

Presidents Final Report

Name of Officer: Feargal Hynes

Position: President

Email: president@ucdsu.ie

Twitter: @feargalhynes

Date of Council: 13th April 2015

Introduction

It is really hard to believe that the year is coming to a close, it has flown by. Firstly I would like to thank all of you for your support and work for the SU throughout the year. We all share the large task of representing and providing for a campus of 25,000 students and therefore, the work of the Union would not be possible without the work of the class reps, convenors and all other officers.

I hope we have enhanced the student experience, I hope we have supported those in need, I hope we have represented at all levels, I hope we have continued the fine tradition of UCDSU and I hope that our work has made UCD that little bit better of a place to study, learn and develop.

Please continue to be involved in every facet of UCD life and I wish you all the best in the future.

Work Since Last Council

- **Student Experience Group – Defining the Student Experience**
 - Meeting with senior stakeholders in the University as part of a process of looking at every part of the student experience in UCD and seeing how it could be enhanced and setting a strategy to do so.
- **UCD Decade of Centenaries**
 - Attending an official event to mark the launch of the UCD programme of events to mark the decade of centenaries.
- **Community Musical Steering Group**
 - Meeting as part of the planning around funding musicals on campus and large scale events. The feeling was that the focus should be on developing the musicals that UCD Musical Society provides.
- **Throwback Thursday**
 - We held an event to reminisce on the 40 years of UCDSU as part of our anniversary celebrations. The event wasn't heavily attended but was enjoyed by all.
- **LeadUCD**
 - We are planning the final installment of our LeadUCD leadership programme which will involve a trip to the American Embassy in Ireland and the RDS.
- **Exec Training Planning**
 - We are currently putting together a plan for crossover training for the incoming executive. This will hopefully be a great asset in helping them fulfill their duties next year.

Main Committees

- Governing Authority
- FRAMC
- Academic Council
- Academic Council Sub-committees (ACEC/ACCQ etc.)
- University Programme Board
- Student Experience Group – Defining the student experience
- UCDSUL & UCDSUCSL Board of Directors
- UCD Campus Sport & Leisure Board of Directors
- Forum Executive
- Registrar Selection Committee
- Clubhouse Bar Mgmt. Committee
- Smoke Free Campus Task Force
- Newman Fund Committee
- Student Capital Fund Committee
- President's Award Committee
- Society Recognition Committee

Semester 1

1. Orientation Week

We had a very successful Orientation week where we welcomed over 8,000 students through the SU tent. The partnership with UCD Orientation and UCD Residences was successful and I hope it will be continued and improved in the coming years. We had a range of different events on throughout the week with the most successful hosting a free BBQ for 1,200 people with a live outdoor cinema and band.

2. Accommodation Issues

We featured heavily in the national media around the student accommodation crisis. We proposed two main solutions to this, firstly for NAMA to open the housing which is associated to their loans to student accommodation. Secondly, we called in a pre-budget submission for the re-introduction of the Section 50 tax relief. This is a special tax incentive over 10 years for building purpose built student accommodation. This would have provided a more affordable and safer housing solution for the growing number of students.

3. Safe Talk Training

Led by our Welfare & Equality Officer, we have supplied SafeTalk training (Suicide Awareness for Everyone) for all elected officers, frontline staff across the campus, student leaders such as peer mentors, and residential assistants, and a number of other groups around campus. This was a significant step in recognising the need for an increase in the number of support services on campus.

4. Issues relating to UCD residences

- a. The allocation system for UCD Residences broke down this year, the intended application system had to be scrapped and places were reallocated on a random basis. We worked with UCD Residences to ensure that the resolution was fair and in the interest of students. We now have regular update meetings with Res management and we are working alongside them on a number of initiatives.

- b. Our representatives also sat on a committee which reviewed every element of life on UCD Residences. This included the renegotiation of the licence to reside which was led by Amy, our Undergraduate Education Officer.

5. Fresher's Ball

- a. The Fresher's Ball was a significant milestone for us as it was the largest on campus event since the UCD Ball 2012. We acquired an extended bar licence from the guards, and permission from UCD to use a multi-venue of the Astra Hall and the Clubhouse bar. It sold out (1,200 tickets) 4 days in advance of the event. The event was also very successful from a health and safety perspective.

6. Mazars – Ball Report

Due to the loss incurred, along with the board, we commissioned Mazars Ireland (MI) to conduct an independent review of the circumstances around the loss. MI furnished the board with the report and the board instructed the management to implement all of the agreed recommendations. This process is a significant milestone for accountability within the Union.

7. UCD Open Day

- a. We welcomed prospective students to UCD and gave them an insight into life on campus. This was done through our stand in O'Reilly Hall, and through a range of talks given throughout the day.

8. UCDSU App

- a. At the start of the year, we launched the UCD Ents app. We have done our best to utilise this medium by offering, information about SU initiatives, free guest list to clubs, free coffee in the shops and a ticket purchasing platform. This was received very well and has lots of potential to grow in the future.

9. Class Rep Recruitment & Training

- a. The whole team worked very hard to promote recruitment of class reps early in the year. This was very successful and we held a special training weekend in Avon Ri in Blessington. This was followed up with a number of skill development training events through the LeadUCD programme throughout the year.

10. Trick or Tweet for Temple Street

- a. We held a fundraiser earlier in the year for Temple Street Children's hospital. The task was to tweet a 'scary selfie' and donate €2 to Temple Street. This raised both money and awareness.

11. Regaining the Student Seat of FRAMC

- a. One of our main aims for the year was to regain the student seat on the Finance, Remuneration, and Asset Management Committee. This was successful and the SU President will continue to hold the seat on this important committee in the future.

12. Online Bookshop

- a. This year we moved our bookshop online to meet the changing needs of students. This has been a successful transition and has lots of room for development in the future, especially in the area of awareness.

13. Mind Body & Soul Festival

- a. We launched our first ever Arts, Culture and Wellbeing festival in UCD. The aim of this was to create a new medium to promote wellbeing among the student body. From a range of live music, laughter yoga, and puppies, the event was a success and I think offers huge potential in the future.

14. Voter Registration – Marriage Equality

- a. One of our key aims this year was to promote a Yes vote in the upcoming Marriage Equality referendum. This was broken into three sections, the first of which taking place in semester 1 through a voter registration campaign. We registered 4,500 students along with UCD LGBTQ+ society. The most of any Union in the country.

15. Coffee House Sessions

- a. Following from our commitment to hold more on campus events, to cater for a wider range of interests in our Ents events and to promote on campus talent, the Coffee House sessions were born! These we held every second week during term time in the Arts Café with the kind support of Kylemore.

16. College X

- a. College X was a 14 week programme in conjunction with ResLife to promote a weekly social event for students aimed especially at 1st year students and international students to help ease the transition into UCD life. The feedback was very good from the events and with improved communication; it would be good to further tie this in with society events in the future.

17. Comedy Festival

- a. We held the first large scale UCD Comedy Festival. This featured some of Ireland's top comedians including Des Bishop, Bernard O'Shea, Karl Spain, Al Porter, and Pat McDonnell and also included UCD Alumni Ryan Cullen and Marcus O'Laoire. The event was a success and provided a further outlet for non-alcohol focused events on campus.

18. Little Green Cars

- a. Coming off the back of a sold-out show in Vicar Street, Little Green Cars played a free intimate show for the students of UCD. The show was hugely enjoyed by all who attended.

19. Gigs on the Steps

- a. We hosted a number of shows on the Steps behind the bar, including Corner Boy, Fresh Re, and 5 Dollar Shakes. We will also host shows here in semester 2 during the College Carnival and on the last day of term.

20. Video Updates

- a. One of the key ways in which we wanted to increase engagement with the Union and improve the communication, we made a 'Know Your Union' video and also weekly update videos. These were an important way of keeping students up to date on how the Union is working for them.

21. SU Clinics

- a. Following our commitment to having a presence in each faculty and being on the ground and engaging with students, we held regular clinics in every building on campus. These were well received and improved our visibility around campus.

22. AIB – LeadUCD Partnership

- a. At the beginning of the year we entered into a partnership with AIB to promote and upskill our campus leaders. This was a four part programme and was a strong partnership delivering modules on social media and public speaking, constant training for class reps and an offsite visit to the American Embassy and the RDS.

Semester 2

1. Elections

- a. This year, we were delighted to have every sabbatical position contested and every executive position filled, including a 4 way race for President. We had a significant increase in voter turn-out from 2,400 to 4,500 and I hope this is a sign that students are more engaged with the Union and further understand the important role it has to play on campus.

2. Constitutional Reform

- a. We held a constitutional referendum to further improve our existing constitution. The aim of this was to make small changes which would make a big difference. The most substantial change was the re-introduction of the Campaigns & Communications Officer which was based on the Union striving to be a more issue focused and representative body. It also made a number of changes to improve the governance of the Union through the Board of Directors and the IADB. The referendum was passed by an overwhelming majority of 95%.

3. Campus Upgrades

- a. Coming from student feedback, we lobbied to renovate a number of seating areas on campus; the most significant of these was outside the library shop. Other upgrades took place in the Arts building, the Health Centre, and one is planned to commence beside the Engineering shop.

