keep going and see how the next exams go. So I'm not sure what the best response is.

CPDJ - college council went well last week. We want to set up a college-wide discord as well, to help class reps reach out to constituents and also connect students in smaller courses who don't have class reps.

- Also tackling issues with lecturers.

LC - had a college forum last week.

- There is also the big issue of having one less week of college, but the same work loads.

- A lot of these issues need to be sorted at module head level, so we are just trying to channel them all there.
- Business college council too. Apart from the Smurfit demands, the teaching has been well received. More problematic at the undergraduate level - students are finding it too stressful.
- Overall, students are disappointed about this trimester and hope that UCD will learn some lessons from it and do better with the next online trimester.
- The lack of a study week and the workloads in general are really problematic.

LM - not much more to add. Had a history student reach out to me with issues for a staff-student forum, so we'll be speaking with the other history reps too to help them prepare for the staff-student forum. Other than that, there's not a whole lot going on.

10 UCDSU Christmas Days

SM - We are on day 1, and about to announce the first winner.

- Please share this as much as you can, and do participate!!
- We're at 310 euro on donations so far, woo.

Conor - Item for discussion at the next Council

CA - I want to open the discussion about getting organised, and get more students addressing whatever issue they care about.

EM - anyone that I have spoken to has just felt really disheartened and helpless, as an individual going against all of the issues happening right now.

LC - we need to mobilise, have numbers and build it from the ground before we go to management.

LR - yeah, people are pretty burnt out though, and it's hard to get large groups of students to come together at this part of the semester in particular.

CA - it's more about laying the groundwork and being ready - like how the grad med students have been, and being ready when in person protests are safe.

- It's an important opportunity for us to create a ground swell with students.

LC - so much of these issues, we predicted them. So, we know that exams will go poorly for some schools. We have to be proactive about how we act on these issues, rather than waiting to react.

EM - in my school, there is a lot of disheartenment. There are so many brick walls that we are hitting, it's hard to encourage people to keep fighting.

AOB - Ruairi

RP - the UMT Student Experience Group committee

- On our proposal on a university wide pregnancy policy - they said maybe, basically.
- On the right to disconnect, we did the presentation, we had indications from the Registrar that he would support it, however on the day they took issue with the presentation.
- Also, our proposal for the university taking a stance on publicly funded education at the governing authority has been declined.

EM - As you know, science is a very male-dominated field. And while girls may have struggled in in-person tutorials to speak up, online tutorials have been impossible to get a word in for them.

- So we want to organise an event as part of international Women+ in STEM and have a discussion about this.

Conor Anderson proposed the minutes of the previous meeting and Ruairí Power seconded them.