



Time: 18:30

Date: 8th November 2021

Location: SU Office / Zoom Link <https://nuigalway-ie.zoom.us/j/97000274481>

Clár / Agenda:

- Officer updates
- Council Chairperson
- International Students' Day
- International Students Hardship Fund
- Irish Times Boycott
- AHEAD disability training
- AOB

Previous minutes approved by: Cora

Seconded by: Niamh

- Sai:
 - No issues
 - Clearance of bins in the engineering building, being taken care of and added to their schedule
 - Hub north – management said that they will have a room allocated at the end of this week or early next week, just organising last minute regulations
 - Suggested by Niamh to have a wellness room – management into that idea and hope to have it in the concourse, no confirmation yet
- Anne-Marie
 - Nothing to report
 - Mental Health on Monday with Mincéirs Whiden Society was good
 - Feminist Society been in contact to do an event highlighting discrimination amongst traveller women, linked in Mincéirs Society, looking to bring someone in from INWTS
 - Consent training was great
 - Diversity week – be nice to have a finale, part of a community organisation in Athenry that do stilt walking and drumming, linked it with other lady who works there, and they think it's a good idea
 - Walk and talk on Monday – 4 people showed up and it was very successful
- Cora
 - Mental Health Week – thanks to all who helped
 - Sex and mental health talk on Thursday was great
 - SHAG week is on the way
 - Sex toy bingo, vigil for domestic violence against women, Caroline West IBSA, asexual coffee morning



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- Woman reached out from a UTI company – doing a possible talk on that
- At home testing STI kits, Galway's been added to the places where that is available
- Going on a panel discussion with USI about the accommodation crisis in Galway
- Domestic abuse clinics will be starting this week
- Meeting about Covid vaccine equity across the world – linking in with UNICEF
- Question from Éimear – have you contacted anyone with Irish?
- Éimear will contact someone to do an event in Irish
- Niamh
 - DSS reached out to her – medical fee waivers, everything's down at the moment
 - Hump Day Hoolie – the 3 of us were talking until half 11.
 - 11 people at Halloween, 7 people for the one last week.
 - Thursday – first meeting with the Student's Advisory Group for Disabilities, very interesting issues surrounding accessibility across universities, power of disability, conference in January
 - Speak Out talk for the launch of the website, apart from the lack of captions
 - Apologies for absence at consent training
 - Filming for JAM card with the DSS
 - Putting together ideas for International Day of Disabilities
 - Socs getting involved – showcase their talents
 - Clubs filming themselves doing their sport wearing purple
 - ISL workshops through Zoom – rising cases
- Faye
 - Got in touch with Michelle Miller about putting period products in the O'Donoghue theatre
 - Safe sesh campaign – tiktok things being released recently about drug testing coasters
- Anita
 - Clinic – no one turned up
- Jack
 - Council just there
 - School of Medicine emailed people today saying if you get Covid during exams you have to defer
 - Nursing students were looking to get a microwave in Áras Moyola
 - Meeting with director of medical education to rename some of the lecture halls in the human biology building
 - Meeting on the undergraduate curriculum review board
- Sai – microwaves, engineering has bought 2 microwaves and weren't able to put them in because the Dean said not to, Michelle Millar didn't respond
- Jack – reason given, the ones at Smokeys are not in use and also quite far away from nursing buildings. Any time frame on microwaves in smokeys?
- Róisín – heard nothing, can try and contact people and find out the story
- Matthew
 - Meeting today for internationalisation in the college of science
 - Shazham gave his speech about global galway, an initiative to get more international students to have ambassadors in target countries
 - Mentioned lack of housing



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- Máirtín
 - Financial aid – PME funding is gone, dealing with students on that
 - Getting ready for this weeks council with Shane
 - A lot of students looking for laptop school scheme
 - LIFT has taken off in the last while
 - USI postgrad working group – speaking to Jenna
- Clodagh
 - Try get out to students about exam workshops
 - Exam timetables out this Thursday!!!
 - Students who have covid have to defer, have to wait until Autumn – could there be anything done to sit a repeat at a later date
 - Won't let them sit an exam remotely because of fairness – can't have one be open book
 - Let class reps know that if they are remote learning, because teaching 1st years are going to be on during exams
 - DSS – students who are remote learning due to health reasons, need their own room
 - Reading room hours extended, waiting an end of week response, if not maybe a protest
 - Open educational resources – an online book, students and lecturers collab to make content that relates to classwork
 - Café happening – send it on
- Niamh – question about the email that said we don't need to wait until August 2022
- Clodagh – must have been progression since the meeting this morning about it, want clarity about whether they can defer again until august, can bring it up at next exam regulations committee.
- Jack – so many other colleges did proctored exams, a student might have to defer could the college not set up some online proctoring? There aren't that many students that would miss exams due to covid
- Clodagh – tried to proctor exams last year and it didn't work
- Róisín – people were against it last year, have you heard otherwise?
- Jack – students were concerned about the integrity of their degree, proctoring could be another option
- Anne-Marie - Question about eligibility for the financial aid fund – does it make a difference if they have money in their account
- Róisín – unsure about international students applying for the financial aid fund, eligible for hardship fund in the event of the change of circumstance, case by case basis.
- Orlaith
 - Expected to get some email queries from Comhairle – didn't happen
 - 25 spots for pink training – 4th and 5th December
- Khrystian
 - Problems with modules
 - Questions about exams
 - Meeting with school manager for business
 - Lecturers are looking to know who class reps are if they're elected, will forward them on to her
 - Disappointment with EDI proposal for extenuating circumstances
 - Went into detail about procedure
 - Elected on EDI committee



