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Agenda:

UCDSU Council Meeting 6

Monday, 4 March 2024, 6pm

Venue – Fitzgerald / Hybrid upon request

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ssp-srob-dkx>

A. The declaration of a quorum by roll call

The Chair declared that quorum had been met.

B. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were passed.

C. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

D. Estates AV Design - GUEST

Deferred until the next meeting.

E. Relay for Life - GUEST

A presentation was given to Council on how the Relay for Life works. Relay for Life is the biggest cancer fundraising initiative across the world. It sees communities across the globe coming together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and stand shoulder to shoulder with those facing cancer. Relay For Life is a celebration of solidarity and helps to raise awareness of the services provided by the Irish Cancer Society locally and nationally.

F. Items for Approval

None.

G. Motions on notice

- a. Introduction of reports in relation to work done on motions within the policy book by the relevant positions to each policy - Shauna Young**

The motion was proposed.



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President (MnR) spoke to the motion and broadly agreed with it, but suggested that it might be preferable to ask for such reports to be produced once per term. The proposer decided to proceed with the motion as stated. C&E Officer (MB) proposed slight technical change so that in the 'Council Mandates' section, the word 'attached' be replaced with 'added'.

The motion was put to a vote and was clearly carried.

b. Monitoring the system due to replace direct provision - C&E Officer

C&E Officer read aloud and proposed the motion. A question was asked by the Business College Officer about what work was done on the motion on the same topic, which is due to expire. The Chair ruled that this needs to be dealt with as a question. Speakers were heard for, against, and to the motion. Blessed Fonkoh asked for a technical change to reflect that the people can and do remain in Direct Provision for 7 years or more, and not up to 7 years.

The motion was put to a vote and was clearly carried.

H. Deferred Motion - Smurfit Integration - Simon (see council drive 5)

Proposed by Business College Officer. Health Science College Officer (TC) proposed an amendment that would remove the mandate from the Business CO. This was accepted by the proposer.

The motion was put to a vote and was clearly carried.





I. Items for Discussion

a. UCD Ents social media presence - Neo

ENTS Officer (NOH) asked for Council's view on whether UCDSU Ents should have its own social media accounts, distinct from the main SU accounts.

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This had been done in the past. Eng & Arch CO (CM) said he was sceptical about splitting it again based on impact and adding to workload for staff and sabbatical officers. Non-Alcoholic ENTS Officer (SY) said she was in favour, as did Science MSc Rep (RY). Science Stage 1 Rep (AK) also felt that it would boost people's awareness of ongoing events.

Int. Students Coordinator (SK) asked how one could distinguish between what should be on each page; and that this might end up being divisive. Education Officer (SMcG) said that UCDSU is a union first and foremost, that other strands don't get their own page. She added that all of the aspects of the Union are supposed to come together.

Politics & IR Rep (WE) argued that this might help solve some engagement issues that the SU has been having. Graduate Officer (MM) argued that it being a separate thing could be beneficial. TC said there is probably broader conversation about building more effective communications and marketing in the SU, and that a separate ENTS page isn't necessarily going to address this.

MnR paid testimony to the rise in engagement and effective online presence since the SU hired a person to work in social media full time. She also said that any existing or prevailing engagement issues would not be solved by creating Instagram pages. Disability Rights Campaign Coordinator (KMcC) said separating it would be helpful to be able to get the updates needed on protesting and non-ENTS information. A further suggestion came from the Creative and Cultural Industries Rep (AD) about maybe colour coordinating posts for different briefs might be an alternative, and that both sides have made good points. Classics; Archaeology; Art History Stage 1 Rep (JA) said that it was important to keep it all together. MH Campaigns Coordinator (CD) was not in favour, and said it would be likely that the same people would just follow both. BSc in Health & Performance Sc Stage 2 Rep (LS) asked whether such a page would promote Clubs and Societies events too.



C&E Officer (MB) said she would speak to the Comms Team about modifications, and echoed the point that UCDSU is a union first and foremost. She said that splitting out the 'fun' part of the union might be damaging.

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b. "Paid" part-time executive roles - Simran (Int. Students Coordinator)

SK spoke to the [document that she prepared](#). Hugh Dooley of the College Tribune was given permission to speak on this. Points made from the floor speculated over whether incentivisation would be impacted, and whether the SU finances as they currently are would be materially affected. A current College Officer suggested that the SU should first look to paying the shop staff a living wage first. CD asked could the university be lobbied so that College Officer roles could earn elective credits as a benefit for doing the role. MB said she agreed in principle, and that she did not agree that the SU finances would be a problem. More so, it would be about reallocation of resources. CM said there would be room there, that no payment does act as a barrier to people running, and that Council ought to reflect on how much of a role it wants to have in the setting of the budgets going forward. MnR said there are probably things that could be moved around, but that there are also wider issues such as employment status of College Officers (vis-a-vis the CLG) that also need to be considered.

c. What is the SU? - Simon

Business College Officer opened a discussion on a philosophical level, what the SU really is. Mainly, whether the SU has to represent all people equally, whether all views truly are welcome, and what the true role and purpose of the SU should be. RC suggested that the SU should do more student consultation before taking concrete action or positions on issues. One speaker pointed out that the nature of the Law Soc annual debate on what the SU is a debate forum that doesn't necessarily establish truth on a matter. BSc City Planning & Env Policy Stage 1 (SM) said the speech given was essentially code for saying the SU is a bunch of 'woke lefties', and that he strongly disagreed with its premise. He said that SUs can and should take clear opinions on things. MM defended the speech, saying that the SU needs to



be more open for other views, and that when other views aren't heard, they are pushed away. MnR said that different views are in fact heard within the Union and that just because the whole room doesn't agree or accept them, that doesn't mean that they haven't gotten the chance to be expressed, and that suggestions otherwise are disingenuous. JA queried how comfortable people who intend to say harmful things about particular groups of students should be made.

