



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

Students' Union Executive Committee meeting
6:00 pm, Monday, 16th September 2019
Venue: Board Room, SU Office

SU Exec Meeting 16/09/2019

Present: Clare Austick (President) (She/Her), Cameron Keighron (Vice-President / Education Officer) (They/Them), 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), Pádraic Toomey (Clubs' Captain) (He/Him), Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer) (They/Them), Scott Green (Students' Union Council Chairperson) (They/Them). Chuka Paul Oguekwe (Mature Students' Officer) (He/Him), Avery Fenton (International Students' Officer) (She/Her), Oissine Moore (Societies Chairperson) (He/Him).

Skype: Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge) (He/Him).

Apologies: Torri Chihumura (Ethnic Minorities Officer) (She/Her), Emily Tock (Postgraduate Research Officer) (She/Her).

Absent: Morgan Queeney (Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer) (They/Them).

Laura O'Toole (Former Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies)(She/Her) has resigned.

These minutes were prepared from notes taken by Scott Green (Students' Union Council Chairperson).

Agenda

1. Full-Time Officers Updates & Work Progress

Brandon

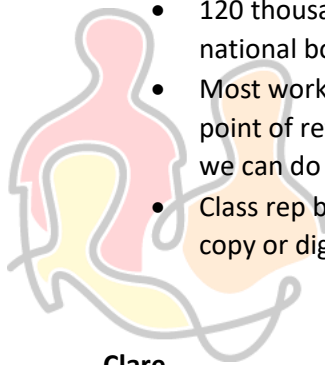
- Has been in touch with James McCormack and Mindful Way about preparing placement mental health resource packs. Placement Coordinators should hopefully be in touch by next week.
- Welfare crew sign up has been going well with a lot of interest shown. The Facebook group will be created shortly, Brandon mentions should you have interested friends to please add them in.
- Climate Strike work detailed below.
- Alex & Brandon to meet with DSS and other relevant services to make campus autism friendly.

Cameron

- 120 thousand euro approved for inclusive learning programme, proposal going to a national body and now it's just a case of waiting for approval from said body.
- Most work will be about exam appeals and results to come through-Cameron is point of reference there will be implications for some students but there isn't a lot we can do to speed up the process.
- Class rep booklet has been printed and will be distributed to the exec either in paper copy or digitally depending on which suits.

Clare

- Met with the President of the University- Caifé Na Gael -he wasn't aware that the cafe didn't open. He has said he'll organise a meeting with John Gill to explore the matter.
- Brandon & Clare attended National Council – Over the next two weeks shout-outs for class reps will also include protest advertisement.
- Reusable cups funded by the Student Project Fund are on the way, 3000 keep cups will be distributed to students once they get here.
- PTO training will be organised sometime in the coming week once Clare can organise a meeting with Chris the General Manager of the Students' Union.
- Student Levy - sabbats met Bursar and John Gaffney – The colleges' position hasn't changed, meeting to plan our next move to take place in near future.



NUÍ Galway
Students' Union
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn
OÉ Gaillimh

2. Part-Time Officers issues & work updates

- **Padraic** Clubs forum went very well, gave update to captains on Levy via SIN article, Met Michelle Millar (Dean of Students), started planning for Clubs Ball, Attended Green flag committee meeting, said committee wants to involve societies more.
- **Sachi** working on class rep planning, helped student out with timetabling issue.
- **Avery** Unable to get email access as of yet.
- **Aisling** Contacted MedSoc for rep details and election scheduling.
- **Kenny** Email work.
- **Paul** Spoke at the Part time Mature Students orientation with an eye on organising mature and part time reps, the event very well attended.
- **Clodagh** Will organise class rep election schedule.
- **Oissine** Minor issues with Socs about storage system, solution planned, no socs forum yet depends on his timetable, attended USCG meeting.
- **Alex** Planned semester events & themed weeks, busking bye laws research, Noel Grealish research, voiced a desire from students for money to be ring fenced for library development with an accessibility focus, Cameron is able to get planning proposal for the library and said they would and Alex will email to follow up.
- **Scott** Attended a meeting of the USCG, Helped sort out an extra student seat on the Science EDICC, Busking Bye Laws Research, Officer Report template ready to go it'll be looked over by Clare and Cameron and then sent out to the Exec.
- **Erin** had a meeting with Maura from Campus Living, they have an Irish conversation circle, Goldcrest has 4 Irish apartments and there's 3.5 in Corrib, he will get in touch with Cummann Gaelach to put them in contact with Maura. Will receive details about NUIGs' Irish Outreach plan soon.