4. College Carnival

- a. We launched the first College Carnival which consolidates the talent, diversity and variety of events on campus. This event yet to happen at the time of writing but the reaction has been brilliant so far. Events include, Relay for Life, Carnival within the Carnival, Carnival in the Garden, RAS UCD, and a UCD Alumni Food Festival.

5. Marriage Equality Referendum

- a. Following on from the successful voter registration campaign in semester 1, we held the second and third element of our campaign. The first was a referendum within UCD to make a statement nationally; we certainly did this with a staggering 97% yes vote, the highest in the country. The second part was to launch our #VoteForME campaign. This was launched by Colm O’Gorman to a crowd of 300 people and went on to trend on Twitter. This campaign continues until May 22nd when the national referendum takes place.

6. Selection Committee Registrar

- a. I participated on a rigorous and lengthy process to select the next Deputy President, VP for Academic Affairs, and Registrar. This was a very well run process which included a group of students to meet and give feedback on the final candidates. Prof. Mark Rogers was selected and I am very confident in his ability to further academic excellence in UCD with student life at the core.

7. SU40

- a. This year we celebrated our 40th anniversary with the launch of a new archive compiled by former President Pat De Brun. This was launched at a special dinner for past officers, and key supporters of the Union. On the night, UCD President Prof. Andrew Deeks expressed the importance of the Union within student life and committed to a strong working relationship in the future. We also held an event called Throwback Thursday which consisted of past officers reminiscing of the key challenges of their time in the Union and considering how the student movement had changed over the years.

8. New Board of Directors

- a. As part of an overall governance review, I am delighted to welcome Catherine Smith, Anthony Kelly, Justin Sinnott, Liam Dunne and Ciara Brennan who have joined our much changed board during the year. We have made significant changes to the work of the B.O.D. throughout the year and I hope this will aid the sustainable development of the Union going forward.

9. Fashion Show

- a. We hosted our annual Fashion Show this year. The event was a great success; with over 100 students involved in making it happen and in the process, we raised €5.3k for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY). Thanks to everyone who was involved.

10. The Sound UCD Needs

- a. Following on from the huge increase in support for deep house music, we hosted a show featuring Flic Flac & Zwette in the Astra Hall. This was well received but attendance could have been better. The event clashing with a key charity event in the city centre didn't help this.

11. Video Updates

- a. In semester two, we continued to keep student up to date with what the Union as doing with video updates. Once again these were well received and I think should be continued next year.

12. #IamUCD

- a. We will run a campaign alongside the UCD College Carnival which will promote diversity and multi-culturalism in UCD. The aim of this is to recognise that each and every one on campus is a valued and respected part of what makes UCD special.

13. SU Clinics

- a. We continued our commitment to be in every building and to improve our visibility and engagement on campus by hosting SU clinics. We will continue to host this up until the end of the semester.

Plan for the Rest of the Year

1. Student Services Tab

- a. We are working with IT Services as part of a redesign of UCD Connect. The new tab we are proposing will map out the range of services and supports on campus.

2. SU Strategy

- a. My hope is that we will be able to build on the preparation work which has gone into the strategy. This includes a large survey by the previous team, three year financial projections and interviews with reps and officers about the strengths and weaknesses of the Union. We hope to have the strategy completed during the summer for launch at the beginning of the next academic year.

3. Friends of Bethlehem University in Ireland

- a. We will aid in the hosting of 4 students from the University of Bethlehem to Dublin at the beginning of June. This trip is to promote the importance of further education and to examine ways in which we can support the development of education in the conflict stricken Palestine. There will be a week long programme of events including a trip to Aras an Uachtarain to meet President Michael D. Higgins.

4. Future of Teaching & Learning

- a. We will continue to work alongside the UCD Teaching Fellows who are working on a project examining the development of linkages between teaching and research in undergraduate education in UCD.

5. Crossover

- a. Much of our remaining weeks will be focused on preparing the incoming team for the year ahead and assisting them in both planning for the year and achieving their aims and goals.

I am happy to take questions or expand on any of the above points. Thanks again for all your help and support throughout the year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George".

Welfare & Equality Report

Position: Welfare&Equality Officer

Email: welfare@ucdsu.ie

Twitter: @MaeveDeSay

Date of Council: 13th April 2015

Report overview:

In the follow report I will give an overview of the work I have undertaken this year as Welfare & Equality Officer. The following report will be broken into 4 sections: **Day to Day Activities in the WE office**, **Formal University Representation**, **Main Projects & Campaigns**, and **Media Coverage**. Though this is my report to council, I would like to point out that none of these would have been possible without the help and support from my fellow officers Feargal, Amy & Anabel.

Day to Day Activities in the Welfare & Equality Office:

Personal Cases

This is probably one of the most challenging and demanding aspects of the job, but it is the core of the Welfare office here in UCD. I have met with nearly 1,800 students in the past year on a personal case level on issues of mental health, bereavement and financial hardship and they have been some of the strongest individuals in UCD. Though my role can sometimes be challenging, it is nothing compared to what many of the students here in UCD are going through and I would like to take this opportunity to wish those students who I have met over the past year the very best for the future and to always remember that help is always here whenever they need it.

Financial Assistance:

Finances can sometimes be a struggle while going to university. This year I am happy to say, that in spite of a 23% cut to funding, all students were helped in some form through the Student Support Fund, Student Welfare Fund and the Kylemore vouchers.

Accommodation:

Particularly at the beginning of the year, a lot of my time was spent dealing with the housing crisis. Alongside the rest of the team, we developed a housing and renting guide, kept a housing database up to date and dealt with any issues students we having with their landlords, housemates or residences. The Student Legal Service we very helpful in this area and often provided advice to many students.

Formal University Representation & Policy Work:

A large amount of our time is spent representing students and their needs at a university level. Some of the committees I sit on are;

- Health Promotion Working group
- Student Mental Health Policy
- University Management Team (UMT) Student Experience x 4
- UMT Needs Based Financial Aid Working Group
- University Governing Authority x6
- Welfare Fund (bi-weekly)
- Please Talk

The three main bodies of policy work I have done during the year are:

UCD 5 Year Strategy:

Myself, Feargal, Amy and Anabel along with the Executive put a lot of work into our submission to the UMT for the UCD 5 Year strategy which would shape the direction UCD takes over the next five years. We are delighted to say that our submissions were taken on board and are now part of the UCD Strategy.

Student Mental Health Policy:

Prior to this year, UCD did not have a mental health policy. I was a member of both the main working group and the literature review subgroup for this policy and it involved a massive amount of work and commitment and work from all those involved. I am delighted to say that UCD now has a policy that promotes a university environment which is supportive of mental health and well being and in which mental health difficulties are openly acknowledged not stigmatised. This is an amazing achievement and is a great step towards creating a more open and supportive environment for all here in UCD.

Student Pregnancy and Parental Policy:

At final council of last year, the incoming team were mandated to work on and create a student pregnancy policy for the university. This is something I have worked on all year alongside the student advisors and researched other international university policies. I hope will be continued on by next year's team.

Main Projects & Campaigns Undertaken:

UCD Community Attitudes towards sexual assault and harassment study.

This is an in-depth study based on a similar study developed by MIT. It looks at both students' experiences of sexual assault and harassment but also at behaviors and attitudes towards sexual assault and harassment. The purpose of the study is to gather data to inform future SU campaigns on the issue and where people need to be further educated on issues of consent. The survey is due to be rolled out before the end of term as it is currently undergoing the process for ethical approval in UCD. It is a massive body of work but will provide data that has never before been gathered in UCD to this depth and will enable us to inform future

SU campaigns and the University on areas we need to improve on.

#VoteForME

Wednesday last saw the launch of the UCDSU & UCD LGBTQ* Soc launch of the Marriage Equality campaign #VoteForME. A huge amount of work has gone into the campaign from the postering, to the social media, the videos and the launch night itself. Thank you so much to everyone who got involved. It's far from over yet and I hope we can keep #VoteForME in everyone's minds in the build up to May 22nd! The Launch night was a massive success with over 200 people there, actively engaged and ready to campaign about Marriage Equality! Thank you to all who came along and helped out on the night, it was a great success all round!

Wellness Week:

The aim of this week was to show students how to look after themselves by taking small changes. This was done on the basis of the HSE campaign, The Little Things. There was several events such as a tea party based on the "Add friends to you tea" step, a health breakfast based on the "boost your mood with health food" tip, Laughter yoga based on "The more you move the better your mood", a Taking Control workshop based on "Problems feel smaller when you share them" and finally we finished the week with a movie to promote the message that rest is needed and deserved based on the slogan '8 hours sleep make the other 16 easier'.

Sex Out Loud: Consent Comes First:

Sex Out Loud is the new name being given to what was previously known as SHAG Week in the university. This year the focus was on both sexual health and consent, with the main tagline being "Consent Comes First". There were many different events such as a screening of "Thelma & Louise", the distribution of Sex Out Loud packs, a burlesque workshop, a sex quiz and blind tinder in the bar. So far the week has gone quite well and students seem to be engaging with the new take on consent being an integral part of the week.

