



YOUR UNION. YOUR VOICE.

UCD Students' Union Limited

Student Centre,
UCD, Belfield,
Dublin 4.

Tel +353 1 7163108
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UCDSU
Executive Meeting 2
10th September 2015

Present:

MO'H: Marcus O'Halloran (President)
DC: Dannii Curtis (Education Officer)
HB: Hazel Beattie (Graduate Officer)
CO'C: Clare O'Connor (Welfare Officer)
RO: Ryan Oakes (Business & Law College Officer)
CG: Catherine Galvin (Engineering & Architecture College Officer)
CV: Conor Viscardi (Arts & Human Sciences College Officer)
LK: Lexi Kilmartin (Arts & Human Sciences College Officer)
SO'D: Seán O'Doherty (Science College Officer)
AD: Alison Dowley (Agriculture & Veterinary College Officer)
RH: Rebecca Hart (Health Sciences College Officer)
DÓC: Dónal Ó Catháin (Oifigeach na Gaeilge)

Also in attendance:

Paul Dockery (Secretary UCDSU Council)

Meeting starts at 18:07



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Items to be discussed:

1. Executive Meetings:

MO'H: Apologies for Exec not being on last week, it was a hectic week. Exec will generally meet three Thursdays per month from now on, possibly every Thursday in a busy month.

RO: Will it always be at this time?

MO'H: Yes, always at 6pm unless we give notice to say otherwise.

2. Orientation Week:

MO'H: The week was a great success, thanks to all who helped out in the tent and at the breakfast. It created a great buzz about the Union and we'll build on this going forward. We appreciate that most of you have society commitments too, but we also need your help and support during the year. We encourage you all to be involved, but please try to balance society and Union commitments throughout the year.

3. Freshers' Week:

MO'H: We'll need people out and about in the Freshers' Tent and around campus to encourage students to run for Class Rep, promote Dear First Year Me, etc. We need to get the message of the Union out to people.

4. Grads Connect:

HB: Grad Connect is taking place next Tuesday 15th from 5pm to 7pm and I'll need a lot of help recruiting Graduate Class Reps. It's taking place in the O'Brien Science Centre then moving to the Clubhouse for a social evening afterwards. We have poor links with grad students, and without encouraging involvement with the Union, my position could be in doubt in years to come. There are approximately 9,000 grad students in UCD. We need to do more to represent



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them and include them in our Union.

RH: Is there a Facebook page for this event?

HB: This event is organised by Grads Connect, so it has been emailed out to all grad students.

HB: Also, if anyone needs advice on grad-specific questions or problems, feel free to direct them to me. I understand that you are College Officers, but you are all undergraduates, so it is not expected that you have full knowledge of postgrad courses. I'm happy to help answer these questions.

MO'H: It is important to get out there during Freshers' Week. We have a big year planned and want you all to be at the centre of it. Each member of Exec is equally important, and Class Reps more important as these are the people that will be your link to every student and every class. There is an "unapproachable clique" image about the Union, but we're all from different backgrounds and all add our own element to the diversity of the Union, so it is vital to send this strong message out. Can everyone send the times they are available to Cian, so we can arrange a rota for promoting the SU?

5. Freshers' Ball:

MO'H: We will need you all to help from 8:30pm to 11:30pm, then you are free to enjoy the night. Four people will be needed from 1:30am to 2:30am to help with the cleaning if any of you can spare a few hours.

6. Culture Fair:

DC: Myself and Hazel are organising a Culture Fair on October 14th to help integrate Erasmus and international students into our Union and into UCD life. We'll also have info stands and talks on studying abroad, like a Higher Options-style event for studying abroad. There'll also be music, dance and a sushi workshop and we're in touch with Erasmus Students' Network and International Students' Society to get behind it.

HB: There's also a day trip to Glendalough that Saturday for any postgrads interested.

LK: Where is this taking place?

DC: In the Student Centre Atrium.

7. Student Services:

MO'H: Last year's sabbatical team put together a plan that would allow the Graduate, Education and Welfare Officers to focus on their roles. These positions have been inundated over the last few years and this has taken away from their advisory and supportive functions. They looked around for solutions and noticed that both DCU and QUB have introduced a Students' Union Advice Centre, the aim of which was to employ student advisors that would act as a support to education and welfare issues. This enables the sabbatical officers to get out on the ground and make themselves known to the students – something we have been missing the last few years. We highlighted this to the College and they have hired two student advisors that will be based in The Trap area just outside. It is still in the planning stages but we are hopeful it will be open soon.

LK: Is The Trap not an open space for dealing with confidential and private cases?

MO'H: The area will be redeveloped into offices. The Higher Education Authority overspend fund is controlled by Dominic O'Keefe (Director of Student Services) and I. We have paid for the redevelopment of the area, as it is an invaluable asset to the SU and the Student Centre. The College will cover the cost of employing the Student Advisors in return.

CO'C: This is a really exciting and valuable prospect for everyone in UCD.

8. Charity Week:

MO'H: Myself and Cian will be meeting with societies over the next few weeks to discuss a Charity Week in Week 1 of Semester 2. This will bring societies together to raise money for an array of charities. This week will bring huge numbers of students together for a great cause and will also bring societies together. Money raised by each society will go to a charity of their choice.

