

**NUI, Galway Students’ Union Council**

***6:00pm, Monday, 5th March 2018***

**Venue: O’Heocha Theatre, Arts Millenium Building**

***Present: Emily McNamara (SU Council Chairperson); Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh (SU President); Andrew Forde (SU Vice President/Education); Megan Reilly (SU Vice President/Welfare); Clare Austick (Equality Officer); Sabrina Vaughan (Arts Convener); Sean Guinan (Science Convener); Fiachra MacSuibhne (Business Convener); Christopher Darcy (Engineering Convener); Eugene O’Flaherty (Mature Students’ Officer); Ruth Sweeney (Societies Chairperson); and Sarah Murphy (Medicine Convener)  
  
Regrets sent by: Conor Ó Beoláin (Clubs Captain); Connal Ó Corra (Irish Officer); and Colm Duffy (Postgrad Officer)***

***Minutes\****

**Welcome:**

Emily McNamara (SU Council Chairperson) welcomed and thanked all the Class Reps for attending.

**Minutes\_/ Miontuairiscí:**

Minutes were recorded by Haley Myatt.

**Matters Arising / Nithe ag Éirí Astu:**

There were no matters arising from the previous council on 12/02/18

**Pre-nominated A.O.B / A.G.E réamh ainmnithe:**

n/a

**Officer Reports / Tuairisc na nOifigeach:**

Emily McNamara (SU Council Chairperson) asked that the Officer Reports are to be taken as read by each officer at each SU Council, each officer took their report as read and asked if anyone had any questions.

**Elections / Toghcháin:**

SU Chairperson Candidates are Kenneth Cooke, Megan Jane, Annelise Garrison and Sabrina Vaughan. Each candidate was given time to deliver a speech to the full council. Emily McNamara (SU Council Chairperson) then opened the floor for questions. Questions came from:

* Sean Devers asked what do you think is the most important quality for the chairperson to have and why?
* Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh (SU President) asked how the candidates if they would keep the SU executive council as one meeting or divide into smaller to accommodate the growing council?
* Eugene O’Flaherty (Mature Students’ Officer) asked the candidates what was the best feature of their oppositions’ speeches?

Voting by secret ballot commences with results to come later in the council meeting.

**Items for Information / Le Eolas:**

n/a

**Items for Agreement / Le Socrú:**

n/a

**Items for discussion / Le Bheith Pléite:**

* Torri Chihumura presented a proposed amendment to the NUI Galway Students’ Union Constitution regarding a new part-time officer position titled Ethnic Minorities Officer. The proposed amendment read as follows:

*If passed, a new part-time officer position of Ethnic Minorities Officer would be created under Article 7 “The Executive Committee”. The Officer shall have the following roles and duties:*

* *Shall represent students of ethnic minorities on campus.*
* *Shall be responsible for representing union members on various committees.*
* *Shall provide support to students of ethnic minorities as may be necessary.*
* *Shall liaise with relevant societies.*
* *Shall organize relevant events and campaigns to highlight and address cultural diversity.*
* *Shall promote the cultural integration of students across campus, and shall highlight and address issues relating to students of ethnic minorities.*
* *Shall be responsible for developing union policy on the student of ethnic minorities.*

Torri noted that it is important for all students to see themselves represented in society, and in this instance, students of colour.