UCD Please Talk Ambassador Programme:

This is a University wide mental health education & awareness programme I have designed for the university. It encompasses training various staff and students within UCD in SAFETalk (Suicide Alertness For Everyone) and ASIST Training (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) combined with further seminars throughout the year. These Ambassadors will also have a clear symbol placed on their office doors, a badge with the symbol and will be published online as Please talk Ambassadors. To date, 160 people have been SAFETalk Trained and 56 have been ASIST trained. It has shown many people in the University how important education around the area of mental health it and how we can support others while also looking after ourselves.

Mind Body + Soul

The UCDSU Mind Body + Soul Festival was a three day student well being festival that occurred on September 23rd, 24th & 25th. Each day focused on a different aspect of a student's well being but also showed how all three are connected. I believe that the festival was a success given that it was in it's first year and I hope that it will be continued here in the University. There was an awful lot of planning and organisation involved in the festival and it is something that the whole team gave a large amount of their time to assist me with.

The Welfare Crew (Penguins!!)

The Welfare Crew are a group of students in UCD who are interested in the promotion of positive well being on campus and the promotion of student equality through campaigns. It also acts as a social outlet for a lot of students. Recruiting students for the welfare crew was an intense but thoroughly enjoyable process and I am delighted to say that we have had over 700 students inquiring about joining and have a core group of students at all of our meetings.

Marriage Equality Voter Registration Drive & Referendum:

This year we held a voter registration drive to make sure students' voices were heard on May 22nd! This drive was a success with a further 4,500 students registered to vote! This was then followed by a campus-wide marriage equality referendum which received an overwhelming 97% majority in support of Marriage Equality.

Taking Control Workshops;

Two "Taking Control" Workshops were held this year and were run in conjunction with Ronan Lynagh from Shine in Ranelagh. These workshops are designed to help students cope with the day to day stresses of life and how to look after themselves while under extreme amounts of pressure. They were well received and will hopefully continue into the next year.

Mental Health In Sport Conference:

On 25th November there was a Sport in Mental Health Conference held in UCD where we had speakers from both the sporting world and those working in mental health support services. The aim of this event was to promote a culture of understanding and support towards positive mental health in the sporting world both here in UCD and in the wider community. The event was very well attended and received.

SU Clinics:

This year myself and the team traveled to a different faculty every week to ensure that we had a presence external to our offices and official events. We promoted the various supports the SU can offer and offered advice to any student who approached us. We really began to see the positive effect these were having when as soon as students saw us in their building they began approaching us with all their queries and new ideas. This is something I would highly recommend is continued by the SU in the following years.

Introduction of the SU Mental Health Coordinator:

This year saw the introduction of a new mental health coordinator to the campaigns forum to ensure that mental health is always at the core of the work the Students' Union does. This year Andrew has done a fantastic job in his work so far and I look forward to see the work done by future Mental Health Coordinators.

Media Coverage:

For anyone who is interested, there has been some articles & media coverage in the past year about the work of the SU which has created further awareness for students about the help available to them:

- Campus.ie – The College Welfare Officer
- The Irish Times- Don't get lost in the crowd.
- Campus.ie- Mind Body + Soul

- Le Cool Dublin- The Student Life Panel
- AIB Lunch Series- Healthy Eating Panel
- Dave Fanning 2fm- College Accommodation
- Irish Times- Opening Up: The first step is the steepest.

Outgoing Statement:

As this is my final report in my term as Welfare & Equality Officer, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few thank yous. This year has been incredible, I cannot describe to you how lucky I have been waking up everyday to a job that I am happy to go to and that I love to be in everyday. This job had been amazing, by virtue of the people I have met in it. To council, I have enjoyed every minute of working alongside you all and have such admiration for the work and care you put in to helping those around you and in your class, I commend you. To the University Staff and student advisors who have always looked out for me and have been so helpful and supportive in finding the best help and solutions for a student, I cannot express enough how much of a difference this has made to my year. To the Exec, thank you so much for all your help and enthusiastic throughout the year, you were always there to give a hand when needed or to have some tea after a long week. The work you have put in alongside your studies this year is fantastic and I commend you.

To Chris and Rachel, the Welfare Crew secretaries who were always excited and were able to keep me on track with all things related to the crew, you are absolute legends, and your boundless energy and smiles and enthusiasm for Welfare Crew emails are unrivaled.

To the friends and housemates who kept me sane and didn't judge me for only being around a weird hours and coped with abandonment, I owe you. The breaks and support that you provide are what make the year manageable. And to Rob for the 3am cups of tea on the nights he knew I was wired and stressed out of my mind.

To Devin, someone that no amount of thank yous could justify the work you have done this year. From basically being another sabbat, to looking after us when we needed it. You have been amazing all year and have always gone above and beyond helping us and being there whenever we need it. Thank you so so much.

To the staff of the SU, Ger, PK, Brian, Paul, Dee & Giselle I have no idea how I ended up working with such a wonderful group of people who have an answer and solution to everything. I am so grateful to of had you by our side all year.

And now for the most difficult bit, to Amy, Anabel & Feargal. Working with you this year can only be described as the best experience ever, and I am dreading working another job because I know I will never get to work with kinder, more intelligent, harder working people again.

Amy, my favourite little red head who has definitely received more phonecalls from my than my own mother. I have yet to meet someone with the same passion for students and caring for others as you. Each and every student who meets you always leaves with a smile and a more positive outlook for the future. Working with you has been fantastic and I look forward to swanning around UCD care free with you next year.

And Anabel aka VEGAS BABY, working with you has been wonderful. It is like you are permanently on cheerleader mode with all of your enthusiasm for everything! You have connected to students more than anyone ever has before and have brought a real community to the graduates here in UCD. For all your advice and the small little surprises and always knowing when the right time to come is, thank you! I would have always said I wasn't too fussed on going to America, but now I know I'm definitely going because I'm going to miss you too much otherwise.

Feargal, you have been a rock all of this year, in many ways you cannot understand, from always being a phone call away, checking up on me after a day of madness, endless cups of tea and helping me push everything over the line, to your stupid silly jokes which I pretend to hate but I really do love. Thank you so much for everything this year, it has been a pleasure and I look forward to hearing about all of the great things you have ahead of you.

Undergraduate Education Officer

Name of Officer: Amy Fox

Position: Undergraduate Education Officer

Email: education@ucdsu.ie

Twitter: @UCDSUEducation or @amyfox93

Date of Council: 13th April 2015

Thank YOU so so so much!

I really don't know where to start in an attempt to summate this incredible year. I won't even pretend that I didn't feel my eyes welling up just a little as I was writing this report. I will definitely take so many amazing experiences and memories, away from this year. The SU changes year by year, because it is most definitely the people who make up the union, who make it what it is. I've been so fortunate to work with a hard working, dedicated, caring, kind, and supportive sabbatical team in Feargal, Maeve & Anabel, even if we did drive each other crazy from time to time (*cough* Feargal and his terrible puns)! Tea, chats, hugs and laughs were easily found along the corridor, not just from one another, but also the wonderful staff team who work alongside us; Giselle, Dee, Ger, PK, Brian, Paul & David.

Thank you to every single one of you who decided to become a class rep this year and to get involved in our ideas/plans and to bring along so many more of your own. You're a lovely bunch and I really hope that those of you who can, will stay involved. Exec, thank you for putting up with us on a weekly basis, for all your hard work, feedback, help and kindness. Finally, but by no means least, I'd like to thank a few people who kept me sane and put lots of smiles on my face throughout the last year. Devin, the most caring, patience and hard working friend/mammy/secretary, we'd all be completely and utterly lost without you. Tom, thank you for putting up with me and for all the care you've shown me. Emma, my campaign manager and long-distance Mammy, thank you for encouraging me to run, working so hard for the campaign, the surprise deliveries of cake/chicken rolls, and all the little things that you do. I can't possibly list everyone, but thank you to everyone who had a kind or encouraging word throughout the year, or who helped in any way whatsoever. You're all dotes!

Projects/programmes

- SU Clinics - On a fortnightly basis, the team visited each college for at least one hour. The willingness of students to chat with us was lovely and we really enjoyed meeting everyone and helping wherever we could.
- Alternative Careers Fest (Semester 1)
 - Alternative Careers Fair in Astra Hall with 19 organisations
 - Skills for Life launch with "Shake up your CV" in the Clubhouse bar
 - "Pathways" speakers event with The Happy Pear and Natasha Rocca Devine.
- Skills for Life
 - Barista training with Insomnia for 8 separate training sessions.
 - "Shake up your CV" cocktail masterclass with the UCD Clubhouse bar

- BA repeat study groups - small groups of 4-5 students who have all failed the same exam, have been matched up and given some guidance to help get them through the exam a little easier the second time around.
- SPARC - A staff/student initiative to allow students to enhance their own learning experience. Three projects were chosen and funding and assistance has been provided by UCD T&L.
- Late night study area - Three weeks in Astra hall from 11pm-3am for the exam period.
- SU online bookshop - Over 2,000 books have been registered on the SU online bookshop and it has been a good success overall. There was also a significant amount of work organising book sales to sell the remainder of the physical bookshop stock but both the team & Exec have helped throughout the year.
- ASK programme - Peer Assisted learning. This programme is still in its early stages, having been introduced in Law & Science. I really hope that it is something that Dannii will consider continuing on with over the next year.
- LeadUCD in association with AIB
 - Class rep training weekend
 - Training workshop series; Public speaking & Social Media marketing
 - Class rep re-fresher training day with LinkedIn
 - "Are you ready to run?" elections prep training day
 - Site visits to the American embassy and the RDS.