CG: How will this money be split? Will bigger societies have to split funds raised with smaller societies?

MO'H: No, whatever each society raises is theirs to donate to their chosen charity. This will encourage societies to think creatively.

LK: In that case, how does this bring people together?

MO'H: If societies decide to collaborate, they can choose one charity, or split

funds evenly.

RO: Will this not just deter societies from working together?

DC: The position of Societies Coordinator can be used to promote this event, and used to encourage working relationships between societies and the Union. We should look into filling this position.

LK: Can they be a Union member already?

DC: They can't be a member of Exec, but they can sit on a society committee.

MO'H: This position has real potential. An ideal candidate should have a proven work ethic in society life and be eager to work on events like this.

CB: I have someone in mind for the role.

9. Book Sale:

DC: The book sale had to be cancelled today (Thursday) due to lack of numbers/response from people. Can everyone please let me know when they are/are not available as it is hard to run these events without your support.

RO: Again, we need more clarity on the hours and times we are needed to help out.

10. Postering:

MO'H: We missed a chance today, World Suicide Day, to get people to connect with their Union on welfare issues. This should not have happened and we will set up a rota from now on so people know when they are expected to be in. Postering will take place next.

11. Class Rep guides:

SO'D: Could we work on a guide for potential class rep candidates, based on our own experience, that would highlight the benefits of being a class rep in a more personal way? Most of us served as class reps, so we know the real benefits of this and should pass the knowledge on.

DC & HB: Yes, this is a great idea. We'll work with Ger on designing them.

12. Campaigns & Communications report:

CB: Apologies for not having my report circulated earlier. You have all seen me



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out and about meeting people this week, which is where most of my work was done. I promoted Freshers' Ball, running for Class Rep and the Union in general. For next week, I will be promoting Mind, Body & Soul, working at Grads Connect and in the Freshers' Tent encouraging people to run for class rep.

13. Class Rep nominations:

LK: Will we have a list available to see where we need to recruit class rep candidates?

CB: Yes, closer to the nominations deadline. I will let you all know what classes/faculties have no candidates and need better promotion.

Items to note:

1. Accommodation:

MO'H: This was what I spent most of the summer on and met with Minister Alan Kelly (Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government) recently. The USI were given approximately €30,000 to promote their rent a room scheme. We expect to be given a figure in the region of €5,000 - €6,000 to promote our equivalent scheme. This is a huge boost, as USI represent a lot more students than we do.

Minister Kelly is also requesting a meeting with President Deeks, to actively discourage and oppose any further increases to rent prices on campus. There will be a flat rate or 2% for the foreseeable future, which is well within reason. He also gave his support to increasing the number of rooms on campus over the next five years by 1,200.

We also recommended the reintroduction of tax incentives for developers and the university. Minister Kelly will make a proposal on this matter before the Budget in October.

This is all “on the table” for now, but goes through many stages of processing. It is hard to promise anything, but we will hopefully be able to finish the year on a positive note in this sense.

2. Transport & parking:

MO'H: Parking Permits have been introduced for students (excluding campus residents). I requested a meeting with President Deeks but have yet to hear back from his office. We agreed with the College that the money from parking permits will be reinvested into funding the shuttle buses to Windy Arbour Luas stop and Sydney Parade Dart station. It has also been proposed that the University will cover the cost of exam shuttle buses to and from the RDS, which will save a huge amount each year for the Union. It has cost in the region of €15,000 - €18,000 over the last two or three years.

3. Mind, Body & Soul, Welfare Crew and Shag Week:

CO'C: Mind, Body & Soul is taking place in Week 3 and we need a big drive to promote it. The Welfare Crew will have its first meetings next Wednesday at 3 and all are welcome. Also, Shag Week will take place in Week 5. This will also need promotion. The Pharmacy in the student centre is currently selling STI home testing kits for €30, which is a great service for students. They are also kindly giving us 200 free kits for Shag Week.

4. Programme Boards:

DC: Programme Board meetings will be starting in the next few weeks. You will all hear from your respective colleges and I will communicate with you further before they commence.

RO: I have no modules in the Quinn School of Business, so I can't sit on the programme board there, despite being the College Officer. Can you advise me on this?

DC: There are some problems where a college officer has to deal with a few colleges or schools. We will work on rectifying this.

LK: Do we need to attend all Programme Board meetings?

DC: It is expected that you do, and you also need to be well prepared going into



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the meeting and have any issues you want to bring up in the meeting outlined beforehand. These meetings are a great chance to influence changes within your schools, so you should all make the best effort possible to contribute to them.

5. Business cards/staff discount:

CB: I have ordered business cards for all Exec officers. This will make it easy for students to get in contact with you if they need to. It'll also come in handy for class reps if they need to contact their College Officer for any reason. Also, all Exec members will now get staff discount in the three UCDSUCSL Shops on campus.

6. Diplo:

MO'H: Diplo is our next act and will be announced shortly. Diplo is one half of Major Laser and is a great live act. This event will be on October 12th in The Academy and we're expecting a sell-out. We will need your help on ticket sales.

7. University Observer:

MO'H: We've been working with the University Observer recently to get the Freshers' Magazine off the ground. This has worked well and we got a lot of sponsorship behind it. There are also looking for section editors if anyone is interested or knows anyone who would be.

Meeting ends: 19:03