3. Equality Weeks

- Alex has a rough plan for full week 29th-31st October.
- Brandon will meet with Avery to discuss her plans and find suitable dates.
- Brandon will get in contact with the other equality officers about dates for their events.

4. Climate Strike-SCAN Lead

- Brandon has been organising the student block for the Climate Strike on the 20th September which is starting at 1pm. We will be leaving campus at 12:30pm, we'll meet secondary schools and Extinction Rebellion and other affiliated groups in Eyre Square. A poster making session will take place on Wednesday in the art room from 6-8pm. Enviro Soc will also be lending a hand.
- A bus to/from the Gaeltacht could be organised dependant on numbers, Erin will gather info.

5. Class Rep Strategy & Training

- Strategy will be based off of convenor timetables mapped against sabbat availability, 40-50 students have expressed interest in being reps already, 9 PHD Reps, all taught reps should be elected in the next 2 weeks, Med/Science/Business are good colleges for Postgraduate Taught engagement.
- Only online setup unless they come directly to representation and the paper forms don't leave the office, Brandon and Cameron will cover arts college after Laura's resignation, off campus cohorts will be reached out to so as to ensure as many reps as possible are elected.
- Class rep training 30th September, Bailey Allen details out to exec in email tomorrow, revamping training from previous years, Exec will be present and USI VP for Border Midlands and Western Region will be there also.
- First SU Council will be on the 14th October.

6. Education Week

- Begins on the 30th September. It will mainly be workshop based with workshops during the week for academic skills. Cameron intends to work with academic skills groups and they're looking for input from convenors.

7. Noel Grealish TD

- During open public meeting in Oughterard about the potential of a Direct Provision Centre sitting Galway West TD Noel Grealish made racist remarks. Brandon had given a statement to SIN regarding the incident. The exec feels there should also be a press release regarding the quotes.
- Cameron says it's unlikely Noel won't retract comments but that putting out a press release is important.
- Alex suggested calling for his resignation as other sources have done.

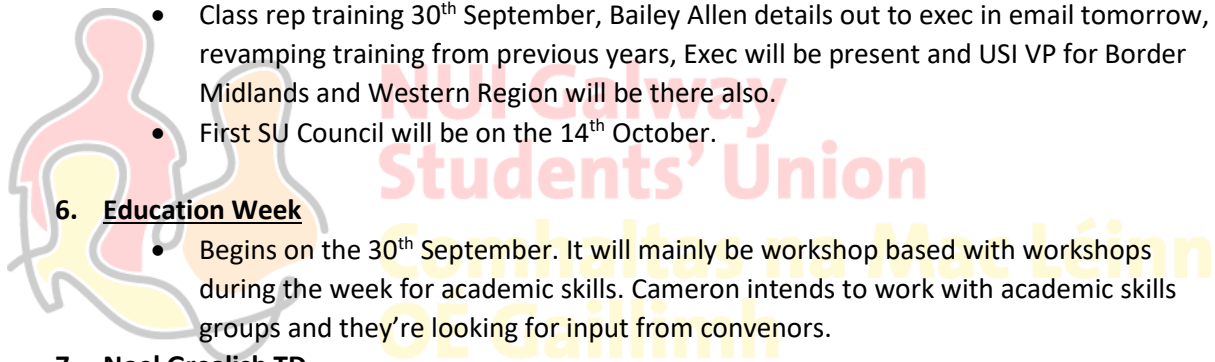
8. Busking Bye- Laws

- Scott's information pack was circulated.
- Clare will get in touch with the Busking Community to express our solidarity and offer assistance if they should wish to start a protest campaign.

