

UCDSU Exec meeting number 2
Student Services Boardroom
Thursday September 21st 7 PM

Meeting starts: 7PM

In Attendance:

Katie Ascough (Chair) – UCDSU President [KA]
Robert Sweeney (Acting Secretary) – UCDSU Education Officer [RS]
Eoghan Mc Domhnaill – UCDSU Welfare Officer [EMD]
Niall Torris – UCDSU Graduate Officer [NT]
Barry Murphy - UCDSU Campaigns and Communication Officer [BM]
Breifne O Brien – UCDSU Agriculture and Vet Officer [BOB]
Rosaleen Al Johmani – UCDSU Arts and Human Sciences Officer [RA]
Criomhthann Morrison – UCDSU Arts and Human Sciences Officer [CM]
Ayrton Kelly – UCDSU Business and Law Officer [AK]
Luke Doyle – UCDSU Engineering and Architecture Officer [LD]
Aoibhs Nic Giolla Riogh – UCDSU Health Science Officer [AN]
Erin Crowley - UCDSU Irish Officer [EC]
Dylan Rodgers – UCDSU Science Officer [DR]

1. Updates from sabbatical team(reports circulated and taken as read)

a. President [KA]

- Report was taken as read
- Nothing to note
- Report passed

b. Education Officer [RS]

- Report Read
- Removal of computers serious issue
- This week has not been normal business due to winging it controversy.
- Report was passed

c. Welfare Officer [EMD]

Report taken as read

Student Cases noted

Report passed

d. Graduate Officer [NT]

- Report read
- Fresher's tent – most hours spent on fresher's tent.
- Graduates connect took place– Union Stand Successful, many reps recruited.
- Many thanks to Ger for redesigning the form. Class rep form has been very successful in recruiting. Attendance high with 750 attending
- Barbara Dooley – looking to change graduate orientation asks how to improve
- UMT Seg took place Niall – Well done to Rob for his report on resit & repeat.
- Orla Feeley – met with, director of innovation research and entrepreneurship.
- Meeting very encouraging . Postgraduate living expenses serious issue for graduates.
- Winging it has stopped work from taking place.
- [NT] Problem with winging – it is not a question of pro choice pro life. Leadership is a question here. Promise made to electorate of delegation. That was not the case once Katie entered.
- Matter in hand is that a falsity was given to the electorate. Good work has been done over summer. She has betrayed the electorate. Graduate officer states no confidence in President.
- Wider question now on can the student body still trust us.

Items for Noting for this week

- Quality assurance problems needing to be addressed in March 2017. HEA Guideline – Going into these. Cases settled and dealt with favorably but wider issue.
- What's in my head – Campaign, TCDSU and DITSU looking closely at the project to rule out in their own colleges.
- In Smurfit next week to recruit class reps. Working with Aryton on this.
- Will be establishing office hours in Smurfit soon.
- Thanks to Aryton for the hot desks in Quinn and Sutherland – Very committed and many thanks for going above and beyond.

[BOB]

Was Winging it – Proof read? – This should not be brought up here

[RS]

Worth directing to Barry in his report

Graduate Officer Report Passed

e. Campaigns and Communications Officer & Vice President [BM]

- Report read
- This week fresher's week – Aoibhs and Ayrton many thanks for setup.

Items for noting

- International fair 24th October – is being organized.
- Plan being made for March and wider campaigns with UCD 4 choice – met with them this evening.
- Poster making – to take place
- Winging it – many thanks to who distributed them.
- Winging it issue – caused reputational damage and people are angry
- Loss of faith. 1st years all they have seen of us. Need to fix this. Want to work towards this.
- Winging it - **What happened.**
- Firstly, there should have been an open discussion. With all members of exec having equal votes.
- Print deadline before Katie and I went away for annual leave.
- Certain items were changed, all officers had time to make these changes.
- On the day before deadline Katie was asked to look at the book several times.
- I did not request Katie to look at page 59 specifically. When seeing the page – Katie agreed to keep page.
- Due to the issue of it receding on social progress of the union from previous years. The winging it book was seen as way to get information for when you trip up. Abortion pills section was added this year. Viewpoint in mind if someone was going to do it. They would see this website and it would be safer.

Known to be illegal. Katie was apparently unaware it was illegal. Katie decided to leave the book and wanted a page about her class trip removed..

