



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

Students' Union Executive Committee meeting  
6:00 pm, Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019  
Venue: Board Room, SU Office

**SU Exec Meeting 01/10/2019**

**Present:** Clare Austick (President) (She/Her), Cameron Keighron (Vice-President / Education Officer) (They/Them), 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), Aisling Fitzgerald (Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences) (She/Her), Avery Fenton (International Students' Officer) (She/Her), Oissine Moore (Societies Chairperson) (He/Him), Kenny Cooke (Convenor of the College of Science) (He/Him), Emily Tock (Postgraduate Research Officer) (She/Her), Dheeraj Gudluru (Postgraduate Taught Officer) (He/Him), Mairtin Mac Gabhann (Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies)(He/Him), Chuka Paul Oguekwe (Mature Students' Officer) (He/Him).

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

**Apologies:** Brandon Walsh (Vice-President / Welfare & Equality Officer) (He/Him), Sachi Sinha (Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics) (She/Her), , Torri Chihumura (Ethnic Minorities Officer) (She/Her).

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

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

## Agenda

### **1. Proposing last week's minutes**

Last weeks' minutes were proposed by Avery and then seconded by Cameron.

### **2. Newly elected officers welcome**

Clare welcomed Mairtin and Dheeraj to the committee and everyone present introduced themselves.

### **3. Full-time officer updates and work progress**

**Cameron-** Had a meeting about student staff liaison meetings with Michelle Millar (who has the terms of reference for the college of arts) which centred around the feasibility of making a student staff liaison committee for every college. They also discussed making the relevant college convenor the co-chair of the committee. The Education Officer would have a seat on each committee that they could occupy or delegate and in certain cases postgraduate officers would have a seat on them also, ensuring 2-3 union reps and 3 student reps. This will hopefully be implemented by January.

Academic Standing Committee and Academic Resource Committee both had meetings about St Angelas and our merger with that college.

Class rep training featured 125 reps and we currently have 270 registered. Cameron is in the process of manually mapping where reps are present. They will be contacting exec members to support the college convenors in holding any remaining class rep elections. They will meet Martin one to one to discuss the arts class rep election schedule for the future.

They attended the university secretary's' retirement function.

Undergraduate exam appeals bar one are done, four postgraduate appeals are in the works and are due to be processed by Wednesday.

Postgraduate results will be released on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October which will bring with them the next set of appeals.

The class rep hoodies design and colour are finalised and will hopefully be ready by last council this semester.

They've been handling casework surplus to the above.

The Access Students have self-organised class reps and Cameron will be meeting with them for one to one training.

**Brandon-** Has been organising Mental health week and met with two students to discuss a counselling service fundraiser.

**Clare-** Had a meeting with the auditor of Cummann na Gaelach focusing on Caife na Gaeilge, Cummann na Gaelach are hosting a protest on Wednesday (9<sup>th</sup> of October) and we will support it.

She met with Brian Saunders to discuss the Nuns Island Development proposal.

Storm Lorezeno brought with it meetings and safety statements to realise.

Clare has also been involved with the university of sanctuary planning and designation

ceremony.

She also went to Dublin to attend a USI pre-budget media session.

#### **4. Part-time officer updates and work progress**

**Padraic**- Has a Nutritionist talk organised for the first week in November, it will be open to the student body but clubs will be given preference.

He continued work on the GMIT student access issue and was present for a meeting (more details below). He has organised the next clubs forum and Kathy Hynes will be present as well as Mike Heskin.

He helped out the Sports Unit during the Open Days.

**Avery**- Working on a pamphlet of pre and post arrival info for international students and will soon be meeting with Louise Kelly about information regarding changes to forms that will need to be included.

**Kenny**- Final year Biochemistry students have passed on news about their previous issue and are happy to report the seats are being fixed (albeit slowly and three at a time).

He has been in contact with Marie Tuohy about second year class reps.

Third year chemistry will organise their rep election and pass on relevant contact info to Kenny.

**Dheeraj**- Continued work on casework he brought up previously.

**Clodagh**- Has been busy organising Class rep elections. Has had a meeting with Siobhan Quinlavan about the College of Business' Athena Swan application.

**Alex**- Has been handling casework. Organising material for world mental health day. They wrote a motion that will be coming to SU Council. They attended accessibility forum which will have a follow up meeting in the next two weeks.

**Scott**- Attended the Big BICS Weekender where they fed into the development of a national social media policy for BICS. They have also been busy doing Council preparations.

**Oissine**- Attended the Big BICS Weekender and helped develop social media policy. He also met with Cumann na Gaelach about their protest.

**Paul**- Received an email from reps for adult education and touted online training as an option for them. Cameron has said they will look into it.

**Erin**- Attended training with Cumann Gaelach over the weekend. He asked for support to run a mental health event in Connemara – Clare referred to Brandon and said we could possibly send supplies down. Alex will look for info and send it on.