9. Irish Forum

- Erin has emailed Cumann Gaelach to see if they're interested in the idea but is awaiting a response.

10. Fresher's Fair



- Tuesday 10-4pm, timetable going around to organise volunteers. Clare highlighted that officers should be present at the Fresher's Fair and Volunteering Fair as it's a way of getting the Union's message out. It's understandable that course work always takes priority but if an officer has time to spare they should make an effort help out.

11. Voter Reg

- Brandon will lead the voter reg campaign it'll be heavily featured at our stands on Tuesday and Thursday. There is a Voter Reg stand at Smokey's 12-2pm on Wednesday.

12. Volunteering Fair

- Thursday 10-4pm, timetable also based around for stand to get availability of exec.

13. Distance Learner

- There's been contact from student with a desire to set up distance learner position on the executive.
- Clare says in future we should diversify our campaigns so as to reach non-traditional students.

14. Care Leaver

- The USCG heard from a student with a desire to set up representation for students who have come through the care system. The committee did say to the student an exec position could be created if voted on by referendum.
- Brandon said maybe we should ask students to highlight the groups that we may be overlooking.

15. Student Charter

- No update from the Sabbats meeting with Michelle Millar (Dean of Students). She's still working on it, it's her project so she's taking the lead.

16. Galway City Community Network

- EGM coming up on the 25th of September to elect new representatives.
- Scott asks if the Union is a GCCN organisation.
- Cameron states that the SU is tied to it in informally and that registration to the network would have to be debated to find out the benefits. They also say current relationship is working fine but they will circulate info to the exec about the network.

17. SU Talks

- Scott talks about an idea they have previously mentioned to some of the exec in conversation.
- The idea is open forums which would focus on one specific topic each for example sustainability. The targeted nature would hopefully bring in more students than the general format of SU Council and would enable dedicated working groups to be created around singular topics.
- They also say while the exec would have to facilitate the forums themselves, they wouldn't necessarily have to be on every working group that arises from them. The working groups could then report back to SU Council or the Exec so that their work is properly supported.
- Cameron says it's important that the forums also have an element that makes sure people are informed about University structures and that their expectations are managed.

18. A.O.B

- Levy -info was requested during the meeting but it is in the works, once info is gathered a real strategy can be developed using figures etc. The Sabbats will also follow up on University accounts to see where excess money is going for example the extra money from the increased Kingfisher tender from last year.
- Park n Ride-Peak times buses are full, they prioritise those in the far car park, our jurisdiction is unclear but we can try sending an email of displeasure, the issue will disproportionality affect North Campus and beyond, presents a huge accessibility issue. Cameron said it's important to note the service does still operate adequately from 10-6 just not 9-10 or 6-7
- Erin references a BA Connect problem- Erasmus students were told they wouldn't get BA International awarded upon their return, Erin will email Cameron and Cameron will follow up with programme directors
- Student Health Clinic-Being judgemental, Padraic to forward concerned students to Brandon.
- Erin suggests holding an event on the 15th of October for People who have miscarried or still birth as there will be events on that day.
- Break The Barriers Protest- Scott suggests free buses to the event given the fiscal focus of the campaign. Brandon says the issue arose at National Council where a reimbursement scheme was discussed. Clare says she will have to talk to Chris.
- Pink Training – Of the NUIG delegation provisionally 2 but definitely one spot will be allocated to Shannon College and another 2 will be reserved for members of the exec.
- Erin has inquiries about a Puppy volunteer programmer- Cameron states Alive does something similar already and that Erin should get in touch with them.
- Sustainability working group to be created soon- they will hopefully produce events/workshops/plans etc.
- Next meeting of the exec will be Monday the 21st at 5pm. During the meeting we will discuss the SU's charities for the year, Brandon will narrow down the fifty charity applicants to 5-10 based on the brief provided to the charities and other relevant criteria. The exec will get list of all the charities that applied regardless of the final 5-10.

With no other issues or concerns, meeting is concluded at 19:45 pm.

Minutes proposed by: Alex Coughlan

Seconded by: Pádraic Toomey

Date: 23/09/2019