- Book arrived about 1 week and 3 days later.
- Question of legality was raised.
- Katie then later made decision to scrap the books and encouraged us to focus on rest of year.
- Richard Hammond gave legal advice to President. Despite requests from sabbatical officers, we were not included in this advice.
- A decision ensued around reputational damage and illegality. Consensus was to retain book and page 59.
- Abortion information act been there since 1995 no one has ever touched it. Consensus was agreed to leave it, due to the reputational damage.

Next day Rob raised hypothetical legal concerns for himself and staff around women on web section. To seek further advice on this he then contacted union lawyer who then refused to talk to him.

Eoghan was not present at this discussion. A meeting was held with remaining sabbatical officers. Decision made if abortion on Web was taken out need for reprint. If the book had not been reprinted, the sponsorship money would have needed to be refunded. This would cause issue in the future with these sponsors and further cause reputational damage.

I fought for the book to be reprinted.

Katie then decided as President to remove price list due to legal concerns, sabbatical officer rejected this and Katie made an executive decision to pull the the abortion information. Initial decision around individual liability was that College officers were to be warned.

After over 2 hours argument with Katie, officers decided to walk out of the meeting. Reason for this walk out was that all Sabbat's advice had been given to protect Katie and the union and the role of the president. Katie would not take this on board.

[BM] After this, I then presented informative info to Katie that was legal. Katie refused to take this information on board. Katie decided to redraft the page.

[KA] This redraft was done with union staff not alone.

[RS] These Staff are employed by you as President and answer to you?

[KA] Yes, these staff are employed by UCDSU

[BM] This followed by a re-print. Which were the books we gave out this week.

[BM] Katie still refused to hand out a book

[KA] I have not given out a book

[BM] Katie then requested negotiation around the UCD for choice stand and recruiting of pro-choice class reps.

[BM] I have no confidence in you and this has betrayed the electorate.

[KA] Request to respond.

[KA] I could not delegate a legal issue. Sorry to Barry for not more inclusion. Book was changed from here's info to then showing students how to get info. Union lawyer was consulted; this lawyer specializes in the Students Unions.

[KA] distributes legal advice from the lawyer.

Katie refers to legal information.

[KA] I brought this to board of directors – who agreed with decision to follow legal advice.

[KA] – I will be delegating the issue, this was not a moral issue, this was a legal matter.

[NT] – Notes she promised to delegate it. You said this was well researched. People voted on this. You did not well research this. Whether this was done in ignorance or cynicism is not the issue. You present a falsity to the electorate.

[BM] – thanks for the legal advice, little too late.

[RS]– Why not give out this legal information earlier.

[BM] – SU did this before, accepting a fine of 40 thousand pounds. We've dispersed condoms when it was illegal. Student Activists network is what we are. No following of the mandate. Due to a pro-life president.

[KA] 4000 per conviction. Criminal conviction. Fine was to an individual

[BM] –Asks exec to acknowledge the resignation of David Shannah Burns and the time he gave and very sad of this resignation

[BM] Plan for the week.

- Please help with dominos ball, request for help.
- Holly Dignam to discuss the content of UCD in the Community Module
- Meeting Society auditors –
- March for education – working with Rob. Really, want support on this.
- March for repeal – anger will hopefully increase turnout.

Report Passes

2. College Officers

A. Agriculture & Veterinary [BOB] Report

- Request update on building tour video from Ayrton?
- [AK] – I will address this in my report
- Sincere apologizes for missing the last meeting.

- Thanks to all who worked at the stand.
- Café en Seine – Brilliant
- Still trying to do up report on AG common room.

B. Arts and Human Sciences [CM] states report to be taken as read.

Film Soc – in touch with to clear up video.

C. Arts and Human Sciences. – [RA]

- Report taken as read.
- Would like to note Ball Masquerave to take place on 25th of October.
- Wednesday dress up competition.
- To be noted – Conference On Inclusiveness and solidarity meeting to take place next Friday to discuss the UCD wide event. More Societies to add after fresher's week.
- Many thanks to Eoghan for his help on this.

Report passed

D. College of Business and law college officer [AK]

- Report taken as read.
- Class rep pop up stand very successful.
- Would like to note will not be in fresher's week due to time given to pop up stand

- Student Advisers – Quinn Sutherland.
- Class Rep – Accept form myself. Will leave in to office.
- AK to Breifne – I choose to not get involved in video. After I did lot of work in August on it. At this stage the costs outweigh the benefits.
- It is regrettable that it didn't take place.

