



**NUI Galway  
Students' Union  
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn  
OÉ Gaillimh**

**Students' Union Executive Committee meeting**  
**5:30 pm, Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019**  
Venue: Board Room, SU Office

These minutes were prepared by Scott Green (Students' Union Council Chairperson) during the meeting.

**Present:** Clare Austick (President) (She/Her), Brandon Walsh (Vice-President / Welfare & Equality Officer) (He/Him), Kenny Cooke (Convenor of the College of Science) (He/Him), Sachi Sinha (Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics) (She/Her), Aisling Fitzgerald (Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences) (She/Her), Clodagh McGivern (Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law) (She/Her), Emily Tock (Postgraduate Research Officer) (She/Her), Pádraic Toomey (Clubs' Captain) (He/Him), Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer) (They/Them), Scott Green (Students' Union Council Chairperson) (They/Them).

**Skype:** Morgan Queeney (Gender and Lgbt+ Rights Officer) (They/Them), Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge) (He/Him).

**Apologies:** Cameron Keighron (Vice-President / Education Officer) (They/Them), Oissine Moore (Societies Chairperson) (He/Him), Chuka Paul Oguekwe (Mature Students' Officer) (He/Him).

**Absent:** Torri Chihumura (Ethnic Minorities Officer) (She/Her), Avery Fenton (International Students' Officer) (She/Her).

## **Agenda**

### **1. Full-Time Officers Updates & work progress**

The full-time officers gave a report featuring some of their highlights of the work they did over the past few months. (Cameron's report was given by Clare in their absence). Some of the main points mentioned were: Being present at Shannon College of Hotel Management's Induction Week for the first time ever, dealing with the media around accommodation, handling casework around repeats and appeals and helping to coordinate the Consent workshops being given to first years in Corrib Village and Goldcrest.

### **2. Part-Time Officers issues & work updates**

Discussion went around the table and the part-time officers present spoke about one or two things that they have been working on.

These included:

**Erin-** Meeting with USI VP for Irish to discuss plans for the year, Gael Fees. Meeting with Maura from Corrib Village to discuss Irish language accommodation and a class rep strategy.

**Sachi-** Getting in touch with Engineers Ireland for student events, making a class rep schedule.

**Kenny-** Being present for orientation week, planning a class rep election schedule.

**Scott-** Developing Council documents and templates.

**Alex-** Getting into early contact with IMPACTE and having discussions about projects such as a themed week.

**Padraic-** Organising Clubs' Forum.

**Emily-** Working on a postgraduate election strategy and electing reps, working with USI.

**Clodagh-** Working with lectures to implement more CA in certain modules.

**Aisling-** Meeting with Med Soc to organise responsibilities (i.e. class rep election).

### **3. University of Sanctuary**

Seven scholarships have been created. 2 Postgraduate Scholarships, 2 for members of the Irish Travelling Community, 3 for Asylum Seekers, NUI Galway is now officially a University of Sanctuary. The designation ceremony will be during Social Inclusion week (14-18<sup>th</sup> October).

### **4. Equality, Diversity, Inclusion Campus Committee (EDICC) Election**

Alex is deemed elected (uncontested candidate).

### **5. Break the Barriers Campaign**

The protest will be in Dublin on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The three key target areas of the campaign are the cost of accessing education, the lack of investment in the sector, and the ongoing accommodation crisis.

### **6. Pink Training**

Pink training will be taking place in NUI Galway again this year. The dates that it will take place are the 29<sup>th</sup> of November to the 1<sup>st</sup> of December. Two delegate spaces will be reserved for members of the executive.

### **7. Climate Strike**

The Climate Strike date is the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. Brandon's plans centre around a protest march from campus to town hall. He has contacted Art Soc and Enviro Soc to get them involved and has also contacted Extinction Rebellion. He is also going to contact secondary schools who are involved with the secondary school strikes for climate change.

Cameron may have a supplementary event(s) and will report when they are back next week.

### **8. Training Day for PTO (USI and Internal)**

Internal training will be given by William Priestly. The date is TBC but a poll will go up with potential options. Two half days of training seems to suit more than one full day.

USI are seeking feed in for their PTO training as Marie Lyons (USI Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region) wishes to have institute tailored training.

Suggestions for training to help students with anxiety, stresses, caring duties etc. Clare will be taking suggestions for the next while and will forward them to Marie.

#### **9. Class Rep Strategy**

Cameron has sent an email containing a rough schedule of events for the election campaign to the relevant members of the executive and they'll be back next week to discuss it in more depth.

#### **10. Caifé na Gaeilge**

No update on the café. University is currently in correspondence with SUCS LTD. The café is currently operating on a loss that the University is supposed to cover.

Erin suggests integrating Irish speakers across all services that we own.

Clare wants to get President of the University to commit to get all commercial services to promote and support the Irish language (have Irish sections).

Alex suggests sit-in/occupation of the location if the Café is closed.

Morgan suggests publicising why the café is shutting down e.g. on Facebook and our other social media.

#### **11. Themed Weeks Plan**

Mental Health week is planned for the 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> October.

SHAG Week will take place during Valentines week in second Semester.

Brandon floated the idea for a Sustainability week the week of the 20<sup>th</sup> of October or in general (to feature a Sustainable Fashion Show, Zero Waste Workshop?) The new Zero Waste shop is due to visit throughout the year.

Exam De-Stress Weeks are planned.

Erin suggested using the space around Quintennial bridge for something perhaps for displaying art.

#### **12. Meeting with the President**

Clare asked for some feed in about the issues she should bring to her meeting with the President. Those mentioned were the creation of a University Irish Officer, the Student Levy, and the Postgraduate Charter of best practices.

#### **13. Urban Gaeltacht**

A proposal for Nun's Island was received by some of the executive a few months back, and while some of the ideas put forward were worthwhile, there were certain aspects (accommodation) that did not benefit the student population as a whole. While there are parts the Union is supportive of, the Union does not support the Urban Gaeltacht in its entirety.

#### **14. Voter Registration**

Two days of voter registration have been planned for the immediate future.

Tomorrow (Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September) from 12pm-2pm and Craig McHugh (Vice President for the Dublin Region) from USI down,

Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of September from 12pm-2pm.

**15. Societies Day**

Socs day is on the 11<sup>th</sup> and we need some volunteers from the exec to man the stand for some hours between 10:00-17:00.

**16. Fresher's Fair**

The Fresher's Fair is on the 17<sup>th</sup> and we need some volunteers from the exec to be around and visible sometime between 10:00-16:00.

**17. Volunteering Fair**

The Volunteering Fair is on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> and we need some volunteers from the exec to man our stand there for some hours between 11:00-16:00.

**18. A.O.B**

The proposed Busking Bye Laws Passed. The Busking Community is currently planning their next moves. The Executive is opposed to laws and will get in touch with relevant parties to explore our options.

Alex will gather and send on the list of votes from the council meeting.

Erin referencing Public Consultation and questioning whether there was one for the laws prior to their passing. Alex states that there was a public consultation, but it was ignored.

Scott to take lead on info gathering and they will report back with findings during the next exec meeting.

Erin suggests a meeting of all relevant parties who would be interested in the creation of a University Irish Officer. Position to lobby for position and to use it as a networking opportunity. Irish Forum to be established.

**Next meeting: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm**

With no other issues or concerns, meeting is concluded at 7:15 pm.

Minutes proposed by: Scott

Seconded by: Alex

Date: 16.09.2019