



YOUR UNION. YOUR VOICE.

UCD Students' Union Limited

Student Centre,
UCD, Belfield,
Dublin 4.

Tel +353 1 7163108
Fax +353 1 7163109

**UCDSUL
Executive Meeting
25 September 2014**

Present:

Feargal Hynes (President) FH
Maevé De Say (Welfare & Equality Officer) MDS
Amy Fox (Undergraduate Education Officer) AF
Anabel Castañeda (Graduate Education Officer) AC
Conor Rock (Arts Convenor) CR
Laura Brohan (Business & Law Convenor) LB
Cian Byrne (Engineering and Architecture Convenor) CB
Mollie Bruton (Health Science Convenor) MB
Melanie O'Donovan (Human Sciences Convenor) MOD
Dave McElliot (Science Convenor) DME

In Attendance: Devin Finneran (Secretary of Students' Union Council)

Apologies: Éanna Ó Braonáin (Oifigeach na Gaeilge) ÉÓB

Meeting starts at 6.05pm

Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Minutes approved

Directors

R. Breslin. | P. de Brún. | F. Carroll.
L. Dockery. | M. Gallagher. | A. Ó Deá.

Company Secretary

H. Malone.

Registered No.

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Questions on Reports

President

MB – What are the teaching hero awards?

FH – Next Tuesday an award ceremony will be taking place to recognise academic staffs that excel in communication their message to their students.

AF – In semester two last year students were asked to nominate exceptionally helpful academics, a blurb was written in each application and these forms were then graded by both the full time officers here and nationally. Sinead Sheiran from the Vet Hospital and Kevin Costello a lecturer in the Law School are both going to be recognised.

Education

MB – Could we have some more information on the recognition or extracurricular activities please?

AF – We are working to get senior society and sports participation recognised as a diploma supplement as for example Ad Astra scholars are. Eventually it is planned that students excelling in extracurricular activities will be allowed to work at these activities as if they were taking a 5 credit module. The contribution that students make to college life needs to be recognised and we are working with UCD Innovation Academy to help create the module. These plans are a long way of full approval however.

Items to be Discussed

1) Mind, Body and Soul

FH – Want to say thank you to everyone for the hard work put in over the past three days, the festival will continue until the end of the bands this evening. I want to say a

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special word of thanks to my three fellow full time officers, the festival is a credit to your hard work and I understand it is mentally very tough to work on the festival whilst working through personal cases and your normal work. The entire team takes ownership of an event and we need to all remember this. The festival got an incredible reaction from the University; it was a meaningful event which also happened to be non-alcoholic and had lots of live music.

DME – A lot of people find it annoying when we post about events in class pages etc.

FH – For the majority of our events we are trying to create short videos, eye catching pictures and buzzy statuses to share on social media. There is a selling point for every event and we need to promote this.

MB – From what I heard, the time lapse videos of the graffiti were well received.

CB – Is it possible to get a calendar of events for at least the first semester so that we can point out what we plan to do as well?

FH – It didn't work for us before but I will get the information and circulate it.

MDS – It is important, especially for projects which concern all of Exec, to let us know what you think, for example if you think something may or may not work!

2) Class Rep Recruitment

FH – We have 49 contested elections.

AF – I will circulate the breakdown of the nominated class reps.

FH – We had a stormer on the closing day of nominations. Some classes will be going to by-elections and we will have a functioning council. Now we will have to work at voter turnout for next week.

AC – There are empty seats and we now need to encourage students to run in by-elections,

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to open the elections they need to get ten signatures and hand in their forms before Tuesday 30th.

AF – I will circulate the list of unofficial class reps that I have accumulated.

FH – There will be a briefing for all reps on Monday at 4pm in the Red Room. It would be great if as many as possible could attend this!

3) Dominos Ball

FH – This event sold out very quickly. If you are available to work with setup please let me know at the end of the meeting. Afters tickets are on sale today for 12euro a piece.

4) Student Levy

FH – In order to start building the old student centre, a referendum took place where by students voted to pay a contribution charge in order to pay for the capitol development. The same had to happen in order to build the new student centre. In order to pay off the loan taken out the student levy will increase every year until 2020, at the minute it stands at 231euro and this gradual increase needs to be passed by the union executive each year. At the minute we are looking for two guarantees from the college because of the price increase:

- if a student makes a serious effort to pay their fees and doesn't require access to the gym that the gym access will be taken away but they will still have access to the library
- the bridging loan originally taken out against the larger sum will be paid off by 2020 so that the student levy will not go higher than 300euro.

CB – Will the levy reduce after this time?

FH – A student vote will take place.

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LB – Does the levy adjust?

FH – It adjusts every year with inflation and it's required that the union executive agree on the increase every year.

MB – What happens if we reject?

FH – Either way the money will have to be paid and we would need to provide a plan b.

CR – How many years after 2020 will the entire loan be paid off?

MDS – It will be paid by 2030.

FH – It will then go for a referendum for the students to vote again.

Vote: Are Exec happy to allow the raise of student levy from 231euros – 247euros?

A unanimous vote decision was made to allow the increase of the student levy.

5) AIB Launch

FH – Next Tuesday, 30 September AIB will host one of their lunch box series beside their renovated branch in UCD. There will be a talk on sport, fashion, music and food. The Happy Pear will provide attendees with healthy lunch and there will be a few celebrities from each field speaking on the topics. Please spread the word!

Items to be Noted

Nothing to be noted.

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Any Other Business

1) Car Parking

FH – UCD SIPTU, a very powerful body on campus, called an EGM and they gave reps a mandate to speak to the president of the college about the car parking issue on campus. The plans to build a multi-storey car park were shelved for financial reasons. I will give you more information as I receive it!

AF – A parking permit is available to buy for specific car parking spaces.

DME – What is happening with the athletic track?

FH – The car park will replace spaces lost in the development of new Belgrove as part of the strategy going forward!

2) Student Assistance Fund

FH – There has been a 23% cut to the student assistance fund and this is a serious problem.

MDS – There was a slight indication given at EU level that it was going to happen.

CR – Anything we can do in particular?

MDS – There will be a lot of personal cases coming in and we need to find out some more information before we make a plan of action.

DME – What do we do if a student comes to us?

FH – Give them Maeve's details.

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3) SU Clinics

AF – I will circulate the dates scheduled in an email.

4) EY

LB – What is the plan?

FH – We haven't heard, will get back to you as soon as we hear.

5) IT Services

MDS – When are we meeting them?

FH – We will be meeting them before Exec next week - 5pm on Thursday, 2 October. The secretary will circulate a reminder!

Next Meeting: Thursday, 9 October at 6pm in the Union Boardroom.

End of meeting: 19:30pm

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