E. College officer report for Engineering & Architecture [LK]

- Apologies for not making last week, very sick.
- Organising – Arch vs Eng boxing event.
- Ag VS Science boxing event will also take place.
- Request that college officer be kept informed on major issues like winging it in the future.

F. Health Science [AM]

- Report taken as read.
 - Handing out winging it books.
 - IX grades forms – Anna Scully - to be passed through Jason Last.
 - Did feel uncomfortable wearing SU hoodie and Brand. Due to winging it.
 - NT - will help you lecture address if needed.
 - Aoibhs also annoyed at lack of information.
 - Report passed
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- G. Oifigeach Gaeilge
 - Apologies for not being there.
 - Needed to be on Oifigeach na Gaeilge stand.

- Getting a committee from teach na gaeilge
- BM – Many thanks for help on fresher's ball.

Science – Report to be taken

Why does the SU not run a book sale book sale.

[RS] A UCDSU Book exchange FB group is used instead.

Points to be raised.

Motion – Want to allow to bring a vote – to allow Barry to promote pro choice reps. As this is his job. **Motion Passed [RA]**

To allow all future pro-choice discussion with Katie to be minuted – All Sabbat meeting even one on one – All of EXEC– Anyone who is present should also be noted in these meetings. To be available only to EXEC. Preference for Barry to take minutes and for Fiona to be there. Google doc to be kept accessible to all of EXEC. - **Motion Passed**

College Officers are to be kept informed by all sabbats which affects college officers and all major decisions. – **Motion Passed**

To ensure the Lawyer is to be accessible to Barry and any staff member specifically with pro choice matters. There is to be a written response from the lawyer on this presented at the next meeting of exec. – **Motion passed**

[RA] - When a pro-choice issue is being discussed it should be with Barry and a Staff member. **Motion Passed**

2 more points. – Would like to commend David on everything he has done and all that he has helped with; whether it be with the class reps, any of exec and myself specifically Big respect and appreciation. Hope for his success. Aoibhs

would like to add this.[RA] Especially his enthusiasm. Brought a great amount of work.[AM]

RA - On Behalf of the college officers and I we want to state that we weren't informed on what happened with the winging it book until it was too late, we had no input before the decision was made, nor were asked. We don't want this to happen again, as we have also been elected and are dedicating time to this organisation and are being affected by its decisions too. We'd also like to state our disappointment in Katie, as she has gone against everyone in the student's union, as well as the 1988 mandate which as a result has not represented her executive council, nor has it the student body. We have lost our trust in katie as president.

RA: Myself and Aoibhs would also like to turn everyone's attention to the Regulation of Information (Services Outside the State for Termination of Pregnancies) Act, 1995

3.—(1) (a) Subject to *paragraph (b)*, it shall not be lawful to publish or procure the publication of Act information—

.....

Unless—

....

(II) the information is truthful and objective and does not advocate or promote, and is not accompanied by any advocacy or promotion of, the termination of pregnancy.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to publication, or the procuring of publication, to which section 4 applies.

Section 4: —It shall not be lawful—

(a) to display a notice (including an advertisement) containing Act information in or at a place to which the public have access whether upon payment or free of charge, or

(b) to distribute without solicitation by the recipients a book, newspaper, journal, magazine, leaflet or pamphlet, or any other document, or a film or a recording (whether of sound or images or both), containing Act information.

This can be argued that the book would have been legal if we had added a warning of the contents of the book at the cover of the book and/or the actual page. Therefore, if a person chooses to open the page; they are soliciting

abortion information. If we were to have taken out any text promoting the information, or advocating and kept it truthful and objective; we see no reason for us to be prosecuted against. Either way, we would have wanted the information to be kept.

I'd also like to state that I am not a lawyer, that this is just something to note and to look further on as we had no access to a lawyer. This could have been mentioned if we were given the voice we were elected to have for our students and contributed to 'delegating' the issue. [RA]

[RA] – Motion - We must stick together. We hold a diversity of opinions and can come back from this. SU has done amazing work.

AOB –

Like to think this was noted –

[RS] A meeting has taken place at which confidence in Katie as President was discussed –3 out of 4 officers stated no confidence in President.

College Officers want to be included in all information that led to the decision this to be discussed further in the next Exec. [RA]