

UCDSU Council 7
22nd February 2016
FitzGerald Chamber

Hugh O'Connor	Union Returning Officer	URO
Devin Finneran	Vice Chair of Council	Vice
Marcus O'Halloran	President	MO'H
Hazel Beattie	Graduate Officer	HB
Dannii Curtis	Education Officer	DC
Clare O'Connor	Welfare Officer	CO'C
Cian Byrne	Campaigns & Comms. Officer	CB
Lexi Kilmartin	Arts & Human Sci. College Officer	LK
Ryan Oakes	Business & Law College Officer	RO
Joshua Gorman Climax	Engineering, Stage 1	JGC
Niall Torris	Diplomas, College of Human Sciences	NT
Matthew Carroll	Masters of Common Law	MC
Sandi Ndebele	Engineering, Stage 2	SN
Shane Grogan	Engineering, Stage 1	SG
Macauley Pugh	Politics & Int. Relations, Stage 3	MP
Rowan McLachlan	Politics & Int. Relations, Stage 1	RMcL
Neil Mac Dhonnagáin	Mental Health Coordinator	NMD
*Rebek'ah McKinney-Perry	Law, Stage 4	RMcKP

*Denotes that student is not a member of Union Council

URO: Good evening everyone. As you know, Stephen Whelan and Grace Williams have recently resigned their roles as Chair and Vice Chair of Council. I am facilitating the nomination of a new Vice Chair this evening, so the meeting can move forward.

MO'H proposes Order IX-G (to raise standing orders). This is seconded by CB and passed by Council vote.

MO'H: Thanks Hugh. I am nominating Devin Finneran as the new Vice Chair of Council.

URO: We will now hold a vote on this.

Devin Finneran is ratified as new Vice Chair of Council by vote.

Vice: Good evening everyone. We will now move forward with the agenda.

a) The declaration of a quorum by roll call.

Quorum declared by Chair.

b) Minutes arising of the previous meeting.

MO'H: I would like to clarify what Stephen Whelan was saying about the College Tribune. Stephen was highlighting that the paper is an anomaly in terms of control and quality structures. Despite having an office on campus (and having been granted college funding in the past) is currently not directly answerable to any group within the university, and this was misinterpreted in the Draft Minutes. This amendment is to make the record clear on that.

Amendment to Minutes is passed.

c) Matters arising from these minutes.

d) Motions on notice.

1. Sexual consent education in national secondary curriculum:

RO: I believe that UCDSU has the power to spearhead this campaign nationally, and call for the introduction of consent education to the secondary school curriculum. It would have huge long term benefits in making sure students treat each other with greater respect and dignity than we have seen in recent weeks.

JGC: While I agree with the principle behind this, I think there may be some element of consent education in place in secondary schools on the Social Personal and Health Education curriculum. Did you enquire about this before submitting the motion?

RO: It may be included, but not extensively.

JGC: Can we defer this motion to a later meeting, so we can clarify this? Otherwise, we might end up calling for something that is already in place.

JGC proposes 9N, seconded by RO. 9N is approved by Council.

e) Motions not on notice.

No motions not on notice.

f) Items for Discussion.

1. UCDSU stance on higher level fees:

MC: It has been too long since we have had a discussion on this, and I feel it should have been put to a referendum alongside elections.

DC: There is already SU policy on this from a previous referendum, and we are looking to kickstart this conversation again.

MC: As it stands, the election is a matter of days away and there has been little to no coverage of the SU policy on fees.

DC: We have actually been getting this message across on social media all year – particularly in the last few months. We will try to make this more visible.

2. Dear First Year Me:

JGC: Sandi and I have been discussing the very successful DFYM campaign that was run at the start of the year. We feel that this could be made more course-specific, as well as having some general tips for university life. We have been working on this already in engineering, and encourage other reps to do likewise.

DC: That's a great idea, and it could be blended into the Peer Mentor programme so it is in place from the start of the new college year.

SN: We have been trying to work this into each stream of engineering to make it as effective and supportive to first years as possible. If anyone has any questions about setting it up, just ask!

3. Green Campus initiative:

JGC: This working group has had a few meetings so far, and there has been a notable lack of Union representatives there. The group Chair is looking for a student Co-Chair and is encouraging as much student input as possible. Our Environmental Coordinator would be ideal for this, but hasn't been at any meetings so far.

CB: I will contact him and encourage him to get in touch with the group. Thanks for bringing this to Council's attention.

