

Council Two Minutes 6pm, 20th October 2014 Fitzgerald Chamber

After rising of standing orders for elections to Academic Council, Council resumes at 6:20pm.

Sam Blackensee	LGBTQ+ Coordinator	SB
Stephen Whelan	Deputy Chair of Council	Chair
Tom Williams	Stage 4 Engineering	TW
Anabel Castañeda	Graduate Education Officer	AC
Conor Rock	Arts Convenor	CR
Rebecca Hart	Stage 1 Nursing	RH
James Barden	Stage 1 Science	JB
Dave McElliott	Science Convenor	DMcE
Matthew Carroll	International Students Coordinator	MC
Michael Goldsworthy	Stage 3 History & Archives	MG
Cian Byrne	Engineering and Architecture Convenor	CB
Emma Rosinger	Post Grad Environmental Policy	ER
Catherine Gavin	Stage 1 Engineering	CG
Grace Williams	Gender Equality Officer	GW
Maeve Kelly	Doctorate Human Sciences	MK
Bill Thompson	Stage 3 Languages & Literatures; Music	BT
Feargal Hynes	President	FH
Amy Fox	Undergraduate Education	AF
Sinead Gaughan	Disabilities Coordinator	SG

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L. Dockery. | M. Gallagher. | A. Ó Deá.

Company Secretary

H. Malone.

Registered No.

514900

(a) The declaration of quorum by taking attendance.

- Quorum declared by the chair.

(b) Minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes were accepted.

(c) Matters arising from the minutes.

No matters were arising from the minutes.

(d) Motions on notice

- Equal Civil Rights

SB – Without the Union acting and actively pushing for equal civil rights there will be little push for this among Irish citizens. I think we should have a continual, active campaign and have the rainbow flag present at all Union events to show our support and promote students to engage and vote yes in the referendum.

TW – Propose amendment?

Chair – Would you like to take this motion in parts as you can't propose a 9m without doing so.

AC – Second the 9m.

The motion was amended, passed a vote by majority and speakers against the changes were called on.

CR – I think the flag should be at all Union events.

RH – The point of the motion is to show support for equal rights and supporting them for

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everyone. Even if, for example, the Christian Society wish to work with the SU on an event it shouldn't matter. We need to focus on supporting equal rights.

JB – I agree with equal marriage but the Union's opinion is shown at every Union event. If we are to look at each event to see whether it is appropriate, then we would be doing a wishy, washy job. If we do it, we should go for it.

SB - I am still in favour of the motion and if it doesn't go through we will have to wait another three weeks before the mandate is re-issued.

CR – If we put the flag up when it is appropriate then it still leaves the option that the flag wouldn't be put up.

TW – I support equal rights but the Union needs to work on not alienating groups / minorities or people.

DMcE – We need to appreciate that at some events putting up the flag would be deemed inappropriate.

9a was called on the motion.

Chair – All in favour of proposed amended motion please raise their hand?

Motion passed by majority.

- **Food Labelling**

MC – I would like to point out that this motion is not to do with meat products. This motion was brought to Council in order to try and help international students as well as students with different cultures and dietary requirements identify food which they are able to eat in our SU Shops.

MG – Does food not already have labels? I'm not sure, that if passed, this motion would prove practical, how many foods sold in the shops are fully produced by the SU?

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MC – If this motion was passed I would like to see a list of food in different sections eg. Rice Krispie is not halal.

CB – So this would be a mandate on Union Exec?

Chair – Council would hold Exec accountable.

DMcE – People who have dietary requirements would already be aware as to what foods they could and couldn't consume.

ER – Shopping for food is a completely different situation for international students as labels and branding are so different.

CG - Could I propose an amendment?

Amendments to the motion were debated and it was amended.

Motion passed by majority.

Standing orders rose to facilitate the announcement of Academic Council Representatives.

Returning Officer - Please let us know if you, or anyone you know would like to put themselves forward for election of the roles left vacant at present.

The following students were elected to Academic Council: Matthew Hogan, Vivian Obiorah, Conor Rock, Bill Thompson, Melanie O'Donovan, Magnus Heltne, Laura Brohan, James Barden, David McElligott, Cian Byrne, Lidia O'Shea, Pdraig Curry, Joseph Kelly, Maeve Kelly, Hazel Beattie, Anant Kumar, Aishwarya Sivaraman and Prenah Sundeepkumar Jain.

