



**YOUR UNION. YOUR VOICE.**

UCD Students' Union Limited

Student Centre,  
UCD, Belfield,  
Dublin 4.

**Tel** +353 1 7163108  
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**UCDSU  
Exec Meeting 3  
17/09/2015**

**Present:**

MO'H: Marcus O'Halloran (President)  
DC: Dannii Curtis (Education Officer)  
HB: Hazel Beattie (Graduate Officer)  
CB: Cian Byrne (Campaigns & Communications 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 18:15**



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## Items to discuss:

### 1. Mind, Body & Soul:

**MO'H:** MBS is taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday next week in The Quad. It's a great event and we're looking to build on last year's numbers. We'll need some volunteers each day to help out.

**HB:** Is there a plan/timetable for events each day?

**MO'H:** Cian has it and will forward it on to you all.

**CO'C:** We'll be launching it on Facebook on Sunday evening so can everyone be ready to share it and promote it then?

**RO:** Commerce & Economics Society should have some spare t-shirts and vests left over from Freshers' Week. I'll ask can we use them for tie dying.

### 2. Class Rep Recruitment:

**MO'H:** Class Rep forms are due in this Monday, we need a big push in every faculty.

**DC:** Encourage final year students to run too. They are often forgotten about, but these students have more experience with their school and have tend to have more knowledge and suggestions to offer.

### 3. Diplo:

**MO'H:** Diplo is almost sold out, which is a huge success. Thanks to all for helping with promotions.

**RO:** Are we needed to help out that night?

**CB:** This is an Ents event, so PK will be able to answer this. The Academy obviously employs its own staff, so I don't think we'll need help. You're all free to enjoy the night!

### 4. Domino's Ball:

**MO'H:** This is getting good traction on Facebook, but we need to translate this to actual ticket sales.



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**HB:** The tickets in the shops have already sold out.

**RO:** Can tickets be bought online?

**RH:** No, they're not available on the Ents app.

**AD:** Will we be working at that event?

**CO'C:** It's usually an Ents-run event, so I don't think you'll be needed.

**CB:** In general, we'll be trying to blend SU and Ents events together better in future so we may have a mix of Ents and SU officers working at these events.

## 5. Windy Arbour Shuttle Bus:

**MO'H:** This is something we pushed really hard for, and don't want to lose. Numbers have been poor so far and the trial period ends in two weeks, so we're going to need to publicise this service in order to retain it.

**CO'C:** Where does it go from on campus and at what time?

**MO'H:** This info is listed [here](#). I think this is a valuable service that would be used if it's publicised better.

## 6. Give an Hour, Get an Hour:

**CB:** This initiative was set up to combat loneliness and isolation in elderly people. It's a great way to help elderly people and get to know them. Loneliness has a huge negative effect on elderly people and this would be a great scheme for us to get behind. There'll be more information about this at Mind, Body & Soul next week.

## 7. Programme Board difficulties:

**DC:** There are some problems arising with Programme Boards and students who represent students in a certain faculty but are unable to sit on that board. For example, Ryan is unable to sit on the Quinn Programme Board because he doesn't study a business/commerce subject. We'll continue to work on solving this and in the coming weeks, we'll have class reps to sit on these boards.

## 8. Deputy College Officers:

**CG:** I'll be bringing this motion forward to Council in the hope to eradicate difficulties we have with certain Programme Boards. This will introduce a Deputy College Officer, picked by each College Officer, who can sit on these boards. This would help me with Architecture, Ryan with Business, Alison with Food Science and Veterinary, etc.

**RO:** I think this should be part of a larger move to redraw the College Officer constituencies, or else bringing these Deputy College Officers to Exec meetings. They will be doing just as much work as us, so they deserve the chance to sit on Exec.

**DC:** We may have to bring this to Council, so we can continue the discussion between now and the first meeting of Council.

#### 9. UCDSU Bookfund:

**DC:** We're launching a UCDSU Bookfund to help students cover the cost of books and course materials. We want to keep this open to as many students as possible, so we can offer up to €40 per student. If you know of anyone who is in financial difficulty struggling to pay for essential books, please refer them to this. It's available at:

<http://www.ucdsu.ie/canwehelp/money/bookfund/> .