Engagement

- **Student Cases** - It has been a privilege to have the nicest of UCD students drop into the office this year for a wide variety of reasons. I believe its one of the most vital services provided by the SU and I sincerely hope that the office continues to be a welcoming, safe and supportive space for all UCD students to come to work through any issues or problems. This truly was my favourite aspect of the role.
- Clinics & Themed weeks
- Know your union in week 6, semester 1.
- Revision Roadshow week 10 of both semesters
- Beat the Stress week 8, semester 1, week 12 semester 2.
- Exam Shuttle bus to the RDS for 11 days of the exam period from 8am-6pm.
- Grindsfile - continual updating of the website with Brian, and communications with both tutors and students, particularly around exam time.
- #VoteforME campaign - Really enjoyed being part of the campaign with the rest of the team, from the initial voter sign-up drive in Freshers week and will continue up until May 22nd.
- Education twitter & Blog - The @ucdsueducation twitter account now has gained 700 followers and the blog has reached 4000 views.
- Increased voter turnout for referendums & contested elections to 3,300 & 4,500.
- Helping students with their SUSI applications, delays & appeals was a major element of the Education role for the first 6 months. Re-establishing comms with SUSI took

up a large portion of our time and we now thankfully have a direct line of communication between UCDSU & SUSI. SUSI applications will also open in April this year, to ensure students are not waiting as late for payments this coming academic year.

- Exam guides & study planners - every little helps!
- Student Advisors - The entire team this year has had an excellent working relationship with the advisors and programme office staff. It has been a pleasure to work with everyone and I hope these relationships will continue to grow and improve. They are vital to the success of the SU.

Other changes (Primarily as a result of our work on UCD committees)...

- Intro to Arts no longer a core module for Stage 1 BA students.
- Library improvements - New Mobile phone charging lockers installed and continued maintenance of library wifi, plugs and computers.
- New licence to Reside - yet to be finalised and approved by UMT, but will hopefully reflect our requests for a clearer complaints and appeals policy, the removal of any monetary charge to take an appeal, and fairer terms for residents.
- Academic flexibility policy for 'high performance' students to enhance the current extenuating circumstances policy and to recognize the importance of extracurricular activities in UCD life.
- Week 5 re-sits - this was a trial in UCD school of Law to help alleviate the pressure on students at the end of the semester.
- Removal of access blocks to Library (re:SUSI): Students will no longer be prevented from accessing the library simply because their grant has been delayed.
- New student card cost has been reduced to €20
- Academic Ethics Committee - over the course of the year, I have accompanied 50+ students who have been called to explain their academic work, in terms of plagiarism to the Ethics committee in their schools.
- UCD (Academic) Appeals committee - During semester 2, UCD has established a university wide appeals committee (which was once just for academic appeals). I was involved in setting the terms of reference for this committee and going forward an SU representative will be one of the four members of the university's highest appeals board.

Regular meetings

- Governing Authority
- Academic Council
- ACEC: Academic Council Executive Committee
- ACCQ: Academic Committee for Control & Quality
- RIOG: Registration implementation & oversight group
- ACCE - Academic council committee for examinations
- UPB - University Programme Board
- UMT Student Experience
- UMT Education

- Programme Boards (Each college)
- UCD (Academic) Appeals Committee
- Academic Ethics committee
- Widening Participation committee
- Orientation oversight group

Plans for remainder of the year

- RDS Exam supports
- Revision Roadshow
- Semester 2 Exam Results
- UCD Undergraduate Research conference - pitch to UCD T&L & Research
- UCD College Carnival
- #VoteForMe campaign
- Crossover with Dannii Curtis

I would like to wish Marcus O'Halloran and the incoming sabbatical team the very best of luck with everything. The year goes by so quickly, so make the most of every opportunity that arises. I'm looking forward to crossover with Dannii and I'm sure the office is in good hands for the coming year!

Thank you.

Amy :)

Graduate Education Officer

Name of Officer: Anabel Castaneda
Position: Graduate Education Officer
Date of Council: April 13th, 2015

Introduction

I would like to thank everyone here at council for all their hard work throughout this year. It is hard to believe how fast this year went and that tonight is our final council. This year has been filled with many great events and new friendships. For my final council report I will be going through my manifesto discussing the challenges, accomplishments, and other aspects of my manifesto.

Dedication to Education

This was one of my main taglines boldly printed in my manifesto and something I was so proud to have held throughout the year. I was able to sit on all the graduate school boards and was able to be the voice for students. I helped students with various types of cases ranging from advisor issues, extenuating circumstances, leave of absences, and much more. I also sat on Academic Council Committee for Examinations, Academic Council, Governing Authority, Continuing Professional Development, Graduate Education Forums, UMT Education Group, UMT Student Experience Group, and many others.

Efficiency

Teamwork has been such a big reason for the successes we have had throughout the year. I was able to work with Amy and Maeve on different cases throughout the year as well as events and this meant that if any of us were sick or on annual leave that students were always seen and their cases heard.

Establishing connections with various departments around UCD was very important and we were able to have communications with the Careers' Office, but not as much as we would have liked. I have built a solid connection with the Graduate Studies, International, and Registry offices.

Transparency

Bi-monthly YouTube updates have been run and has been viewed several hundred (some even thousand) times and this vlogs have made it easy to get our events out there. I have also had regular communication to council through Facebook, e-mails, and face-to-face. I believe that this has had a positive impact because you reps have been excellent in sending down classmates to us and really looking out for one another. Regarding the Feedback forum I mentioned in my manifesto I created the first UCD Postgraduate Facebook Group and this was used as a means to communicate different events to the postgraduate community as well as get feedback such as the poll which led to the ball.

Resources

This part of my manifesto was the most challenging and I was unable to fulfil having the interlibrary loans lowered. The library provided me with figures that showed that a small fraction of students were using them and lowering the cost would mean cutting back on other library resources which would affect a larger number. I was also unable to allocate any designated area to postgraduates as taking any rooms here in the Student Centre would mean taking away a resource from a society. This is something that my predecessor was unable to do in their year and it is something that I hope that my successor will also keep on pushing because it is still needed.

Opportunities

Amy and myself worked very hard to put on the alternative careers fair for students to look at other opportunities that they may have not thought about before. The CV building workshops done through the library were published for students to see on our social media outlets and Amy successfully ran barista skill courses that postgrads were also allowed to participate. Networking was done through the successful postgraduate mixer. This mixer was a great mixture of postgrads from all areas.

GradsConnect

This in a sense was the graduate orientation, but the word orientation was decided was not correct as we wanted it to be a chance where postgraduates. I was very happy to have been such an outspoken voice in pushing for this event as I believed it was crucial in order to encompass the postgraduate community.

International Integration

One of the big themes throughout the year for myself has been how to incorporate the international community and I think the involvement of international students as class reps and the encouragement for them to take part in our events has been great. Myself and the team have tried to be present at many international events such as Chinese New Year, Holi, Discover Islam Week, and many more. We had the international week that was done with help from our international coordinator and I was able to host an international dance showcase which was filled with incredible performances by incredible students.

Summary

Before even beginning my term as Graduate Education Officer I believe that I was able to gather support from the graduate community as voter turnout for my election was larger than it had been the year prior. This year has continued to show graduate interest as the voter turnout was even greater and the fact that two candidates came forward was just an amazing feeling. I am extremely happy that I have been able to be a much more visible officer than last year with the attendance of our weekly clinics and our intense revision roadshows. Every step of the way was a learning experience and I made sure to document it in a manner that can easily be followed for the next year.

Continuity

I hope that my successor will continue to make her presence known around campus and keep up clinics, international incorporation, and more opportunities for social interaction between postgraduates. I know that she has great ideas like I am proud to be a postgrad week and I look forward to seeing this happen. I also hope that one of the first things she does is the farewell email to the finishing postgraduates in August as I found this to be very beneficial and rewarding to ensure postgraduates that you care about their future. Many of the responses to the email were so heartfelt and many explained that they had never gotten such a nice email from any UCD account and so this really does make a difference to students who have just spent their entire summers researching and typing out long dissertations.

Summer was one of the most beneficial and exciting times as I was able to plan out the various events I wanted to bring in as incoming Graduate Education Officer. I would advise my successor the importance of the summer months to properly plan and schedule the events/campaigns etc. for the rest of the year and to work with your team on creating a great atmosphere for the coming year. Also, I want my successor to know how crucial the first month of the first semester is in order to get her face out to the postgraduate students. The lack of engagement with the SU by graduate students will be the major problem faced over the coming year, and a strong start to the first semester can make the rest of the year go seamlessly. As the position of Graduate Education has now been transformed into the Graduate Officer there will still be lots of room to continue to shape the role and it will be busier, but this does not mean that there should be a lack of engagement. My successor will need to continue to show the importance of the position. I have put together countless documents, binders, and folders that will help ease the transition and, of course, during the two week crossover/training period I will work hard to ensure my successor is prepared to take over the position and hit the ground running.

