



Students' Union Council
6:00 pm, Monday, 20th January 2020
Venue: AUC G002

Present:

Cameron Keighron (Vice-President / Education Officer) (They/Them), Brandon Walsh (Vice-President / Welfare & Equality Officer) (He/Him), Pádraic Toomey (Clubs' Captain) (He/Him), Mairtin Mac Gabhann (Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies)(He/Him), Scott Green (Students' Union Council Chairperson) (They/Them), Avery Fenton (International Students' Officer) (She/Her), Oissine Moore (Societies Chairperson) (He/Him), Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer) (They/Them), Kenny Cooke (Convenor of the College of Science) (He/Him), Clodagh McGivern (Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law) (She/Her), Sachi Sinha (Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics) (She/Her), Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge) (He/Him),

Apologies:

Clare Austick (President) (She/Her), Emily Tock (Postgraduate Research Officer) (She/Her), Dheeraj Gudluru (Postgraduate Taught Officer) (He/Him), Aisling Fitzgerald (Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences) (She/Her)

Absent:

Chuka Paul Oguekwe (Mature Students' Officer) (He/Him), Torri Chihumura (Ethnic Minorities Officer) (She/Her), Kaushik Narasimhan (Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer Kaushik Narasimhan) (He/Him).

Minutes (Miontuairiscí) for SU Council 20/01/2020:

Introduction to Council/ Fáiltiú:

Welcomed to Council.

Agenda outlined by Chairperson.

Seconding of minutes from last SU council:

Proposed by: Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

Seconded by: Rian M. (Final year Sociology and Politics)

Acceptance of apologies passed by unanimous vote.

Officer Reports / Tuairisc na nOifigeach:

Officer reports are taken as read.

Statement of apology for absence from Clare Austick (SU President) read out by Cameron Keighron (Education Officer).

Speakers / Cainteoirí:

Speaker welcomed into council by unanimous vote.

ISS Speaker- Wesley Riley

Speaker went through introduction slides on:

- Work of ISS and ISS provided services
- Strategic plan 2025
- Quick-start guide for new students
- Campus account (identity protection)
- IT Security, Verification Process, etc.
- Encouraged students to use service desk/ online & telephone support/ pop-in centre to contact them with any issues.

Events and workshops were organised but attendance rates were repeatedly low.

Speaker asked council for suggestions to improve student engagement.

Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

Programmes (at the end of Semester 1) ran during study week, that's why the attendance rate was low.

Programmes should not be calendared during the study week or winter period.

Kelsey Bruce (IMS1 Regenerative Medicine)

The Office 365 Workshop is probably too late in the term, it is needed long before week 5.

Rose Hymes (Gaeilge)

The 'Wifi Workshop' programme sounds very general, there is not enough information, there should be a more specific name/description.

Maybe advertisement could have been boosted by including it into the library tour, etc.

Joseph (1st Year Engineering)

It would be great to have a session during orientation days, perhaps separate sessions, each session in each college or school for new students.

Laura (Postgraduate Community Development Practice)

For adult learners, something very early on would be helpful as most adult students, about 80 percent of class had difficulties with PC use. It would be good to have a session early on the semester as lot of people struggled.

Ciaran (1st Year General Nursing)

Asked about the setting and location of the help centre and Wifi Clinic.

→ Answered.

Ciaran (1st Year General Nursing)

NUI Galway has a large campus. From an Aras Moyola based student's perspective, if you were to have one more location on campus you would get a lot more engagement. At a more central location like the Concourse, which is more convenient for students.

Rose (Gaeilge)

Did you say an hr and a half talk? Because that might be too long for students (time commitment and attention span wise) so shorter, more compact, 30 min long talks would be better.

Leah (4th Year Soc and Pol)

Perhaps even something as simple as setting up some space and a desk outside of Smokey's could be very useful as it is a more approachable space.

