

NUI Galway Executive Committee Meeting – Cruinniú an Choiste Gnó

30ú Márta 2020

Present: Clare Austick, Cameron Keighron, Brandon Walsh, Scott Green, Kenny Cooke, Sachi Sinha, Martin Smyth, Kaushik Narasimhan, Padraic Toomey.

Apologies: Oisínne Moore.

Minutes from the previous meeting were proposed by Padraic and seconded by Cameron.

Update from Brandon that there are a few vacancies in Corrib Village for students who have had to leave their accommodation and cannot reasonably return home before exams, particularly because of shortcomings in infrastructure. There may be financial support available to students requiring these places on a case by case basis.

Clare told the meeting that the 4% rent increase in on-campus accommodation is on the agenda for a meeting next week. There will be a USI issued email this week asking for student accommodations to partially refund students the cost of their accommodation that they have vacated on University advice. USI to provide financial assistance to international students who have been left in a difficult situation. USI Elections may take place online, there is no definitive plan as of yet.

Update from Cameron that many Student Accommodations, including Cúirt na Coiribe and Gort na Coiribe are refusing to issue refunds for accommodation that has been vacated, up and until they are forcibly removed from same by the Government of Ireland, the Pricks. Brandon adds that John Hannon refused to officially correspond with either of the afore-mentioned because of a “tentative relationship,” following the NUIGSU “Cúirt Shakedown,” protests two years ago. Kenny adds that this makes John Hannon a Cowardy Bastard.

Cameron suggests that students who have been left with less-than-desirable Exam Timetables following the rejig due to the COVID-19 epidemic should contact the relevant academic staff about the issue, seeing as how the Exams Office has washed its hands of the mess it has created. The Exams Office, it is pointed out by Kenny, is as much use as a Chocolate Teapot.

Brandon flags the existence of the Student Hardship Fund and advises that it has been topped up by the remnants of the means-tested fund and a certain moiety has been ringfenced to provide financial assistance to International Students.

Padraic is to come up with a few “Quarantine Keep Fit,” exercises to help NUIG students to stay fit and healthy. These will be circulated in the student mailer, which will now be circulated bi-weekly, on Mondays and Fridays. Kenny suggests that this opportunity could be taken to insert a few Eochairfhocail as Gaeilge, with topical phrases. He will liaise with Erin on this front. Perhaps not every phrase will be pandemic related.

It was suggested that the University may agree to limited period of reopening before exams for students to acquire materials from their lockers. Sachi enquired if there may be facility to use the on-campus printers at the same time. This is thought of as being highly unlikely.

Martin asked as to the status on Kingfisher refunding students from March-End of Pandemic. This will only be sorted upon reopening according to some fella called Keith.