In addition, I would suggest ordering lots of pens and pencils because they go by so quickly!

Closing

Thank you to everyone who has made this year such an incredible experience. I take pride in having been able to have served my term as Graduate Education Officer with such a great team. I would especially like to thank Amy, Feargal, and Maeve who have become such dear friends. I wish the best of luck to next year's team and to those of you who will still be around next year- I hope you will continue to be part of the Students' Union family because we are not a "clique" we are part of a larger community. We are UCD.

Ag & Vet Convenor

Date of Report: 13th April 2015

Officer Position: Ag & Vet Convenor

Email: padraig.curry@ucdconnect.ie

Officer Name: Padraig Curry

Report Period: Final Report Year 2014/'15

Introduction

Hi guys, it is with great sorrow I write this, my final report to council. Its been a great year and I'm very grateful to have been involved with the SU this year and also to have gotten to know all of you. I hope you will all continue to be involved throughout the rest of your time in UCD.

Update on Work since last council

- College Carnival promotion.
- Preparing stuff for cross over training.
- Wrote a summary for the SU's end of year review.
- Reps are entering relay for life so will be helping out at both their tent and the SU team one also.
- Revision roadshows.

Semester One

Got elected in October so I didn't have anything done in orientation or Freshers week. Started off by meeting the programme office staff in both Ag and Vet and also both student advisors. Set up a first year Ag class page as they didn't have one at the time. Then I attended the Class Rep training weekend in Blessington, got to know my own Ag and Vet reps and also the other members of council. Attended the Staff Student Liaison in Ag. Met society Auditors to discuss there plans for the year. Attended both mid semester lunches for Ag and Vet first years. Also contacted societies council about setting up and Food Science and Human Nutrition Society, started this process with the help of the class reps from these classes. Also remained in contact with reps throughout the semester through College councils and on te facebook group. Attended the SU clinics and Revision roadshow in Ag and Vet. Also spoke at the exam talks for Ags and Vets and filled in first years on the RDS and the difference of college exams.

Semester Two

Researched the possibility of running an A.I course for students (A.I stands for artificial insemination in case some of you are wondering). Unfortunately it wasn't possible to run it for large groups so I passed the information on to the interested students and some of them are taking the course separately. Was involved in Ag Week and helped promoted this between Vet and other students. Worked with the rest of Exec on discussing and amending constitutional changes for the Constitutional referendum. This and the Marriage Equality referendum took up a lot of the early part of the semester. Also helped selling and promoting Anabel's Postgrad ball. Helped Maeve prepare for the Sex Out Loud week. Continually promoted Coffeehouse sessions on Tuesdays in the Arts Café. There were some recurring personal cases to deal with, with the help of the student advisors these worked out well for the affected students. Promoted and attended the LEAD UCD seminars. Also promoted the Ents events like the Sound UCD Needs and the UCD Fashion show. Attended the SU40 archive launch and anniversary dinner where we met old Sabbatical officers. Helping reps with class trips and nights out. Promoting the national Marriage Equality campaign with the online launch of #VoteforME.

Plans for the summer and to be continued:

Exam support and revision roadshow.

Keep pushing the Marriage Equality referendum until 22nd of May.

Promoting the end of year events going on on campus, like College Carnival.

Complete the cross over guide for Alison and attend cross over training.

Help prep for the Palestinian students coming to UCD.

Finally

Just a last few words to say thanks to everyone who help me out since October, there are far too many to name, ye know who ye are! I hope you all enjoyed your time. Thanks to my own reps, ye were great to work with and I hope you'll all continue on next year. To next years Executive team, in particular to Alison, I wish you the best of luck when you take over in June and I can guarentee it will a year to remember. If you need any help with anything next year I'll always be around campus. And thanks Devin for your help, you are always there to give advice!

Vote Yes folks,

Ag out

Xoxo

Arts & Celtic Convenor

Date of Report: 13th April 2015

Officer Position: Arts and Celtic Studies Convenor

Email: conor.rock@ucdsu.ie

Officer Name: Conor Rock

Report Period: Final Report Year 2014/'15

Introduction

There is no doubt something I have forgotten to mention and have specifically not mentioned, due to the fact that the wealth of weekly work done is hard to remember and record. Also there are a number of personal cases that for obvious reasons I am not mentioning.

What has happened this year...

Summertime

I was in and out of UCD over the summer working on achieving some of the goals I had set out for my time as Convenor. I went about meeting the auditors of all the major societies associated with the BA program students. It is important to note that I did not define major society as the biggest or best known, but rather one that had an interest in BA students. Though tedious at the time, the benefits of knowing the auditors came in very handy when trying to organise several events during the year.

I also contacted and tried to meet with all of the school heads to try and build a relationship with them before the year began. I faced a couple of problems, firstly there was the transfer of school heads making it very hard to get contact information about the new head. Secondly, some of the school heads were away.

Orientation and Fresher's

I worked in the fresher's tent for the SU, helping giving out bags, talking to fresher's and signing people up to the welfare crew.

Semester One

It is important to note that on a daily basis I had to deal with issues and problems that arose, however on a whole there are three main things I helped to achieve:

1. Intro to Arts: this module was originally created to help students with transfer into college. It has for the past two years failed to achieve this and created more problems for students. I worked with Amy (Education officer) and Melanie (Human Science Convenor) in surveying students and working with the university. We set out to bring about changes to the module and by the end of the process it was decided that it had to be removed.
2. Improved seating area: From early on in the summer I looked into getting the seating in the Newman building improved and revamped. I was told that plans were already underway, however was not given a time frame. Prior to the Christmas exams I looked into it again, and had a meeting with Liz Dunne and was shown the long-term plan for the building and was satisfied that nothing else was needed to be done, and that work would begin over the Christmas break. With regards other general seating, I was made aware that the seating area outside the SU library shop was going to be revamped. I asked the president (Feargal) if the old seats could be transferred to the basement of the Newman building to make that area a permanent social space.

3. Society's day: I had planned to get an event in the Newman building each week from a society different society. I managed to organise a few though it became too time consuming and logistically challenging to organise these and on a whole there were events on a weekly basis for me to comfortably justify focusing more attention on other issues.

Semester Two

In semester two a lot of the things worked on from semester one came into effect.

1. Academic/students tea/coffee days: I managed to organise academic/student tea/coffee with certain schools, such as Languages and Music. I tried to organise it with other schools but nothing came from this. It is important to remember that there was only so much I could do to organise these, and certain schools just didn't want to work with me and realistically there's nothing I could do.
2. BA program board meeting: I sat on the BA program board meeting, which basically dealt with all issues to do with the BA program, such as Intro to Arts, the unflattering of the BA and standards of tutorials within the BA.
3. Academic council: I sat on Academic Council which deals with overarching issues within the university. Not really allowed disclose what exactly was discussed.
4. UPB (University Program Board): This board deals with different issues dealing to the different degree programs and schools. I sat on this board.

Plans for the rest of my term as Convenor:

- Raise the Issue of the inconsistency of tutorial standards.
- Survey the current class reps to find out what their experience of the SU has been.
- Give cross over training to the incoming officers.

Finally

It is important to note that each elected represented deals with a large amount of minute issues that are time consuming and sometimes don't always reap the best political awards and don't warrant mention in this report. But nonetheless it is important to note. As is the same case with the personal cases.

Business & Law Convenor

Date of Report: 8/4/15

Officer Position: B&L Convenor

Officer Name: Laura Brohan

Introduction

I got involved in the SU in first year as a class rep as a way to get involved in life on campus and as a way to get to know my class. At the end of last year the previous B&L Convenor Nicole and previous Welfare Officer Cian persuaded me to run for the role of B&L Convenor. It's been a hectic year but I've learnt a lot and hopefully have helped some people out along the way. I really enjoyed getting to see so many aspects of the SU this year and I think the SU is a fantastic asset to UCD students.

Reeling in the Year:

Summertime

I took part in crossover training at the start of the summer, which was really helpful in settling into the role of convenor and getting to know the rest of Exec. I also had the chance to be SAFETalk trained which I would highly recommend to anyone, as it is such a valuable skillset to learn.

Orientation Week & Freshers'

I set up class pages for incoming first year classes and lectured addressed as many classes as possible to let people know what the SU does and what supports were available to them. I worked in the tents during Orientation and Freshers' Week doing everything from packing bags to chatting to as many students as possible about the SU.

Class rep recruitment

I recruited class reps in a number of different ways. I spoke to potential candidates individually at the SU stand in the Freshers' tent and at the class rep mixer that was held and encouraged them to run. I also lecture addressed and contacted students via social media to encourage students to run. There was a fantastic group of reps this year that represented their classes well and organized great events like nights out and trips away.

