



## NUIGSU Exec Meeting Agenda

**Date:** 14/10/20

**Time:** 5pm

**Location:** Zoom link

### Agenda

- Welcome & Approval of minutes
- Team Check-in
- Weekly Hump day comedy
- FRC
  - Post Grad Research Support Funding
  - Other notes from meeting
- Accommodation -letter & meeting with Residences
- Levy €140
- SU Calendar Days
- Student Q&A
- Budget 2021
- A.O.B.

*Present: Pádraic, Emma, Róisín, Kirsty, Erin, Michelle, Patricia, Máirtín*

*Apologies: Evan, Aoife, Maeve, Claire*

17.05 meeting begins

Emma – Education officer updates :

- Teaching & learning committee
- Complaints from arts
- Erasmus issues arising from announcements
- Conferring work
- Class rep elections opening today but some technical issues
- Dealing with SUSI issues.

17.11, Kirsty – Clubs Captain updates :

- Issues with Kingfisher refusing to refund final year students, Kirsty and Pádraic have been in contact and are still waiting to hear back from Kingfisher to organise a meeting
- Pods of 15 for outdoor training has resumed since Monday
- Clubs training taking place this week and next week, finance training, how to organise events, etc
- Equality in Sports campaign- Kirsty and sports unit are currently organising a participation plan as an ongoing campaign. Majority of the campaign will be online but hoping for pods of 15 as well as that, introduction of workshops and focus on things like subtitles and sign language to make everything more accessible
- Planning walks, runs, bootcamps as well as online campaigns
- Erin asked if we could incorporate Gaeilge into this e.g. facilitating walking groups in Irish. Kirsty was in support of this, Pádraic suggested that Erin email Joanna about setting up an Eventbrite for walking groups for Gaeilgeoirí

#### 17.15, Erin – Oifigeach na Gaeilge

- 115 responses to the Irish language survey
- Wants more Irish visible on snapchat and other social media, will login to the Snapchat but mentioned he isn't very active on Insta/Twitter
- Waiting on a date to be confirmed by University for the next Coiste Straitéiseach meeting
- Asked for an update on SU funded Irish classes – Róisín said that she had brought this up with Chris and team on Friday (9<sup>th</sup> Oct) and that Chris had suggested having an informal Ciorcal Comhrá first of all, Róisín raised issues with this as people with no irish wouldn't be able and wouldn't feel confident to do a Ciorcal Comhrá, mentioned that Joanna suggested the idea of breakout rooms for different levels of Irish. Erin agrees that Ciorcal Comhrá are not sufficient to introduce members to the irish speaking community especially people who have no to little Irish, that is something for after classes when people actually know how to have a conversation.
- Wants classes for beginner and advanced levels and will get in touch with Conradh na Gaeilge to set up a meeting

#### 17.22, Michelle – Mature Students Officer:

- Continuing to work with mature students, main issues are people finding it difficult to log on, finding it difficult to make friends and find information online
- Had 14 students get in contact this week
- Will share details of next week's drop in clinic with these students
- A lot of issues with mature students who have kids at home and are having increasing difficulty balancing that with study, Michelle wants to try to get those students extra time in the library as the library really is their only place to get away and study peacefully

17:25, Róisín – Welfare and Equality Officer:

- Accommodation – So far, Corrib Village, Goldcrest and Menlo are the only residences who are offering refunds. Dúnáras, Gort and Centrepont are doing refunds on a case-by-case basis only, with 7 part payment instalment plans for people who need it.
- Met with all residences yesterday, with the exception of Atlantis and the Westwood who did not show up. No sign of any of the others offering refunds anytime soon.
- Raised the issue with Cúirt about banning visitors and threatening to report student name and apartment number to NUIG. Róisín said this goes against their lease – Cúirt said that they changed their policy to allow them to make rules like this in line with Covid guidelines. Róisín has asked for them to email her a copy of their privacy policy which they said they would but have not yet
- Róisín raised disability issues with Cúirt management – people were having extreme difficulty accessing the lift and cúirt said they need to get a letter/email from DSS and they will give them access. Disability issues also with the Westwood for students who have difficulty hearing cannot hear fire alarm and it has no light only sound so the westwood need to fix that.
- Raised the issue of connectivity issues within residences – students all on lectures at the same time and the wifi is not strong enough for it. Róisín specifically got complaints about Dúnáras with this issue and dunaras said for student to contact their office directly as it may just be an issue with specific apartments
- Press release published today for accommodation providers and private landlords regarding refunds