4. Class Rep master guide:

SG: Many of you will have seen the guide I have created on how to be a good Class Rep. This is a Google Doc that everyone can contribute to, and will hopefully help future generations of Class Reps with things like ordering hoodies, arranging class parties and trips, as well as dealing with academic issues.

DC: We are always looking to update our Class Rep training materials, so this would be very welcome.

JGC: Would it be possible to extend this sheet to the Ents and Campaigns Forums? It would be equally as effective for new members of these groups.

Vice: This conversation can be discussed further outside Council between all those who are interested, so I will move on with the agenda.

5. Undergraduate Research Summit:

CB: We will need lots of lecture addressing for the next few days to promote this brilliant event. There are some great networking opportunities for anyone in attendance, so we are looking for a great turnout.

DC: The Eventbrite link for booking free tickets will be going live tomorrow, and I will share this with you all when it is set up.

6. Home to Vote:

CB: As you are all aware, the General Election takes place this Friday. Our Home to Vote campaign will mobilise voters and actually get people home to their polling station. This is always a major problem, so we are looking to boost student turnout in this election. There will be chances to win train tickets home, as well as petrol/diesel for those who bring fellow students home.

MP: Is there any arrangement in place for students who are in lectures late? Perhaps lecturers might take leniency in those classes that have graded/mandatory attendance, etc.?

CB: This will be largely down to each lecturer at their own discretion, but is worth asking. Many cars will also be travelling later in the evening, so hopefully this will help too.

MC passes speaking rights to *RMcKP

RMcKP: I don't think that it's good enough to leave such an important campaign to the week of the election. This could have been in place weeks ago, with a much longer window to get the message across. We're already falling behind the USI and other unions in our pre-election campaigns. This just adds to that.

MO'H: As it stands, we've had two registration drives this year, as well as a party debate with Economics Society in November. We are working hard on boosting voter participation and awareness across campus.

g) Items for Noting.

None.

h) Items for Approval.

None.

i) The reports of each Executive Officer.

1. President's Report

JGC: The University Observer reports that you met with President Deeks. Has he given any support to the introduction of mandatory consent classes?

MO'H: He has given, but they can only be introduced pending a successful proposal to the University Management Team. Therefore his support at this stage remains unofficial and non-binding to University policy, until such a proposal is passed.

RMcL: Elections this year have become quite farcical. There is only one sabbatical race being contested. It was mentioned before that there was very poor notice for elections. Can you give any comment on this?

MO'H: On Friday evening, we had three contested races, with the Presidential race being hotly contested. However, over the weekend a number of candidates decided to pull out of the race. This is unfortunate, but we can't force people to run if they are not fully committed.

Report is passed.

2. Graduate Report

No questions on report, report is passed.

3. Education Report

No question on report, report is passed.

4. Welfare Report

NMD: It was very disappointing not to have any posters ready for My Body, My Business. The Campaigns Forum have been working hard on this for months, but it hasn't received adequate coverage because Ger (Byrne, Graphic Designer) wasn't in the office last week.

CO'C: I apologise for this, but Ger was out sick for most of last week. This was beyond our control and we had a last-minute rush to find an external designer to help us out. Unfortunately we couldn't cover all the workload.

NMD: My apologies – I didn't realise Ger was sick. I thought he was on leave for those days. I realise now that the situation was beyond your control.

Report is passed.

5. Campaigns & Communications Report

LK: Can you give a timeframe on the website being fully updated?

RMcKP: The online presence from the SU this year has been very slow and leaves a lot to be desired.

CB: I can't give an exact timeframe at this time, however we are working as fast as we can on it. The website administration was outsourced to England by a previous team. This is also David's first year in the Communications & Research office, and his predecessor completed a three day training course in England for the website. This wasn't possible this year, and so, updating the website has proven to be more difficult than we were expecting.

Report is passed.

All College Officer Reports were passed.

j) Questions on notice.

None.

k) Questions not on notice.

None.

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

None.

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

All motions, reports and agenda items are due before 5pm Monday, Feb. 29th

- n) Any Other Business.**

DC: There will be an allocation of 319 beds for next year's final year students. Residences management have reviewed their new allocation policy and have made this notable change.

NT: Will this match final years with other final years on Res, or will the allocation be mixed?

DC: That is up to the management of the residences. We have asked that mixing be kept to a minimum however.

SO'D: A new UCard machine is expected in the Science Hub in the next few weeks, following a Council motion earlier this year.

RMcl: Could I ask in future that all Exec reports, especially the College Officer reports are fleshed out a bit more? There are many different boards and issues in each faculty, and a few officers do not explain the context or background to many of the items in their report.