Class Rep Training and Refresher Training

I attended class rep training in Blessington. I thought it was a really successful weekend and very beneficial for everyone who attended. It was a chance for SU reps to get to know other SU reps, find out how to carry out their role to the best of their abilities and get to know what the SU provides on a wider scale. I also attended Refresher Training, which was a great way for reps that had missed class rep training to get to know other reps and a chance for all reps to get some more training.

Freshers' Trip

The Freshers' trip in association with C&E was something that worked really well and gave students a chance to get to know other students early on and go away with new classmates before class trips in semester 2. I'd really advise running the trip again next year.

Class Rep of the Month

Early on in the year, I proposed the class rep of the month scheme as a fun informal way to recognise the contribution of individual class reps. I think that class reps are vital to the running of the union. I really enjoyed working with the class reps in my faculties this year- from giving them advice on organising class trips to helping organise events such as balls.

Alternative Careers Fair

One of my favourite events that I worked at during the year was the cocktail making class that was held in the bar during the week of the alternative careers fair. I think that the SU should continue to run small relaxed skills classes like cocktail making and barista skills in the future because it was something that students really enjoyed this year. I also think that the “Alternative Careers Talk” held during that week was fantastic and having Alumni guests come in to share their career stories is something really beneficial to students that the SU should continue to do.

Faculty Balls

I assisted with selling tickets for the B&L ball and I assisted the final year reps in planning the Farewell ball by securing a deposit for the event.

Marriage Equality Campaign

I think that one of the most important things that the SU did this year was our campaign for marriage equality. One of my fondest memories of the year was at class rep refresher training when members of the SU council went out on campus to collect signatures from students in order to hold our referendum on the SU's stance on marriage equality. It was great to get out and meet students and very uplifting to see how strongly UCD students supported the referendum. The referendum passed with an overwhelming majority with 97% of students in favour of marriage equality. There was a brilliant atmosphere at the #VoteForME social media launch recently and hopefully at the end of May we can look back proudly and say that UCDSU helped make Ireland a more progressive, welcoming society.

Staff Student Consultative Forum

I sat on the Quinn School Staff Student Consultative Forum and I thought this a was a great way to give feedback to the school. One issue that came up at the semester 2 staff student consultative forum meeting was that students don't have much access to information on modules unless they happen to know an older student who has done this module. A central database of mini-blogs about each subject was something that was suggested and I think that this would be a very worthwhile project for the incoming Education Officer and Convenors to work on.

Exec meetings

One of the key elements of the role of convenor is of course attending weekly Exec meetings. I made sure that my faculties were well represented and brought forward the views of class reps and other students in my faculties during the weekly meetings.

Plans before the end of the year:

- Finish the crossover guide for incoming convenor, Ryan and attend crossover training with the incoming Exec team.
- Promote and work at the final SU event of the year-College Carnival.

A final note.....

I'd just like to say a massive thank you to everyone who's helped me out over the past year in any way big or small, I really appreciate it! I want to wish the incoming B&L Convenor Ryan and the rest of the Exec elect the best of luck and I'm confident that the SU lies in safe hands next year.

Engineering and Architecture Convenor

Date of Report: 12/04/2015

Officer Position: Engineering and Architecture Convenor

Officer Name: Cian Byrne

Introduction

I never had too much involvement in the students union until this year as Convenor. Now that I've seen all that goes on in the corridor, the services that we provide to students and the potential of the events we host I'll find it very hard not to have an involvement some way big or small. I hope it's been the same for everyone else involved and here's a look over the year!

Reeling in the Year:

Summertime

Plans for this college year began in the summer where we had our first exec meeting preparing for the year, discussing ideas that we were all bringing and taking part in various training days. One of the most important in my opinion was the SAFEtalk training we attended. I hope to see it done again next year.

Freshers Ball

The first main event we hosted was freshers ball at the beginning of the year. It was on campus this year which was something a new. We spent time speaking with the event manager to know our roles and what was needed from us on the night. It was a great success and gave us a golden opportunity to get out and talk to 1st years in a fun environment and talk a little about the students union.

Orientation tent

We worked in the orientation tent this year promoting all things SU and handing out goodie bags to all who wanted them. This was a great opportunity to talk to a huge number of new students. It gave us a chance to explain what the student union is really all about and giving students a chance to see the whole team of exec, ents and campaigns forum.

Class rep recruitment

Class reps really are what drive the Union. As far as keeping students happy and knowing what the needs are for a specific class, no one can do a better job than the class reps. It was important for us to put a lot of time and effort into Rep recruitment. I put a lot of time into messaging anyone who had shown interest in the position during orientation week. It was hugely important to be out and answering questions for people who were on the fence about going for it or who didn't know exactly what being class rep entails.

Book Shop

As most will know the bookshop has now gone online. I have spent time this year doing the exciting job of putting up the books online. I also spent time selling the rest of the inventory we have at the pop-up book shop under the library. It was a great opportunity to sell off the last of the books as well as letting people know about the online shop. It was received very well with the general comment being people needed to know a little bit sooner. Next year we need to see an early push to inform people about it.

Eng Formal

The Eng formal took place this year at the venue Church just before Christmas. It was a huge success seeing student from all years of engineering attending and enjoying the night. It was a great opportunity for EngSoc to put a stamp on the year and undoubtedly added to the buzz for Eng Ball which took place in semester two. I worked with EngSoc on any events I could this year to help promote them, the students union and the position of convenor. I feel it is important for next years college officers to have a good relationship with the respective societies.

Marriage Equality Campaign

It was the biggest campaign we have had this year by a mile. It began with the referendum held earlier this semester. This gave students a chance to have their say on the matter and decide on the Unions stance on marriage equality. Our first task was to get out and make sure people knew what it was all about and when it was taking place. We had a huge push to get people out to vote and make sure their voice was heard, which it was. 97% in favour meant we could now push for a yes vote. We did this through our launch night where we took over all social media platforms with our videos, pictures and our hashtag #VoteForME. We will continue to work on the campaign right up until the day of voting.

Plans before the end of the year:

- I'm now in the middle of writing my crossover guide for next years incoming College officer. I'll spend time working on it so it includes all the little tricks and tips I learnt throughout the year
- Promote and work at the final SU event of the year-College Carnival.
- Host an information evening for stage 1 Engineers to help with their selection of discipline

To wrap it all up I'd like to congratulate everyone on the year. It's been loads of fun and a pleasure to work with you all. I hope everyone has taken something from it be it experience, new friends or at least free hoodie! I've enjoyed it all so much I'll be going one step future and taking the year out next year to join the sabbatical team. I hope anyone else who has seen all the good they can do will get involved next year in whatever way they can.

See you all at council!

Much love,

CIANvenor xo

Health Science Convenor

Mollie Bruton

Email: mollie.bruton@ucdsu.ie

Twitter: @MollieUCDSU

Date of Council: 13th April 2015

Introduction

Hi everyone, I hope that you are all managing well with studies and other college commitments as we near the end of semester two.

As we have reached the end of the SU Council year I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you all on your terrific work as representatives of UCD Student's Union. On this, the 40th anniversary of UCD Students' Union, it makes me so happy to look back and remember everything that we have achieved together. Not only will you be remembered as the Council to have secured a 97% vote in favour Marriage Equality, but the work that each of you have done in representing your class groups has been nothing short of extraordinary.

I would also like to sincerely thank the lovely team of Class Representatives from Health Sciences; thank you for your motivation, your input, your ideas and, most importantly, for all your help. I really appreciate the time that you gave towards your role as SU representatives, and I can only hope that we will have the opportunity to work together again in the future.

Below you will find a summary of the work that I completed throughout the year. If you have any questions or feedback then, as always, please don't think twice about letting me know.

Summary of work 2014-2015

Stage 1 Student Engagement

Over the summer I worked with both the Student Advisors and Peer Mentors associated with the College of Health Sciences. As indicated by students, there was a need for a greater integration between the SU and students who are not directly associated with the SU (for example, those who are not Class Reps, Convenors, ENTs members, or actively involved in SU activities). As well as Class Reps & Stream Reps, I maintained contact with Peer Mentors throughout the academic year, in order to increase student participation in SU activities & campaigns (in particular, those students in Stage 1). I also spoke at the Stage 1 welcome talks in Health Sciences and then worked at the SU tent during Orientation Week.

Programme Office correspondence

Throughout the year I worked with the staff in each of the three Programme Offices in a number of capacities; compiling a list of stream reps (so that smaller disciplines within the College of Health Science were represented at school meetings), promoting Student Forum meetings, sending faculty-wide emails and advertising SU events.

I also held the seat of student representative on the Programme Boards for the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science (SPHPPS), and the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems (NMHS), and attended the meetings of same.

I was furthermore elected as the NMHS representative on the Student Experience Group, the aim of which was to undertake a survey of students across the three schools within the College of Health Science. The committee wished to evaluate the students' experience of clinical learning, international student resources, disability access and campus life.

Campus Services

Before the commencement of the academic year, I met with both the Facilities Management and Parking & Commuting teams in UCD.

