



YOUR UNION. YOUR VOICE.

UCD Students' Union Limited

Student Centre,
UCD, Belfield,
Dublin 4.

Tel +353 1 7163108
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**UCDSUL
Executive Meeting
2 October 2014**

Present:

Feargal Hynes (President) FH
Maeve De Say (Welfare & Equality Officer) MDS
Amy Fox (Undergraduate Education Officer) AF
Anabel Castañeda (Graduate Education Officer) AC
Padraig Curry (Ag & Vet Convenor) PC
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
Éanna Ó Braonáin (Oifigeach na Gaeilge) ÉÓB

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

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.

514900

Questions on Reports

Education

ÉÓB – There were a lot of problems with Blackboard over the past week, do you know why?

AF – There was an external outage from Blackboard itself, it was nothing to do with UCD and during this it reprogrammed itself.

CR – To make sure the message is spread maybe we should suggest that an email, as well as a notice should be sent to students as many people were not aware of what was happening.

FH – That is a very good point, and a perfect example of information which the IT Services have asked for us to provide. They sent apologies a little earlier today and they were not able to meet but we will reschedule.

Welfare

MB – What were you doing in relation to maternity leave?

MDS – At the minute, no policy exists surrounding the issue of maternity leave for students in UCD. Getting a proposal as substantial as this one passed is something that will take a long time to get fully reviewed. After this goes to the health services I will bring it back to Exec to update you all.

Items to be Discussed

1) Welcome Pdraig Curry, the new Ag & Vet Convenor to Exec

A short run-through of what procedures there are for the Union Executive this year took place

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2) Class Rep Training

FH – Meeting in the Atrium at 3pm on Friday, 4 October for the training weekend. A very strong training is essential for a good year. We need to ensure that the new class reps get the most out of the weekend.

3) EY Ambassadors

FH – This is a sponsorship deal which allows us to make the most of our year. Everyone is allocated little jobs and they are mostly spread very evenly. At the minute, EY are looking for Campus Brand Ambassadors so please let any of your friends know about this!

DME – How do we get details on the application process?

FH – Once I hear more information I will circulate it.

4) Programme Board Reps

FH – All of you should be automatically elected onto your relevant programme boards and you should be contacted about the meetings through your UCD Connect email addresses normally.

CB – I have already been asked by the programme board to elect four more representatives for the programme boards. How do I go about this?

FH – The best thing would be to ask all of your reps during your first college council who was interested and then elect the representatives for programme board from there.

5) UUPB and UGPB

FH – These are both undergraduate and graduate boards which are above the ordinary faculty programme boards.

AF – These boards present to the University Management Team.

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FH – The UUPB is made up of college principles, and currently both Amy (Education) and I hold a seat on it. All convenors are eligible for the seat on UUPB.

AF – If you are interested please let me know by tomorrow.

AC – The meeting usually takes place from 9:30am – 11:30am on Wednesdays.

FH – It is great if you'd like to take up the seat, it is very worthwhile to sit on but it brings a lot of responsibility and commitment.

6) Officer Elections

FH – We will circulate the positions of the campaign forum which will be elected at the first council.

CR – How would someone nominate themselves?

FH – The returning officer will be taking nominations, these could be emailed or given to the returning officer or his staff before council. We will raise standing orders and the election will take place.

ÉÓB – Who will be chairing the meetings this year?

FH – My nominations need to be ratified at council but I have chosen Stephen Whelan as the Council Chair and Rachel Breslin as the deputy.

7) March for Education

FH – We have been offered the opportunity to join the march for education organised by USI on Wednesday, 8 October. The march aims to promote all of the aspects of education and their values, especially of education outside the stereotypical academic framework. Your stance on USI should not influence your vote, it is not mandatory for us to work with USI but the President of USI is keen to work with us. It is open for discussion but please remember if we vote in favour we need to mobilise a crowd!

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LB – How does attendance look if there is a Facebook event?

FH – Unsure of numbers as of yet!

CR – Would attending the march cost us money?

FH – We would need to pay buses at least.

DME – I think this could dilute the power and reactions which a march might bring about.

FH – This year we will be focusing on the marriage equality march.

LB – I think this march may be too vague and it is very short notice to mobilise a group of students.

MOD – If we don't understand why we are marching, how would we expect students too and promote it to them?

Vote: All in favour of marching with USI?

A unanimous decision voted against working with USI.

8) Review of Class Rep Elections

FH – Our last day of recruitment was exceptional, thank you all for that extra push! I have been informed that there were more contested elections this year than there have been for a while.

AC – Voter turnout was good with about 2,000 votes cast in total.

CR – Why did voting take place on Wednesday? I found that nobody was around.

FH – From experience it would be thought that the majority of students would be in college on Wednesdays.

CB – It was a busy week where academics were concerned so I found it tough to push people to get out and vote. Would it be possible to pair class rep elections with Mind, Body and Soul in the future?

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FH – It would be worth looking into switching the two weeks around.

DME – I found that class rep training was too short notice for a lot of reps.

CR – Would there be any way to reduce queues at the polling stations? It was difficult to entice people to vote when there were queues.

FH – To hire more staff to do this would make elections very expensive.

LB – Would it be possible to look into online voting again?

FH – It would be too complicated to hold class rep elections online and although it would be easier to hold exec elections online, it is forbidden in the constitution as it is too easy to fix.

CR – Could nominations be done online?

FH – The point is that nobody could prove that the online system would be un-hackable as it were.

LB – All of this material would be very beneficial to next year's team so a report should be done.

Items to be Noted

1) SU Clinics

FH – The dates of clinics are very important to keep track of.

AF – I will circulate these dates and I know Cian (Eng & Arch) asked for a brief description. Basically we set up a stand in a faculty and provide open hours for students to come and have a chat and learn some more information.

CB – So it's similar to working in either the orientation or fresher's tent?

FH – Yes, I found that a pull out guide/calendar is a good start to conversation.

ÉÓB – As I don't have a building I can float so please let me know if I can help!

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Any Other Business

1) Council Report Format

FH – For first council please try to have your reports in by 3pm tomorrow afternoon so that they can be circulated in time for Monday!

2) Welfare Office Hours

FH – From here on in please be aware that the welfare office is only open for personal cases generally between specific hours as it can get very intense.

LB – Could students email to arrange a meeting?

FH – Yes they can book appointments this way.

3) Section 50

FH – We are still trying to push this through and I met with the Super Junior Minister earlier today to discuss it. I will keep you all updated on any movements.

4) Governance

FH – Governing Authority took place this morning, we met the new chair of FRAMC which is arguably the most important board in the University. Unfortunately the SU lost a seat last year due to a few factors and I am trying to negotiate with the college to regain it.

5) Fees paid by 30th

CR – Is there any way to change it so that students who have yet to pay their full fees will be allowed to access the library but not take books out?

FH – Work will be done to try and help students who are genuinely trying to pay their fees.

AF – In cases where students are waiting on SUSI an extension until October 16th has been given. We are working on this case by case.

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CR – How long would the average case last?

AF – It could be anything from an hour or two to three days usually.

6) Postgrad Mixer

AC – I am hosting a postgrad mixer next Tuesday evening and would appreciate if you could help me flyer for this event! Thank you to all those who made postering this morning!

7) Night at the Dogs

ÉÓB – Just to highlight that I am organising a night at the dogs with the help of An Cumann and C&E, of course you are all welcome.

Next Meeting: Thursday, 9 October at 5:30pm in the Union Boardroom.

End of Meeting: 7:40pm

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