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J. The reports of each Executive Officer

College Officers

Erin Hoare - Science

Taken as read. The report was subsequently carried.

Aisling Moloney - Law

Aisling sent her apologies.

Louise Campbell - A&H

Louise sent her apologies.

Tsz Ching Pang - Social Science

Ching sent her apologies.

Tia Cullen - Health Sciences

Pushed the Health Science mixer and asked for help pushing the final tickets. Asked reps to come and talk to her about running to replace her in the elections.

Tia's report was put to a vote and subsequently carried.

Simon Van Beek - Business



Taken as read. The report was put to a vote and subsequently carried.

Sabbatical Officers

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Neo O’Herlihy - Entertainments Officer

Spoke to upcoming events and reflected that the sustainable fashion show had gone well.

His report was put to a vote and carried.

Jill Nelis - Welfare Officer

Spoke about work ongoing with the Green Paper on Disability Reform and ‘Re-SHAG’. Jill asked if reps could take note of the period product availability in bathroom, particularly if they are empty. CM asked if the budget for period products had all been spent. Jill said that it apparently has. Jill will prepare a submission for UMT SEG on this. Jill’s report was put to a vote and then carried.

Sarah McGrath - Welfare Officer

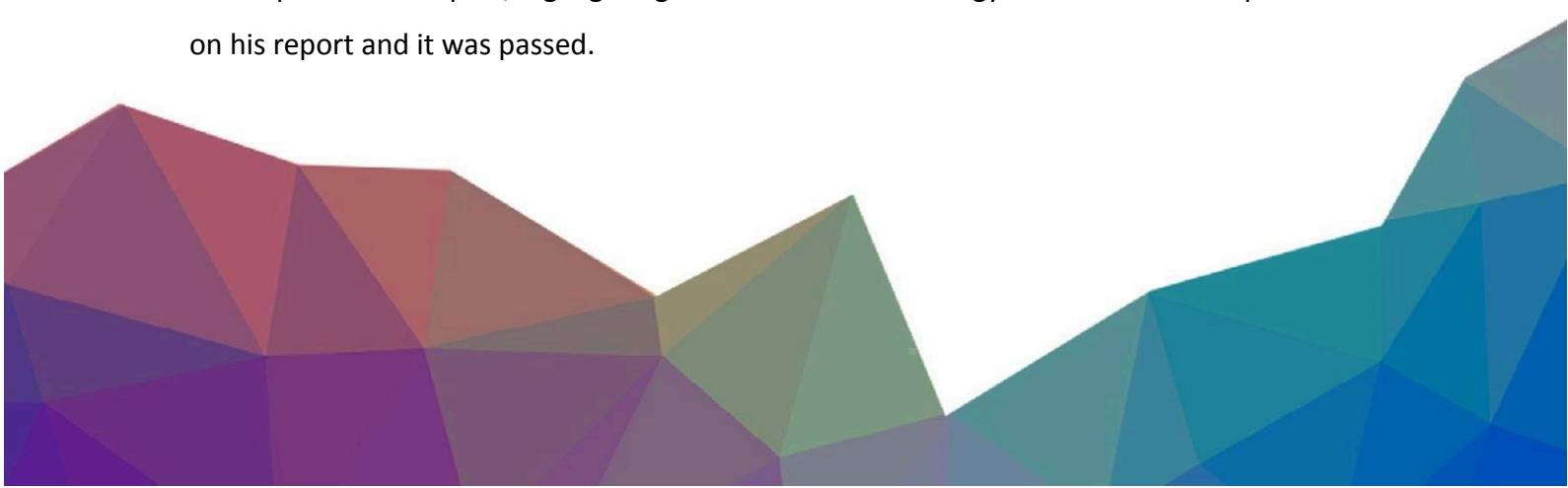
Spoke to her report, highlighting the work ongoing with the Coiste Gaeilge. Sarah’s report was put to a vote and carried.

Miranda Bauer - C&E Officer

Miranda outlined work ongoing with the elections, meetings that took place on Palestine and student accommodation, and preparation for an on-campus accommodation forum taking place tomorrow. There were no questions for Miranda. Her report was put to a vote and carried.

Marc Matouc - Graduate Officer

Mark spoke to his report, highlighting the win on the Smurfit gym. There were no questions on his report and it was passed.





Martha Ní Riada - President

Spoke to both this report and the one from the previous Council. She called on Council members to put themselves forward for the elections. Both reports were carried after being put to a vote.

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CC and Ents Forum reports to be taken at the next meeting.

K. Questions on notice

L. Questions not on notice

M. Motions not on notice

N. Items for noting

a. Nominations close - Friday 8 March at 17:00 sharp

Chair invited the Returning Officer (Darryl Horan) to address the meeting. He hosted a Q&A session on the election key dates and processes. Some questions were asked about the materials deadline.

O. Submission of motions to be on notice for next meeting

P. Any Other Business.

- a. MnR sought a straw poll on whether people would like to support a group focused on more grassroots-based approach to address issues like Higher Education funding. This is being set up as an initiative by the TCDSU President.

Next meeting - 25 March - Fitzgerald Chamber, Student Centre

Meeting concluded at 20:30