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- Trying to get a weekly meeting with someone from Law
- Shane
 - Class rep stuff with postgrads
 - Clodagh can facilitate election
 - Heads of school kicking up a fuss, don't want to do the work, have to do election
- Róisín
 - Met with FemSoc
 - Met with Michelle Millar and Caroline Loughnane
 - Met with Active Consent
 - Filming with BBC Gaeilge + TG4
 - USI protest in Galway on the 24th about fees
 - National council is this Friday – SU autonomy task force
 - USI should be worried about our funding because it's now affecting Maynooth SU and NCAD SU
 - We're going to have to keep raising it
- Éimear
 - Working on language plan
 - Full-time Irish officers
 - Open to ideas
- Council Chair Discussion
 - Issues raised: Doing less work than previous unpaid part time chairs - should send links, circulate documents (class reps have been frustrated at comhairle agendas being buried deep within the weekly emails) Exec members say they haven't received agendas for any council, only hearing about agenda when he announces them, hard to prepare, leaves us vulnerable as an exec. Lack of Irish. Some inappropriate comments made. See how year progresses.
- Coffee morning for international students organised by Matthew - the coffee and pastries will be free in SULT, Wed 17th November. Matthew had queries about times – 10am- 12 is likely when it will be.
- Hardship fund for international students - the status is it is not available - has been in contact with the office and they seemed to be unaware despite them circulating the links - waiting for approval - who can be contacted re: the motion. Matthew wanted to run by the union whether or not the union agrees with hardship fund for intl students - he would argue it's the same pandemic and therefore it should be continued. Róisín points out that financial hardship fund promise by Simon Harris was flawed in implementation - where the money was coming from was contentious.
- Irish times boycott - in support of the trans writers union. Orlaith read out the motion, essentially mandating that the council should cease the sale of the IT on commercial services, ceasing interviews, and a severing of any relationship with the IT. **We voted in favor of the boycott of the Irish Times**, adopting the conditions of the trans writers union mandates. 1 abstention.
- AOB - Orlaith proposes a second motion. This motion amends the previous anti-extremism/fascism motion. Orlaith read out the motion, which mandates votes should be carried out to specifically highlight and decide on the organisations the motion applies to. It also mandates publishing of a public curated list. Kristyan asks what the original language was - Orlaith explains that the original list was 9c'd and should be reinstated. Niamh asked a question about potential backlash arising from naming organisations under Irish law - Róisín points out we already have a deplatforming policy that has a list in place which in effect is what this list will resemble meaning we should be fine. Orlaith points out this empowers the student body to



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decide what organisations it finds extremist and against the ethos of the union. It is also noted that there is no legal conditions to this proposal. Krystian asks if conditions breached is a better system that catches more individual organisations - there is a point of inefficiency. Orlaith points out the original motion already attaches conditions and this would just be a formal vote of individual bodies. Krystian points out that a breach of the conditions automatically makes an organisation unfavourable. Roisin defends the practice on the principle of asserting student will. Orlaith points out there will be a template that can be followed. Krystian maintains the condition-based system is more efficient - orlaith points out that the gray area necessitates individual votes on various organisations (with a preliminary list already in place). Clodagh asks if a working group should be assembled - orlaith notes that the motion already exists. Jack and Cora have to leave early - vote is called. **The motion passed.**

- AOB continued - Anita noticed there was a second campervan near the kingfisher and was wondering if this needs to be addressed. Roisin will follow up with buildings. Anita notes there have been more than one present for a bit.
- AOB continued - when is pink training is asked by Niamh. Roisin notes it is the 4th and 5th of December. Niamh asks because she does not want to double book given that international week of disabilities is also that week. Roisin says specific training times should be finalised soon.
- AOB continued - AnneMarie asks about the student ball. Needs to be confirmed still - Roisin says it is a dinner and a dance with full tickets / after-ticket options available. There should also be live music. The provisional date proposed is the 16th of December - SU ball is to replace the night of missed moments.