With regards Facilities Management, I addressed the concerns of the Health Science students (particularly in relation to supplies of toilet paper, removal of sanitary waste bins & dispensing of soap) to the team and was informed of each of the changes being made to improve the maintenance of the Health Science faculty over the summer. As a result, communication between students and Facilities Management has been improved greatly; signs have been posted in each of the bathrooms in the Health Science building, informing students of how to proceed with any concerns, maps of the building have been made available to students, and the Facilities Management team are very welcoming of student feedback.

With regards Parking & Commuting, I discussed concerns regarding “park & ride” commuters and the availability of car parking spaces early in the mornings. Due to the proposed campus-wide changes to the system of car-parking on UCD campus, the notion of introducing a parking tag for Health Science students was not deemed feasible for the time being. However my hope is that this conversation can be continued throughout the summer and the coming academic year.

Humans of Health Science

October 2014 saw the launch of *Humans of Health Science* - an awareness project which invited all Health Science students to work together towards promoting positive Mental Health. This online journalism project allowed real students to discuss real issues that affected them personally; the aim being to create a positive atmosphere and overall sense of wellbeing within the Health Science community. The project was well received by students across each of the Health Science courses. It is hoped that this positive impression of *Humans of Health Science* will be sustained far beyond Mental Health Week (which was its initial purpose).

ENSA (European Nursing Students' Association) Open Day

In November I was invited to meet and speak with representatives from ENSA. I addressed a group of international Nursing & Midwifery students who were looking to complete their postgraduate studies in the UCD College of Health Sciences. The students were especially eager to seek further information about the facilities available to students within the College of Health Sciences, and about the support services available throughout the UCD Students' Union.

Health Science Ball

The annual Health Science Ball, this year named ‘Swing & Bling’, was also held in semester one. The 250 guests were treated to a Great Gatsby themed evening; complete with a cocktail reception, jazz band and dance troupe performance. Not merely a social outing, the event also helped to raise much-needed funds for Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. Associated with the hosting of Swing & Bling was the launch of *Health Science ENTS*, an online page through which all students were kept informed of events & campaigns organised within the College of Health Sciences. Each of the Health Science societies were invited to contribute to the page, thus ensuring that each event was open & advertised to each student. This way, a sense of community was fostered within the College of Health Sciences.

Exam supports

I worked with Amy and Anabel (Education Officers), when the Revision Roadshow and faculty clinics came to the Health Science building during Semester One. I answered queries

from Health Science students, and referred them to the relevant academic and welfare supports ahead of revision week and exam week. In advance of revision week I worked with Class Reps to ensure that students are fully aware of the support services available to them on both a local and campus-wide level.

During revision week I drew up and circulated an online exam guide to each of the Health Science groups. The guide contained practical information such as transport to and from the RDS, what to expect upon arrival to the exam hall, and support services available both in the RDS and back on campus.

Christmas charity fundraisers

The *Childline Candy Cane Sale* was held during Week 12 of Semester 1 and was very well received. As the Health Science building is also used by Engineering and Science students, the campaign extended beyond the Health Science courses. The *HIV Testing Awareness Week* was also held during Week 12. The aim of the event (which included an information session, movie screening and discussion panel) was to raise awareness regarding the European HIV Testing week. This event was organised by Aoife Lacey (Class Rep for G.E.M. Stage 1).

Clinical Placement Prep Talk & Careers Week

Not to neglect the academic aspect of the student experience, this year also saw the launch of the inaugural student-led *Careers Week* and *Clinical Placement Prep Talk*.

The aim of the *Clinical Placement Prep Talk* was to ensure that all students appreciated the role that each other discipline plays in the clinical environment. Whilst the event was primarily targeted at students who had not yet undertaken Clinical Placement, it was attended and enjoyed by students across a range of stages. The speakers, all current Health Science students, each gave a presentation which outlined the role of a student from their discipline whilst on placement.

Careers Week then aimed to broaden students' perspectives by encouraging them to consider alternative or niche career markets as they complete their undergraduate degree. Past pupils of the College of Health Sciences spoke with current students about the less-traditional career route that they took following their undergraduate degree. The event was organised with the support of the Health Science Student Advisor team, Programme Office and Career Development Centre.

UCD Beacon Academy

In semester two I was invited to attend the launch of the UCD Beacon Academy. This initiative is part of the College of Health Science's academic partnership with the Beacon Hospital, which will officially be the first private hospital to train nursing, medicine, and physiotherapy students from UCD. The event was also attended by Mr. Leo Varadkar, Minister for Health, and Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President.

Marriage Equality & Constitutional Referenda

During January of this year I worked to promote student engagement in both referenda; through lecture addresses, signature collections and faculty clinics.

With regards Marriage Equality: I took part in the poster campaign, as organised by Brian (Research & Communications Officer) and consulted with him regarding the appropriate feedback to give to students regarding the Union's stance on Marriage Equality.

With regards UCDSU Constitution: I summarised the main changes being made to the current document, and highlighted these to the Health Science Reps at College Council. I promoted these main changes so that students have a concise overview of the proposed constitution.

Powering Kindness Marie Keating Foundation fundraiser

During semester one I worked with Nursoc to promote the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems 'Powering Kindness' campaign. The week-long event, which focused on honouring the Marie Keating Foundation by engaging in random acts of kindness, was well-received across the College of Health Sciences. The event contributed to the MKF being awarded a prize of €40,000.

INMO protests

Throughout the year I worked with the SU Exec in their support of the INMO protests against the increase of membership fees and subsequently regarding the clinical placements of Nursing & Midwifery students. The details of same were also discussed at a local level at the NMHS Student Forum here in UCD, wherein it has been agreed that, in future, it will be the responsibility of the student to provide feedback between the clinical area & academic learning environment, whilst it will be the role of the academic staff to act upon such feedback.

Before the summer break, I plan to:

1. Work alongside the incoming Exec team at crossover training
2. Meet with the incoming Health Science Officer
3. Finalise work with NMHS/SPHPPS/MMS Programme Offices

My hopes for Health Science 2015-2016:

1. Clinical Placement Prep Talk and Careers Week to become an annual event
2. Continued positive working relationship with Programme Offices and Student Adviser team
3. Continued feedback with Facilities Management and Parking & Commuting
4. Continued work with external unions that represent Health Science students in the clinical environment
5. Continued integration of Health Science disciplines through collaboration with societies (Nursoc, Med Soc, Physio Soc, Rad Soc & Sci Soc)

Human Science Convenor

Name of Officer: Melanie O'Donovan

Position: Human Science Convenor

Email: melanie.odonovan@ucdsu.ie

Twitter: @Mel0die

Date of Council: 13th April 2015

Introduction

Hi everyone, we're finally at the end of the road. It's been a really special year and i'm more than happy to report on what we have done in Arts & Human Sciences for the past few months. We've all worked so incredibly hard this year and i am so proud of everything we have all achieved together. Thank you so much for making this such an eventful year! I wish you all the best in all of our endeavors Union related and otherwise <3

Update on Work since last council:

- College Carnival Release
- Helping out Arts Day
- Pathway Planner Organisation
- Recruitment for Campaigns Forum

What happened This Year:

During the **Summer** I attended two week of crossover training, I made a point to get to know the union, my faculty and Arts & Human Sciences. I also started my preparatory work for the year and the first semester in particular. I also got SafeTalk trained which was really important to me and i learned about the peer mentor system and talked to a lot of the student advisors and peer mentors to have a more integrated system in Newman for the first years during the first few weeks of the semester.

During **Orientation week**, I helped out at the stands on Res and in the Orientation tent throughout the week. I also attended the BA and BSocScience talks to introduce myself and the union. During the first week i had a Social Science Recreational event in the bar. During **Freshers Week** I worked in the freshers tent, I went around res, I attended post graduate introduction evenings and department introduction meet and greets. During that time I started my work with Hollaback and explored options with ICTU, I began helping out at the pop up BookShop, I met with university academics and staff to discuss plans for the semester. The class rep recruitment began after that and I spent two weeks recruiting our wonderful reps. I also helped out with promotion of the Dominoes ball and I helped out at **Mind Body & Soul**. After that we had our class rep training as part of LeadUCD and then we had our first college council where we got to know the reps and focused on problems in each faculty. After that I launched 5 things to do this week to make students aware of events during the semester. I started attending a programme boards, academic council and student staff meetings. I

represented social science at the prospective evening talk and during the open day. I also helped out at the SU stand during open day. I hosted a few student lunches, joint coffee mornings with societies, I attended the pop up SU clinics, I helped out at arts day and hosted a mind your mind morning. I was also lucky enough to represent UCD at One Young World and the Smart People for the Smart Economy conference. I had a lecture addressing 101 clinic with our class reps, I hosted an exam and assignment information talk in the blue room and helped the dean of social science plan career talks and workshops for students. I also helped promote the Comedy Festival and Coffee House Sessions for the semester. Towards the end of the first semester I helped out at the revision roadshows, began helping the faculties effectively roll out their Erasmus information and then during exam time I helped out in the RDS.