Michelle (Unknown)

PhD students come in at August (before everyone else) and there are a lot of students who have technological difficulties... Having a space or room booked on the concourse for the ISS where students could pop into with their issues would be very-very helpful.

Benjamin Moor (First Year Engineering)

They had a sex education talk for 10 mins during one of the engineering lectures earlier during the year. Catching students by walking into a lecture is a good way to connect and get students to listen, as most of the year would be attending and there would be a large audience of students.

Kelsey Bruce 1MS01

You would be able to attend, but it's a large campus, so you need to make sure to visit all sides of campus and make sessions as short as possible to get more and better student engagement.

Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

Highlighted software accessibility issues. Software and applications like Dragon are only accessible in particular computer suites on campus. Has contacted relevant people before about the issue but it has not been resolved. Is there anyone particular who could be contacted to further pursue finding a solution to this issue?

→ Answered: Contact details taken. Issue will be pursued.

Marie Lyons -USI Report

- De Stress Campaign
- College Awareness Week
- Break the Barriers Campaign
- Disability Awareness Campaign
- USI-HSE National Condom Distribution Service
- Mental Health Text Line (086 1800 280 free service for USI members)
- International Men's Day
- Equality and citizenship front (fighting deportation orders of students)
- Pink Training
- Review of Gender Recognition Act
- International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- USI& SIPTU joint agreement renewal
- 3rd Annual USI Postgraduate Symposium
- International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers
- Brexit survey (closing at 12:00 pm, Jan 20th)
- #Gaeilge4All Campaign
- Creative exchange network
- Response to minister of state for higher education (taken on board)
- Upcoming events: The power of disability -National forum
Women Lead event
- Student Survey/Focus Group
- Free entitlements and deals available at: <https://store.heanet.ie/offer/all>

POI:

Brandon Walsh (Welfare and Equality Officer)

NUIG SU can organise transport and accommodation in relation to the previously mentioned free USI events.

Detailed USI Report will be sent out and emailed to class representatives.
No further questions asked.

Item for Discussion:

Anti-Deportation Stance

Brandon Walsh (Welfare and Equality Officer)

NUIG is now officially designated University of Sanctuary.
Discussion of possibility to start a motion.

Riam M. (Final Year Soc and Pol)

Will this motion cover students only or staff as well?

→ Answered by Brandon Walsh (Welfare and Equality Officer):
Students (the Students Union's primary focus is on students) ...Not sure about staff, will can look into it.

Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

Deportation orders might affect students in other ways too even if it is not directly them who are facing deportation, deportation orders might affect students through their spouse, parents, family, etc.
Staff should also be included.

Oissine Moore (Societies Chairperson)

Can we know under what stance were the deportation orders issued?

→ Answered by USI Speaker Marie:
They were registered students, entered the country legally, etc.
Deportation order for one of the students was issued because some documentation arrived late.
Other issues and reasons for deportation orders are more dependent on the actual situation, case-to-case basis. Speaker will research it and come back with more information next time.

Joseph (1st Year Engineering)

What about cases where there is a proper, serious reason (crime etc.) for the deportation order? Would the SU still strive to protect the student and offer support?

Are there any disqualifying circumstances that could be put in place at a later stage?

→ Answered by Cameron Keighron (Education Officer):

We have no say in criminal proceedings, and regardless, if they are still a member of the SU, they are entitled to the support of the Students Union just as equally as any other student.

Unknown (Final Year Biochemistry)

Unknown.

→ Answered by Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

To qualify for protection as an asylum seeker, you have to enter the country legally. (Hence if you are an asylum seeker, you can not be an 'illegal immigrant'...)

Erin Mac An Tsoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge)

Are there concrete requirements for someone to enter this programme? Do we say that we stand by the student until the degree is finished?

Benjamin Moore (First Year Engineering)

Inquired if anyone knows how much the subsidised fees and funding provided by the government total to...

