

**NUI, Galway Students’ Union Council**

**Comhairle Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, OÉ Gaillimh**

6:00pm, Monday 21st January 2019

Venue: Flaherty Theatre, Concourse

**Present:** Megan Reilly (President), Eibhlín Seoighthe (Vice President for Education), Clare Austick (Vice President for Welfare & Equality), Adhna Nic Dhonnchadha (Oifigeach na Gaeilge), Chuka Paul Oguekwe (Mature Students’ Officer), Brandon Walsh (Societies Chairperson), Sabrina Vaughan (Students’ Union Council Chairperson), Rían McKeagney (Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies), Scott Green (Convenor of the College of Science), , Roshan George (Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics), Alex Coughlan (Gender and LGBT + Rights Officer), Muireann O’ Sullivan (Disability Rights Officer)

**Apologies:** Victoria Chihumura (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Jibran Abbasi (Postgraduate Research Officer), Liezel Ravenscroft (Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences), Clodagh McGivern (Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law).

**Minutes / Miontuairiscí**

**Introduction to Council/ Fáiltiú:**

S. Vaughan (SU Council Chairperson) welcomed for everyone for attending.

**Minutes\_/ Miontuairiscí:**

The Chair proposed the minutes from the previous council from the 26th of November 2018. They were seconded by C.Ó Seachnasaigh, LLM (international &comparative business law).

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

There were no matters arising from the previous council on 26/11/18

**Speakers / Cainteoirí:**All three speakers were voted in without objection.

**Officer Reports / Tuairisc na nOifigeach:**

Officer Reports that were sent out in the Council email were taken as read by each officer in SU Council.

**Speaker 1/ Cainteoir 1**

Electric Garden and Theatre/ FourFour Representative briefly spoke about booking through the Uniphy application on smart phones. They also spoke about class parties and those organising them getting free entry bands as a result.  
  
**Speakers 2+3/ Cainteoirí 2+3**   
Dr. Pádraig MacNeela (Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Psychology in NUI Galway) and Dr. Siobhán O’Higgins (Research Fellow, Dept. of Psychology in NUI Galway) talked about Smart Consent at NUI Galway.  
They were running workshops on research that was done and put into an engaging format for students, with an emphasis on positive sexual experiences rather than harassment or rape, in an order to raise awareness and to make sure people think about the workshop afterwards. These workshops took place for Corrib Village and Goldcrest residents, with an aim to roll dramas and plays out on campus also. They called for people to become facilitators in order to support the programme.   
  
A. Coughlan (Gender & LGBT+ Rights Officer) asked how long the process is to become a facilitator.  
R: 1 day of fun training, and then you’d be facilitating with another 2 or 3 other people. Mostly small sessions are what are run but can reach up to 30 students per session.  
  
E. Walker (2nd Engineering) asked how to get involved in Focus Groups?  
R: Just send an email.  
  
J. Milton (2nd BCT) proposed an idea of 1 minute videos to potentially serve as possible YouTube ads to get the message more out there.  
R: Welcomed the suggestion, and stated they were currently in discussions with their marketing team.  
C. O’Shaughnessy (LLM) Further explained the YouTube advertising system.

**Items for information/ Le Eolas:**

1. Post Grad Survey – C. Keighron (Postgraduate Taught Officer) Was supposed to be released today but will be released next week due to problems on Blackboard regarding data protection and GDPR.
2. CÉIM Leaders Recruitment – R. George (Convenor of Engineering) Peer assisted learning. Asked for those who want to become a leader to send an email expressing interest.
3. Second Council in March – M. Reilly (SU President) Looking to provide another space for reps to raise issues and perhaps bring forward policy.
4. Women Lead – M. Reilly (SU President) This Friday/Saturday hosted by USI, for women interested running in
5. Charity Event: 28th Jan Comedy Gig- David O’Doherty  
   Sat 2nd February Collection Day  
   18th Feb Comedy Gig 0 Neil Delamere and Gearóid Farrelly
6. Updates:   
   E. Seoighthe (VP for Education): Is looking to organise more NStEP training  
   Nursing protest on the 20th of February  
   Clean up organised with Brendan Smith beside Terryland Park

C. Austick (VP for Welfare and Equality): Mental Health Mondays  
  
University of sanctuary campaign/ sanctuary runners – making Mondays  
Mental Health Week – coming up next Monday   
Shag Week – 11th-14th February, consent programme talk?   
Clothes bank initiative: from students for students   
Food bank initiative: working with Student Services   
  
R. McKeagney (Arts Convenor) Sustainability update – deposit and return scheme. Intereted in setting up a small action group with ¾ students, realistic small term goals that are achievable on campus.   
Election process to be brought up at the next council for reps to run to be on the small action group.

**Items for agreement/ Le Socrú:**Motion regarding Student Levy fee  
Proposer: M. Reilly (SU President) gave a rundown of the student levy fee, stating that it was the 2nd highest in the country behind UCD which is €250, but that they get free access to their gym.  
€25.14 - Students’ Union  
€19.28 - Societies  
€19.28 - Clubs  
€17.23 - Áras na mac Léinn levy  
€18.46 - Health Unit levy  
€4.92 - Flirt FM  
€19.69 - Student Projects Fund  
€100 - University Sports Centre  
The motion outlined is as follows: “The Students’ Union President and Executive Committee to investigate the Levy, ensuring that it is the best use of Student money, with a view to ultimately reducing it.”  
  
E. Walker (2nd Engineering) asked why was the proposer seeking to get rid of the fee.  
R: Not looking to get rid of, that it’s needed for societies and the union to run, but to mostly focus on the sports centre taking a large proportion of the levy.  
  
E. Finn (4th French through Irish) asked how did the 5% interest rate start happening.  
R: No legal documentation has been seen, but that the levy was not to be collected for an indefinite period of time and that no written agreement can be found.

C. Shaughnessy (LLM) explained contract law and that the union cannot be bound by terms that they have not been made aware of.   
R: The union is currently engaged with a solicitor.

E. Seoighthe (VP for Education) stated that the university is charged to use the sports centre as an exam hall.  
M. Reilly (SU President) stated that she would be having a meeting with the Bursar on Monday.

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

1. Reading Club starting up in the James Hardiman Library every Tuesday.

2. J. Miltan (2BCT) asked R. George (Engineering Convenor) if CÉIM would be extended to IT.  
R: R. George (Engineering Convenor) outlined the piloted programmes and stated that there was hopes to of course expand the initiative but that more funding and time would be needed.  
  
3. M. Reilly (SU President) asked if anyone had any ideas to do with the land at Nuns Island to get into contact with her.  
  
4. M. Reilly (SU President) outlined her hopes to hold an election training event a week before nominations.

With no other AOB, the chairperson then concluded the meeting at 7:20 pm

21/01/19

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

Seconded by: N. O’Brien (3BA Law)

04/03/19

\*These minutes were prepared from a contemporaneous note taken by Dara Rickard (SU Council Secretary) at the meeting Monday, 21st of January 2019 at 6PM in the Flaherty Theatre and were typed into this memorandum style document for the record of Council.  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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For easier reading of the minutes some names/ titles were shortened.

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