#### 10. Sexual Assault Campaign:

**HB:** We'll be running a sexual assault prevention campaign over the coming months. It will be launched by Louise O'Neill, author of "Asking for It" and we'll be setting up focus/steering groups with different organisations and people who handle sexual assault cases. From this, we'll launch our campaign.

The campaign will be broadly similar to Dear First Year Me, in that it will look to students for anonymous personal stories. Obviously these are very personal and sensitive cases, so we'll also be giving you all advice and support on how to deal with these cases if someone comes forward to you looking for guidance. We'll look for anonymous submissions and then we'll publish some of these.

We'll also be running consent workshops and poster to spread the message. The end goal is the message that a victim of sexual assault is "Not asking for it."

**LK:** Will this be run in conjunction with SHAG Week?

**HB:** No, this will be a separate, long term campaign. No dates have been finalised for a launch yet but we'll keep you all posted on this.

I'll be working with the steering committee on an online survey to be conducted in semester 2 that will look for students' experience of sexual harassment and assault. Previous surveys on sexual assault were less confidential and not conducted appropriately, so we'll be making a huge effort with this one.

**RO:** Will there be any outside help on this?

**HB:** Yes – it will be run with the help of Rape Crisis Network Ireland, academics, the Director of National Women's Council of Ireland, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, One in Four, and a UCD lecturer who is one of Ireland's most prominent researchers on sexual assault. We have a huge group behind this campaign because we want it to have maximum effect on a university management level.



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**DC:** We'll also have a working group on violence in the workplace with Maeve O'Rourke. Maeve was one of the key figures behind a UN investigation into the Magdalene Laundries and when we met with her we noticed there will be an overlap in our surveys. We may use the findings of this survey to compile a report to CEDAW (UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).

**LK:** Is this going to run early or late in semester 2?

**HB:** It will take a few months to collect submissions and data, so we'll be starting early in the semester in order to publish our result before the end of the year. We'll be looking to Union Council and academic staff to encourage students to respond to the survey.

**MO'H:** The campaign will highlight the lack of support services available to victims of sexual assault. There is no clear policy in UCD on sexual assault which is upsetting.

**HB:** We'll be looking to the University Management Team to implement a top-down approach to this campaign.

**RO:** Will the campaign be more proactive or reactive?

**HB:** Hopefully both, as we have no counselling staff have specialised training in sexual assault. Long term, we'll be looking for this training to be provided to counselling staff and advisers.

## **11. Lack of openness regarding sexual orientation:**

**CG:** I think we should make a huge push to make people feel more comfortable about being open with their sexuality across campus. It's a huge shame that some students have to pretend to be someone they're not, just to fit in with the status quo. I've had to do it in my faculty and I'm sure other people have too. I don't want to have to hide who I am, and there is huge potential for beanbag sessions and joint events with LGBTQ+ Society in each building so that people are more open about their sexual orientation and aren't afraid to hide who they are.

**All:** Great idea – we're all happy to help and get involved with this.

**MO'H:** There is a huge problem with the perception of being outside the status quo. People fear being open about this because of what people will think of them. People's attitudes are changing, but not fast enough. We need to be drivers behind making people feel comfortable with this and eradicate any underlying or pre-existing perceptions people have.

**RO:** I know plenty of people in sports clubs who are LGBTQ+, I think it would be good to get the sports clubs involved in this as there can often be a stereotype connected with certain



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sports. Changing attitudes here would be a huge in this campaign.

**Items to note:**

**1. Culture Fair:**

**DC:** We were talking to the International Office and they are very supportive of this event. They used to run a similar Cultural Diversity Week and are going to put a lot of emphasis on our event next month. We're also still meeting with ISS, ESN and other cultural and international societies on how they can get involved. We'll keep you informed on progress before we launch the event.

**2. Postering:**

**CB:** Postering will be on again next week. Thanks to all who came out today!

**3. Feedback:**

**HB:** Grads Connect and Freshers' Ball all went well and Freshers' Week is going well so far. Well done and thanks to all involved!

**4. Lunchtime Rave:**

**CO'C:** The Sleepyhead Rave was a huge success this morning. To boost numbers, there will be one held at lunchtime next Wednesday afternoon. We hope to see you all there.

**Meeting ends: 19:25**