



NUIGSU Exec Meeting Agenda

Date: 08 10 2020

Time: 17.00pm

Location: Zoom link

Agenda

- Welcome
- Team Check-in
- FOIs
- Repeat fees Údurás
- Student Q&A
- A.O.B.

Minutes

Present:

Padraic, Evan, Róisín, Emma, Maeve, Érin, Seb, Michelle, Patricia, Aoife, Kirsty, Claire

Apologies:

Máirtín was unable to attend due to a lecture occurring at the same time.

Minutes:

17:05

Meeting begins. President went through news from pop up. Topics that came up included

- Mask dispersion.
- Proposals on how we can adapt student behaviour on and off campus to adhere to social distancing.
- Buddy method implementation for first years discussed. Increasing concerns for student loneliness and mental health leading to mentoring walks being organised.
- Query regarding opening more interactive learning spaces for students on campus.
- Plea to get the Student Union Offices open.

17:09

Education Officer Emma gave a run down on current progress with education.

- Class rep system is up and running. Over 143 nominations many of whom are now currently elected.
- Details from meeting held with appeals committee given. Information regarding appeal numbers is being waited on.
- Issues from students regarding a severe lack of social interaction affecting current academic progress, also issues regarding timetables and queries around Semester One exam details.

17:11

Clubs Officer Kirsty spoke about the current state of restrictions regarding the clubs on campus.

- There is a huge demand expressed by club captains for training facilities to open.

- Only certain sports will be allowed to take place outdoor with groups of 15 or less permitted.

- If clubs wish to get back training, they must submit the required Covid paperwork by Friday if they wish to start back on Monday. Many clubs have already submitted this paperwork.

17:12

Claire the convenor of School of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies spoke about the emails being received in relation to course changes and subject swapping of first years.

- Expressed the negative insights from first years who are not finding the current state of learning interactive and effective

17:14

Welfare and Equality Officer Róisín brought up several topics of discussion regarding student's wellbeing.

- Large portion of student queries relating to accommodation refund requests. Corrib Village and Goldcrest have confirmed they are now in a position to offer refunds and will inform Róisín of any deadlines that will be put in place when it comes to students applying for such refunds. Menlo apartments are also committing to offering refunds.

- Large amount of complaints being sent about the security in accommodations.

Security entering students' bedrooms without necessary complaints or procedures allowing them to do so.

- Issues regarding sufficient access to buildings – lifts in particular for anyone with a disability in Cúirt na Coiribe.

- Issues also raised with the difficulty's students are having with applying for student aid. Problems are occurring with the link but it is now fixed.

On a positive side to the feedback.

- Up to 85 students signed up for the Welfare Crew and a meeting has already been held. At this meeting arrangements for various events to take place for students were discussed including Mental Health Week (to be held week beginning 16th November), SHAG Week (to be held in February) and Diversity Week (to be held in April). Events around Drug Safety Awareness are also being put in place by the crew for November.

- Next Thursday (15th) the Quad will be lit up pink and blue for Miscarriage Awareness.

- Róisín also completed HSE Mental Health First-Aid training over two days last week and encouraged people to sign up for it.

- Róisín also added in the chat function about the proposed 7k in funding for counselling services on shannon campus in particular a woman counsellor.

- Also in the chat function Róisín mentioned a meeting between herself, the GMITSU welfare officer and Galway West TDs will be taking place regarding accommodation refunds

- Sexual Health campaign “go fuck yourself” potentially planned for December

17:19

Evan the Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences spoke about the current progress regarding the School of Medicine.

- He gave feedback on orientation talks for first years which went brilliantly.
- He also spoke about the issue regarding placements being pushed back for International Students that may have to quarantine upon returning back to Ireland after Christmas. International students are concerned their placements won't be extended to accommodate the two week isolation time bracket they'll be forced to take some are choosing to stay in Ireland out of lack of certainty on this.

17:19

Maeve the Gender Equality and LGBT+ Rights Officer spoke about having a meeting with the T-Fund tomorrow and an inclusion walk being organised.

- Trans students are also looking to change their names on the University system.