During **Term Two** I started off the year by helping the BA and the BSocScience programme boards roll out their **Unflattening** of stage two. I also formed the Social Science ball committee. I helped out at the class rep refreshers day and spent the first few weeks taking the bookshop to the library building where we sold a number of books there. I was also lucky enough to sit on the diversity week committee where we planned events around the subject. Diversity week took place in week six and it was highly successful I ran a poetry night in the arts cafe with poetry slam soc which was a lot of fun. I also helped run a Vote Yes for the SU **Marriage Equality referendum** as well as helping out to the Yes to the Constitutional referendum. I also helped out with the promotion of the SU Elections and we had a successful get out and vote campaign for that. After we got our yes vote I joined the marriage equality Vote Yes team and we started our Social Media approach using the hashtag #VoteforME. I helped out at our successful Media Launch and helped manage the social media account after. I helped organise a social science Erasmus talk and helped the Erasmus coordinators disseminate information. I helped plan the Social Science ball with the committee, I helped promote Please Talk Day in Arts and helped promote the Newman Games as well. I helped organise a social science careers talk and I'm still working on a pathway programme to help this years first years and next years first years. I have also been working with the BA programme board come up with strategies to lower the repeat/resit rate as well as the fail and dropout rate. I also attended two library review meetings. Now i'm helping out with the College Carnival promotion, Campaigns Forum recruitment, Convenor Crossover and i'm typing up any loose ends for the end of the year

Plans for the summer and to be continued:

- I have crossover with the incoming Convenors to look forward to.
- I have to finish off the Pathway Planner and make sure that it is something that can be used for the coming years.
- I would like to see a plan in place to support Erasmus students who are returning from years abroad.

- I have to attend the final programme boards of the year and there i will help the academics plan an effective strategy to deal with dropout rates.
- I hope to secure a structured experience opportunity for social science students for next year.

In Conclusion:

I'd like to thank every single rep who i've had the pleasure to work with and become friends with over the past couple of months. You have made my year an absolute breeze and you truly helped me understand the perspectives of different students which really helped me throughout the year. I hope to stay in touch with every single one of you after we finish up the year and I really hope you guys consider becoming reps again next year and continue to have a positive input into the running of your Union and your university.

I'd also like to say Congratulations to next year's Executive, Campaigns Forum and Ents Forum. You all have a wonderful year ahead of you and i strongly encourage you to take every single opportunity that is given to you that will benefit you, your faculty and your Union. Listen to each other, trust each others judgment and make sure you're all working towards the same overall goal. And if you ever need help hit me up, my twitter is listed above.

To this years Team I would like to say thank you so much for making this the best year i've had in UCD and for giving me memories i'll probably never forget. Thank you for everything and i hope we too stay in touch regardless of where we are or what we are doing next year.

Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Name of Officer: Éanna Ó Braonáin

Position: Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Email: eanna.obraonain@ucdsu.ie

Twitter: @OnaGUCDSU

Date of Council: 13st April 2015

- **“An Fugitive Gaelach”**

A fugitive competition ran during Orientation week which saw students look for the mystery fugitive and claim the prizes.

- **Seachtain na bhFreisear**

I worked extensively on the SU stand and actively recruited class reps throughout the week.

- **Oíche Rásaí na gCon**

In partnership with An Cumann Gaelach and The C&E Society, I organised a trip to Shelbourne Park at the beginning of October.

- **Oifigeach na Gaeilge Training**

Over the weekend of the 10th-12th of October I attended Oifigeach an Gaeilge training with Conradh na Gaeilge. This was a very valuable training exercise that taught me a lot about the job and allowed me to make many new contacts around the country.

- **Lá na Gaeilge**

After much planning I was forced to firstly postpone, and then cancel Lá na Gaeilge in Semester One. Unfortunately due to difficulties beyond my control and an overcrowded schedule was unrealistic for a worthwhile day to be organised in Semester One.

- **Oireachtas na Gaeilge**

An annual celebration of Irish Language and Culture, almost 100 UCD students attended this year's festivities in Killarny over the Hallowe'en weekend and saw UCD victorious in the intervarsity debating competition.

- **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Rós UCD took place upstairs in the bar and saw first year student, Niamh Farrell take home the honours after a long deliberation between the judges.

Ursula Ní Shaobhais spoke to UCD students about the history of The Irish Language in Northern Ireland and what developments are being made today. Eoin P. Ó Murchú and Andy Ó Faoláin, of Ireland's best Comedy show in Irish, GaelGÁIRÍ, performed in the Clubhouse bar. They were joined by a few promising UCD comedians.

The L&H kindly hosted a debate on the Irish Language. Featuring Student speakers, Lectures and guests working with the language, the Future of the Language was debated in front of a full Fitzgerald Chamber.

Cian Godfray and Scoops Music played the night away in The Clubhouse Bar as the perfect end to the week's celebrations.

In the second leg of the annual UCD v TCD SnaG football match, UCD ran out to a 3 goal lead before trailing by 4 halfway through the second half. Thankfully the boys picked it up and won on by virtue of the “Next Goal Wins” rule.

- **Coffee Mornings**

There were very successful coffee mornings held during the year with both PleaseTalk and The Economics Society.

- **Referendums**

I contributed a lot of time to UCDSU's Marriage Equality and Constitutional Referendum and also with the Union's #VoteForME campaign.

Special Thanks:

This year could not have been possible without the help of a few good people.

Firstly Zoe Forde and everyone that helped me get elected to begin with. After previous failures with elections, you all kept me thinking positively throughout an extremely stressful time.

Most of what I have done would not have been possible without Aodhán Ó Murchú, who would always make time to do me a favour or, inevitably, correct my spelling errors.

The Sabbat team for their support in me with whatever I was undertaking.

To the rest of the Exec team, it has been immensely enjoyable working with you all this year, even when that meant listening to all of Conor's questions during Exec.

Our wonderful secretary Devin. The amount of work that you did this year made my, and everyone else's job so much easier. Your patience with us throughout the year has been greatly appreciated.

To all the people that have kept me sane throughout the year. There are far too many to mention everyone but you know who you are. I could not have done it without your support.

To the incoming Exec team. It was a pleasure to get to know you over the last two months. I have no doubt that you will do a fantastic job with your respective jobs next year. I look forward to see what lies in store for UCD Student's Union.

Le Grá

Science Convenor

Name of Officer: David Mc Elligott

Position: Science Convener

Email: david.mcelligott@ucdsu.ie / science@ucdsu.ie

Twitter: @DavidUCDSU

Date of Council: 13th April 2015

Introduction

Sup, so it would seem that the year is coming to an end.

It's been real, thanks everyone!

Meetings Attended

Executive meetings, College Council, Science Programme Board, Staff Student Committee Meetings.

Since Last Council

- Launch of the College Carnival. The carnival launch has been very successful and well received across campus, hopefully with the right weather and a hand from you guys, it will be the success that we all know it can be.
- I've been in touch with the staff in the Programme Office about informing students of their options with regard to taking the three year degree. They should be sending out an email this week.
- Continued promoting the VoteForME campaign and encouraging students to register to vote.

Plans for Next Council

- There is no next council

Plans for the Rest of the Year and Summer

- This week, a lot of time will be spent working on and at the College Carnival.
- I will help with exam support, on campus and in the RDS during exams.
- I will finish my crossover guide for my main man Seán.
- Continue working on the YES campaign up to the referendum on the 22nd May.
- Attend final Programme Board and Staff Student meetings.

The Year it's Been

Semester One

During Orientation week and Freshers' Week,, I helped out at the stands on Res and in the Orientation tent throughout the week. During orientation week, I spent most of my time working in the SU tent, telling students about all the wonderful things we do. I met with the auditor of SciSoc to talk about our plans for the year. I gave a speech to all incoming Stage 1 Science students to introduce myself and let them know what supports and facilities were available to them. I worked at the SU reception issuing Student Travel Cards too.

Some of the major events which we worked on were the Dominos Ball and the Mind, Body and Soul festival. I worked to promote both of these events and also worked at them to help with a smooth running.

I attended all of the Staff Student Committee meetings for the different streams along with the Programme Board meetings and meetings with the Dean, the Associate Dean and the Student Advisers.

Tighter deadlines for return of labs and assignments. After a number of meetings with heads of School and the Dean of Science we have come up with tighter deadlines for lecturers and TAs to return corrected in-semester work to students.

Module feedback and satisfaction was something that came up frequently when speaking with students and staff, starting in September, there will be more frequent opportunities for students to give feedback, they will also be encouraged to channel feedback through their class reps.

Semester Two

The referenda took up a large chunk of time earlier on in the semester, but they were both worthwhile. I helped out with Sex Out Loud week, both with the promotion and with the events run throughout the week too. I helped to promote the Postgraduate Ball. There were a lot more personal cases this semester. I worked with the Student Advisers and Maeve to help all of the students who were coming to me.

The Coffee House Sessions were run every second Tuesday and I worked throughout the year to promote these. They were a great non-alcoholic event.

The #VoteForME campaign was launched in the past few weeks and we have been working on that since, to get out and about on campus and to keep a presence online too.

Just like in the first semester, I attended all of the meetings with all of the people.

And Finally

Just want to say thanks a million to all of the great reps who I got to work with this year, especially all you Science kids. It's been a wonderful year.

I'd like to wish the incoming Exec the very best of luck, you're a fine bunch to hand over the corridor to and the future only looks bright for UCDSU.

Peace out,

Dave