In relation to students having to move out of Ireland after doing their degree...If after receiving the support, subsidies and funding from the government, these international graduates are required to leave the country upon the completion of their studies, the costs and burden fall on us and the Irish economy.

What are the council's views on this?

Brandon Walsh (Vice-President / Welfare & Equality Officer)

Yes, after their education is completed, they will likely be deported and be asked to leave the country.

He is unsure of the costs incurred, the exact effect on the economy and the amount of subsidies provided by the government per student.

Cameron Keighron (Education Officer)

The motion cannot and will not do anything with the issuing of deportations. Again, we have 0 control over this.

Brandon Walsh (Vice-President / Welfare & Equality Officer)

The proposed motion would not apply to Alumni, only current registered students.

Avery Fenton (International Students' Officer)

Would like to point out that fees are not subsidised by the government for most international students, they often must pay even more compared to EU students.

The deportation order (in link to previously mentioned case) was issued because of documentation and paperwork -and often is with many deportation cases- and not due to illegal entry or criminal activity...

Cameron Keighron (Education Officer)

We are one of the Designated Universities of Sanctuary. The Union fully supports and welcomes the integration of students and asylum seekers entering our community and aims towards providing them with help.

Ciaran (1st Year General Nursing)

As a general nursing student, as graduates many of us will be in the unfortunate situation of having to leave the country anyways...Focus should be on keeping the workforce in the country...Everyone should support and promote the motion....

Scott Green (SU Council Chairperson)

Just to clarify again, there is no concrete motion on the table, we are discussing the possibility of bringing such motion in. We are not debating content for now.

P.O.I. (Points of Information):

Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

Living Wage Working Group will run from 6pm on Tues (AC203) on the 28th of January.

Marie Rogans -Asked for the information on the Living Wage Working Group to be repeated.

Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge)

Irish Language Forum

Highlighted information and details of forum (6-7 Thursday, 17th of March).

Brandon Walsh (Welfare and Equality Officer)

Provided updates on:

-Sustainability Working Groups

Karen (1st Year Philosophy)

Is this a continuation of last year's topics, or a repeat of them?

→ Answered: A repeat.

-SUAS

-National Disability Forum

-Fairtrade Campaign

-Women Lead

-Upcoming SU Campaigns

-Stay Safe Campaign

-Accommodation Issues

-Charity Events (Looking for Volunteers, Charity Collection Days 11-13; 13-15; 15-17)

Cameron Keighron (Education Officer)

Provided updates on:

-Postgrad Symposium

-SU Elections

-Upcoming General Elections 28/02 & Registering to vote

-Free Leisureland Buses for students during exam weeks

-Student Survey (encouraged participation)

-Inclusive learning and teaching project

Laura (Postgraduate Community Development Practices)

The registry to vote has to be signed and stamped by a member of the Gardai.

Will there be a member of the Gardai on campus to sign the vote registry?

→ Answered: Vote registry can be taken to be signed at Galway City Council or The Mill Street Police Station.

No further questions asked.

A.O.B.:

Kelsey Bruce 1MS01

Will there be another Student Levy Working Group?

→ Answered by Cameron Keighron (Education Officer): There will be one soon, (also affected by process and outcomes of the ongoing referendum, etc.) Further information will be made available very soon.

Ciaran (General Nursing 1st Year)

2020 is the year of Nursing and Midwifery, do you plan on organising any events around that?

→ Answered by Brandon Walsh (Welfare and Equality Officer): It is something that we can look into.

Podraic Toomey (Clubs Captain)

On the 30th of January Clubs Day event will be taking place. Asked Class Reps to spread word and encourage student participation.

Cameron Keighron (Education Officer)

Asked for the attendance record sheets back.

No further questions asked.

With no other issues or concerns, SU Council meeting is concluded at 19:26 on 20/01/2020.

Minutes were prepared by Szilvia Nemeth (SU Secretary) for the record of council.