17:23

Aoife the convenor of the College of Science and Engineering spoke about her orientation talks with first years.

- Also got into contact with the different schools regarding lab fees for students.

17:24

Sebastian the Postgraduate Research Officer gave an insight into the current issues with postgrad students.

- 300 signatures have been secured on the petition for postgrads ongoing around issues on fees and being employed.
- A working group on the matter is being organised with Michelle

17:25

Patricia the Disability Rights Officer spoke about her encounters with students to date.

- She expressed growing concerns for the mental health of first years and a need to keep an eye on their current situation,
- She spoke about her liaison with Sylvia with regards to the library opening hours and her thoughts on the severe lack of sanitation for students in the library.
- She has been contacting buildings about providing suitable access for students with disabilities around campus.
- Noted seeing seven students enter the Arts Millennium without facemasks and has been in touch with SIN regarding both this and the lack of sanitation available on campus.

17:29

Erin the Oifigeach na Gaeilge gave his updates.

- He expressed an interest in having postgrad students with Irish contact him with regards to his committee as there is a severe lack of representation in the Irish community of postgrad students and requested insight from Sebastian on this matter.
- The current survey about Irish language services dispersed to students has had over 100 responses so far.
- Expressed concern over the lack of drive from the University for the language and services, especially with us been a bilingual campus and is intent on having regular meetings to remedy this.

17:32

Michelle the Mature Students Officer opened up about liaising with the University over mask exemptions for students that need it.

- Possibility of a card being created for those students that can't wear a mask or a visor as a means of identification for genuine health reasons.
- Received 11 emails from mature students about mental health facilities and services and expressed concern that access would end up becoming much tighter as students deteriorate.

Róisín inputted that she is currently looking for means to make the counselling services more accessible for students.

- Spoke about her concern for a student completing a PHD living in Dún Áras who is currently suffering from extreme depression and asked the President and Welfare Officer for a private meeting regarding the matter.
- Also expressed her wish for the University to place more of an emphasis on staff led walkbouts for the first years to reduce their anxiety levels.

17:42

Róisín added information about the postal service for sexual health she is running for any student who might want to avail of the service.

- Also emphasised that the survey carried out by herself and Erin received over 100 responses therefore a clear demand for Irish language classes to be held.
- Made a proposal for everyone to promote the Traveller Mental Health Day on their social medias.

17:45

Back to the President Pádraic who then shared his screen and demonstrated how to gain access to information for feedback to students.

- The Freedom of Information Office
- Stressed the importance of when asking a question to be as specific as possible in order to get maximum result and answers.
- The repeat fee campaign is still in progress.

QUESTIONS

- Kirsty asked for ideas on how to promote Equality and Inclusion in Sport
 - President responded by asking Kirsty to collaborate with Maeve and Michelle on potential campaign and suggestions.
- Erin asked how best to make requests of the FOI office (Freedom of Information) and gave concerns over the Academic Writing centre breaking language agreements. He also asked whether or not the Udáras have the power to hold a meeting every month in order to prevent future incidences occurring.
 - President responded by suggesting a committee be formed and for meetings to be made monthly. Erin responded by saying without the University input such meetings would be futile and the President agreed.

- Patricia asked about updates regarding access to campus and around access to the computers for students who don't have any at home.
 - President responded by stating that the laptop loan scheme is up and running and any students that meet the criteria for securing a laptop will definitely get one. He also stated that the University are striving for a student free campus this semester and doesn't expect that to change but is hoping that access will be granted to the Student Union Offices in the coming days.
- Michelle asked if there was any funding being put aside to for people without broadband to have it installed or grants available.
 - President responded by stating the laptop loan scheme details must be addressed first as it's the same IS office doing both grants. He also stated that the USI are currently pushing for the University to open regional hubs in rural areas for students to access Wi-Fi for studies.

18:03

The President gave final details on the levy. After surveying and bringing it to the exec it was agreed to be put down to 140 euro.

He also proposed a later time to host any future meetings so that all members can attend without missing lectures.

18:05

Meeting concluded.