- **Repeal of the 8th Amendment**

GW - This motion, if passed, would mandate Council to work on a repeal of the 8th Amendment and actively campaign for it in response to the referendum last year.

GW gave short description of motion.

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MK - I would like to oppose this motion as the current debate is flawed. It is currently making the male role invisible and encouraging people to be anti-male.

SB - In my case, as a trans man, pregnancy would lead to many complications, even more if I were to travel to the UK to seek abortion. The support of Council is needed to keep both my life and social standing protected.

BT - Currently this is a Union which needs to actively work on re-engaging with the student population. To take such a stance would be very tough right now. I think the Union needs to focus on what it can do at present.

CR pass speaking rights to Rebek'ah McKinney-Perry - I wrote this motion. The Union has adopted a pro-choice stance for the minute and we cannot talk about equal rights without acknowledging reproductive rights.

GW - Respond to previous speaker, men are included in the motion as we are aware that these are not only women's issues. This motion is about giving people a choice.

Motion is passed by a majority.

(e) Items for Discussion.

i. International Week

MC - This will be a three day festival held in week ten of semester one. There will be international dancing, food, film nights etc.

BT - Will this tie in with the international walk?

MC - It is nearly tied in as it occurs just after but it's not on the poster.

ii. Derogatory Language

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SB - I just wanted to raise the issue that no derogatory language, which is any language which discriminates against sexuality, ability, disability etc should not be heard at any Union gathering or event.

(f) Items for Noting.

i. SPARC

AF - Sparc is a staff and student innovation partnership. The project gives you the opportunity to change an aspect of your own learning or educational experience, with the support and experience of a UCD staff member. I have been working on the project since June, from idea to application stages. Applications are currently being accepted until November 21st.

(g) Items for Approval.

i. Budget

FH - This document has been circulated already and is available online.

FH gave a brief description surrounding changes which occurred from the previous year.

MK - I am struggling to compare last year's figures with this year, I have done ten years in procurement and as there are no actualities included so I can't work out differences.

FH - These are simply comparing budgets. We cannot present actual figures until the auditors come in. These figures are naturally going to change as the year progresses. One example is that the 'other income' has already easily surpassed the figures in the budget.

Chair - The annual audited accounts are to be presented before Christmas and FH is aware.

TW - Should we not be budgeting for the worst case scenario?

FH - This is a prudent budget. It was seen inconsiderate to budget for anything which made a substantial loss the previous year.

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The Budget was passed by majority.

(h) The reports of each Executive Officer.

President - Accepted

TW - Were you on Annual leave for all of last week?

FH - I was on annual leave for Monday and Tuesday as I stated in my report and I was an official UCD delegate for One Young World also.

Undergraduate Education - Accepted

TW - Would you be able to put a key or some background information with your reports as many students will not be familiar with the terminology!

SG - Job fairy initiative?

AF - #JobFairy is used to advertise local job opportunities! We contact local businesses to see if they are looking for more employees.

BT - Could you outline your progress with the online book shop please?

AF - Books are divided and Convenors have lists, over 1,000 books are online.

Graduate - Accepted

Welfare - Accepted

SG - Just to point out that the deadline for student support fund is the 31st October and for those who qualify it is a guaranteed 500euros.

Agriculture & Veterinary – Accepted

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<u>Arts and Celtic Studies –</u>	Accepted
<u>Business & Law –</u>	Accepted
<u>Engineering & Architecture -</u>	Accepted
<u>Health Science -</u>	Accepted
<u>Human Science -</u>	Accepted
<u>Science –</u>	Accepted

Chair - Campaigns and Ents Forum Reports have been made available online.

BT - Can we question on these reports?

Chair - You can put it as a question not on notice.

(i) Questions not on notice.

BT - In the International Coordinator Report it was mentioned that the officer was working with ISC, is this in the capacity of a committee member or as the SU coordinator?

MC - It was in my committee capacity but there is a grey area as to whether the coordinator would automatically have right to sit on the committee.

(j) Motions not on notice.

Motion Regarding Mental Health Coordinator

AF - This coordinator will be a valuable addition to both the Union and the University. The Welfare and Equality Officer requires assistance on this aspect and the Union would benefit as a whole from an extra individual.

SW - This motion will be taken on the 17th November.

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

No motions were submitted.

(l) Any Other Business.

No other business.

Next Council: Monday, 3rd November at 6pm in the Fitzgerald Chamber.

End of Meeting: 7:45pm

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