A lot of Irish reps have been elected, not all classes in BA have been elected yet so Erin will get in touch with Cameron to coordinate.

**Emily**- Handled casework.

Attended a Graduate Studies Board meeting last Friday. Lucy Byrnes and AnneMarie have stated that at the next board meeting the USI charter for postgraduate programmes will be

on agenda.

USI sent a link to Irish council for international students, they have set up a meeting with GNIB about fees for non-EU students. The University President is working on facilitating GNIB renewal online (as Dublin have this facility).

The new librarian dubbed the open scholarship librarian is hoping to work with postgraduate students and offer publication opportunities, particularly for STEM students. He will present at the next Graduate Studies Board meeting, and if possible, will come to SU postgrad council and a postgrad society meeting. The opportunity will make it easier for graduate students to get their work noticed.

**Martin-** Was recently elected and is settling into the role.

**Aisling-** Electing Class reps with a focus of students on placement to that end she has been in contact with the coordinator for nursing, midwifery and OT. The students will be back next week and can elect reps then, it's likely they'll have elected some already and if that is the case the coordinator will email their details to Aisling.

She was at the Open Day and helped out.

She has also been sorting out a placement issue for second year students who raised concerns about the removal of the "traveling with friends" option, Aisling has been told it was removed because it doesn't make a difference due to demand of placement locations.

#### 5. Frequency of Meetings

The meetings will stay at once a week. They will continue to be on Mondays at 6pm for the foreseeable future.

#### 6. Caife na Gaeilge and Petition

Cumann na Gaelach are having a protest on Wednesday. There will be speakers and free tea organised by Cumann Gaelach and we will turn up to show support.

Erin inquired about getting vouchers for travelling students from the Gaeltacht as they'll be missing lunch, Clare said to get in contact directly with her.

There is also a petition going round on social media if anyone wishes to sign

#### 7. Officer reports & SU Council

The first SU Council will be next Monday. Clare gave a brief overview of what Council is to for the benefit of new officers.

Scott reminded everyone that Officer Reports are due on Wednesday at 5pm and that this is a hard deadline.

Cameron explains a change they have made to officer report presentation at Council. Under the new system Clare will take all 19 reports as read and then in the event of questions-Clare will redirect them to the relevant officer.

There is a Brexit related motion coming to this council and to that end the NUS-USI president will talk to reps about Brexit and answer any questions they may have. Erin suggested having a Dream Dearg motion also.

## **8. GMIT Students (Clubs)**

Padraic attended a meeting in GMIT today and went through everything around GMIT students and their history with NUIG. Also present was Mike Haskin and from GMIT there was their Head of Science, Head of Business and Sports Officer. The insurance is fine between both parties rather ownership of athletes accomplishments is the real issue. NUIG capacity problems were raised.

Also raised was Mike Heskings email to clubs, the wording of which frustrated GMIT. GMIT and NUIG have agreed to draft an agreement.

Molly GMIT Sports Officer has been sending money (with records) to the Sports Unit since 2002.

From now on there will be bi-annual meetings between Molly and Mike.

## **9. A.O.B**

Cameron- Informed Avery and Emily of the student success awards on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, Kevin McStravock has emailed and they want an international student to help facilitate and expressed interest in the two mentioned. Both will contact Kevin and decide amongst themselves.

Cameron-The deadline for formally withdrawing/transferring course is now closed. Doing either action now will mean the loss of 50% of HEA tuition and student contribution at this point. All internal transfers are closed and most external ones are closed too. They'll open again in January.

The last day to pay fees is 31<sup>st</sup> October but instalment plans can be put in place if someone requires this option direct them to one of the full-timers, the accommodation and welfare officer or Michelle Millar.

Padraic says some students have not payed levy as a result of last year's council. Cameron detailed the implications that not having the levy paid will have on someone's degree and advised Padraic talk to the students. The sabbats will be meeting with bursar this Friday again.

The Full timers are trying to put a levy action plan in place but are currently still gathering info.

Oissíne was talking to a rep after class rep training who said that accommodation service offered digs was charging extortionary rent, no rent book, was dealing cash in hand and would keep the deposit if the student left after first semester.

Oissíne suggested we should try to reform the accommodation service, to include sample tenancy agreements and criteria. Cameron says we can definitely work to put criteria in place.

Cameron- Brings up SUSI and if students are experiencing an issue where they have been awarded the grant but are getting no payments. SUSI have been poor this year they have awarded grants but lost bank details without notifying students. So if anyone raises this issue refer students to SUSI to check their details.

Cameron- The lost and found is now back in the student registry desk. There will be lost and found review coming up and if anyone has suggestions pass them on to Cameron before this Thursday.

With no other issues or concerns, meeting is concluded at 19:01 pm.

Minutes proposed by: Padraic Toomey

Seconded by: Alex Coughlan

Date: 14/10/19



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