* Raymond, 1Spanish: asked how can we see more cultural integration? Torri responded saying that students are seeing the cultural diversity through society and that the Union needs mirror that. She also suggested that the Union introduce a Cultural Week to show the cultures and diversity in the college as a good starting point.
* Clare Austick (Equality Officer): voiced her enthusiasm behind the position, noting that by introducing another part-officer position, more students will be able to feel that their voices can be heard. Clare reiterated that that is the exact reason why the SU exists -- to listen and help all students.
* Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh (SU President): highlighted how this was a perfect example of when students realize the possibilities that come with working with the students Union.
* Owen Walker, 1EnergySystems: asked how this position would differ from the Equality position? Torri responded by noting that there are many stigmas within cultures, which makes it hard for students to come forward because students may not feel that some will understand. Continuing, Torri noted that this position will help create an open dialogue between groups.
* Christina, 1Italian: asked if the Ethnic Minority officer would also represent immigrants. Torri stated yes they would.
* Sean Guinan (Science Convener): asked if this position would also include travellers, who are also considered minorities? Lorcán (SU President) responded that there is a reason that minorities is plural in the title of the position -- there isn’t just one ethnic minority on campus.
* Annelise, 2Pharm: asked if Ethnic Minorities Officer and International Student Office could become a combined position? Torri noted that this idea had come forward but the goal for this position would be aimed at supporting cultural diversity overall, and that the goals of both position allow for more in-depth work.
* Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh (SU President) motioned that the council accept the introduction of this position. Lorcán noted that if this motion passed, the next step would be to gather 500 signatures for it to be accepted as a referendum vote in the part-time election ballots.
  + Motion passes, all in favour
* Council Chairperson Results: Emily McNamara (SU Council Chairperson) shared with the room that the successful candidate would need to receive 34 + 1 to achieve quota. After first and second picks, the results are as followed:  
   Kenneth Cooke 7 + n/a

Megan Jane 20 + 2  
Annelise Garrison 10 + 1  
**Sabrina Vaughan 31 + 4**

Sabrina Vaughan is introduced at the SU Council Chairperson for the 2018-2019 year.

* Student Union Elections: Emily McNamara (SU Council Chairperson) reminded council that hustings for the VP positions will be happening on Tuesday, while presidential hustings will be on Wednesday. Emily noted that this an opportunity to hold candidates accountable for their actions.
  + Ruth Sweeney (Societies Chairperson): asked if there will be live streaming of the hustings. Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh (SU President) noted that they will be live on Facebook, but not Snapchat.
  + Owen Walker, 1EnergySystems: asked if there will be a way for people to send in their questions via live stream? Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh (SU President) said that for the time being, they will just be taking questions from the floor but if the opportunity arises, they will take it.
* Emily McNamara (SU Council Chairperson) took a moment to thank the council for their work over the last year. “Gonna miss y’all”

**The Union of Students in Ireland Hustings**

The council then entered into hustings for USI where minutes were not requested.

Please find the [results](http://su.nuigalway.ie/nuigsu18-su-council-chair-election-results-usi-elections/) from NUI Galway Students’ Union Council –USI Election Hustings, on the 05/03/2018.

**A.O.B / A.G.E**

* Ruth Sweeney (Societies Chairperson): thanked Torri Chihumura for her strength while standing up in front of everyone and speaking up for what she believes in. Ruth also wanted to thank Emily for all of her work, dedication, organization and jokes throughout her term. The room applauded and cheered in agreeance. Ruth finished by also congratulating Sabrina on becoming the next chairperson of the SU. The room once again applauded.
* Diarmuid Ó Curraion: thanked the executive team (Lorcán, Andrew and Megan) for their work, noting that it was very well done and that they were a class team.
* Sean Devers, (?) : Thanked Haley for her hard work as secretary for the past year. The room applauded.
* Megan Jane, 2BA English: asked how much sway the Union has with the Health Unit? Lorcán Ó Maoileannaigh (SU President) responded that they do have a lot of sway but at the same time, the health unit does have some funding problems. Lorcán noted that a proposal has gone to the university’s sub-budget group committee for more money.
  + Megan Reilly (SU Vice President/Welfare) further noted that for the time being, there is a sign up saying that students who are really, really sick, they will accommodate.

Meeting Concluded

**05/03/18**

**Minutes proposed by**:­­­­­­­­­ Sabrina Vaughan (SU Council Chairperson).

**Seconded by**: \_\_\_Muireann O’ Sullivan (Disability Rights Officer)\_\_\_

**15/10/18**

\**These minutes were prepared from a contemporaneous note taken by Haley Myatt (SU Council Secretary) at the meeting Monday, 5th March 2018 at 6PM in the O’Heocha Theatre and were typed into this memorandum style document for the record of Council*.