- Financial Aid Fund is now up and running with steady applications. PME/MGO fund opened late as there was technical issues but is now open
- 688 Laptops given as part of the laptop loan scheme which re-opens next week
- Quad lit up tomorrow at 6pm with vigil for miscarriage awareness month
- Walk and Talks went well and students went and got lunch together in groups.
- Mental Health week 16<sup>th</sup> November plans to bring a bus of 15 students out to Connemara to Madra to help walk and look after the dogs
- Corrib/Goldcrest held a virtual ciorcal comhrá for residents
- Seas Suas programme is now open for expressions of interest Róisín will circulate link for this in groupchat and encouraged people to share on social media
- Róisín and Gary Tobin will be meeting with Galway West TDs next week to discuss fees and the education for all campaign specifically around accommodation
- Crisis textline 50808 now has a specific line for nuig students, text 'NUIG' to 50808 for a response within 5 minutes from a trained volunteers
- Counselling service are still trying to get rooms on campus for students who do not feel comfortable and do not have the privacy at home to do online sessions

17:30, Máirtín – Postgraduate Taught Officer:

- Main issues that students are bringing up are about money worries and lectures going on too long
- PME students finding that the workload is very heavy and this is causing increased stress levels and students feeling left behind, Máirtín raised this with the head of school this morning

17:32, Patricia, Disability Rights Officer:

- There was an issue with the library which is now resolved a little bit – at the moment they have 3 spaces for students and their PA's which is being fixed now so that there is 5 spaces.
- There was a problem in the library with a deaf student
- Wants booths to be open for students who need it

- Problems with the need to book library in advance, Emma brought up that she also had a student who got in touch with similar issues about booking in advance
- Update on student issue that Pádraic had forwarded on about LENS report, the student had the lens report issue rectified with DSS and the student might be doing an interview with Paddy from SIN
- Patricia is meeting with buildings tomorrow regarding sensory rooms

17:36: Róisín brought up workload that students are getting. Herself and Pádraic had a student welfare support committee meeting yesterday where she raised the issue of lecturers speaking twice as fast, covering twice as much and therefore giving twice as much workload and students feel months behind even though we are only on week 3. Since she has raised it the college are aware of it and hopefully something will be done. Patricia and Máirtín agreed, saying that students are stressed to the limits. Emma said that she will raise this with the registrar who is regularly looking for feedback.

17:38, Pádraic, President:

- The SU have been working out of the quad distributing masks and diaries etc
- Working on videos to educate students about the virus, video series called "I just"
- SU walks going well, comedy gig/speed friending planned for every Wednesday, the first being next week which will be a trial, 50 signups via Eventbrite
- 6.18 million going to NUIG for postgrad research support from government announcement
- Asked university for partial refunds in fees considering college is fully online
- Had a meeting with ONE Galway on Monday, mentioned Debenhams strike
- Did an interview with Galway Bay FM today regarding accommodation refunds

- Erin came in and asked if we can join Debenhams workers strike, Pádraic raised issues with legality of this and mentioned we could be sued due to new Covid-19 laws, Pádraic is going to email the representative from one galway meeting to ask specifics of this
- Shared his screen for proposed levy of 140 euros, Health Unit will be increased and Pádraic asked people for justification:  
Róisín: Contraceptive pill has a charge of £20 (or so) which would be her priority – Emma agreed  
Emma also believes that the Out of Hours charge should be abolished  
Erin: Free STI testing and possibility of providing pRep
- Patricia mentioned before she had to leave that she is in favour of the levy being reduced to 140.
- Erin would like part of the levy to go to the promotion of Gaeilge on campus – instead of giving the SU a 15eur increase he suggested giving 3-5euro of that to Gaeilge. Pádraic said we should try to get the university to fund this and bring it up at Coiste Straitéiseach, instead of the levy. Erin said that giving a few euro to Irish could mean opening so many opportunities to students such as being able to go to the Gaeltacht for free during the academic year. Róisín seconds this. Emma agrees that a few euro should be given to Irish. Pádraic disagrees but asks that we postpone this until the next meeting.
- Pádraic justified increase in funding to the SU as we will be in deficit and for more union activities.
- Wants provisions for Shannon and St Angelas in the new levy – they shouldn't be paying for services they don't get and this should be clearly outlined in wording.
- Pádraic circulated SU calendar dates
- Working on getting a Q&A video for students from UMT
- Comments on Budget2021- the 250eur payout is just a once off and we believe they should be reducing the contribution fee instead.

AOB: none

Máirtín proposed minutes from previous meeting and Emma seconded.

Meeting ends 18:01pm