



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

Students' Union Council

6:00 pm, Monday, 10th February 2020

Venue: AUC G002

Present:

Clare Austick (President) (She/Her), 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), Dheeraj Gudluru (Postgraduate Taught Officer) (He/Him), Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer) (They/Them), Kenny Cooke (Convenor of the College of Science) (He/Him), Sachi Sinha (Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics) (She/Her), Aisling Fitzgerald (Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences) (She/Her), Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge) (He/Him), Chuka Paul Oguekwe (Mature Students' Officer) (He/Him), (Torri Chihumura (Ethnic Minorities Officer) (She/Her), Kaushik Narasimhan (Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer) (He/Him)

Apologies:

Clodagh McGivern (Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law) (She/Her), Emily Tock (Postgraduate Research Officer) (She/Her).

Absent:

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: Kelsey Bruce (1MS01 Regenerative Medicine)

Seconded by: Martin Smith (Convenor of College of Arts)

Acceptance of apologies passed by unanimous vote.

Officer Reports / Tuairisc na nOifigeach:

Written electronic reports were sent out and emailed to SU Council members.

Postgraduate Taught, Gender and LGBT+ Rights, Science, Gaeilge, Medicine and International Officers have offered apologies for late submission of reports and have presented their officer reports in word.

Officer reports taken as read. No questions asked.

General Election and Future Lobbying- Cameron Keighron (Education Officer & VP)

General discussion. Space to discuss what we think are the best strategies of approaching lobbying newly elected TD-s in terms of higher education funding, students support services, accommodation crises, SUSI reform, etc.

Prompted student engagement and suggestions on what we can do as a union, now and going forward.

→ Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

May we look at what their current policies are and how they differ or have changed with past and previous policies....Make them aware if we have separate policies and perhaps wish them to align with our policies.

→ Cameron Keighron (Educations Officer & VP)

Would also like to know where FF party stands with student issues...Will look into policies

→ Council is in favour of and open to the idea of inviting guest speakers from the party, newly elected TD-s, etc.

→ Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge)

might be a good idea to set up a working group around the issue.

USI Congress Motions

Cameron Keighron (Education Officer & VP) and Marie Lyons (USI)

Outlined USI Congress event and the process of writing and sending in motions.

Topical motions, SUSI reform, Postgrad reform, etc.

-Congress Notes

-Congress with Concern

-Congress with Believes

-Congress Mandate

USI Congress event happens annually and sets direction of the Student Movement for the upcoming year.

As a union of NUIG can bring forward 5 motions to the event.

Motion can be concerning any areas of student life which needs more representation, work, changes, reforms...

Speakers welcomed any ideas on board.

Clare Austick (Student Union President)

Each officer on the executive team gets to bring forward 3 motions as well.

Welfare working group is thinking of bringing a motion forward in regards to eating disorders and body positivity, issues which often get overlooked.

Alex Coughlan (Disability Rights Officer)

Where can someone go to find what is already existing USI policy?

→ Answered by Marie Lyons: On the congress website of USI. There are a few policies which are not yet updated on the policy book but it should but all should be updated by the end of the week.

Pádraic Toomey (Clubs' Captain)

So a total of 5 motions altogether?

→ Answered by Cameron Keighron - 5 from every university (5 from NUIG), every officer on the USI gets to bring 3 forward and every working group on the USI gets to also bring 3 forward .

Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge)

Possible motion for Irish language speakers...

→ Response by Marie: Cian is already working on bringing forward a similar motion, etc. Erin is welcomed to get in contact with Cian about development together.

Dheeraj G. (Postgraduate Taught Officer)

Possibility to introduce more information or support relating to postgrad and international/postgrad students, as many have a hard time finding part time job, etc. Need for improvement of policy on postgraduate affairs...

Pádraic Toomey (Clubs' Captain)

Inquired about involvement of USI in 2020 initiative....

→ Answered by Marie. (Trying to work with them and create a partnership.)

Brandon Walsh (Welfare & Equality Officer and VP)

Something about lobbying HAE about childcare funding, that is an area in need of improvement, there is not much out there available for people with children who need to access childcare and support while studying.

Clare Austick (SU President)

USI organised for a motion collaboration day, to avoid people with similar ideas and prevent overlapping of motions.

Advised that ideas should be emailed in before the end of next week.

Marie Lyons (USI)

Deadline for the motions: 26th of February

Encouraged participation. This congress in a great opportunity to come together and work together, etc.

Dheeraj G (Postgraduate Taught Officer)

Motion around Improvement of General Infrastructure (buildings/microwaves/public spaces/toilets, etc.)

→Marie Lyons (USI): Although it is a country-wide issue across multiple campuses, it is more internal and college based rather than USI based.

Industrial Action Motion

Scott Green (SU Council Chairperson)

The history and effectiveness of industrial action both in Ireland and abroad as a method of securing and protecting the rights and conditions of workers.

Oissine Moore (Societies Chairperson) speaking in favour of the motion

Unions should show collegiality towards one another to protect exploitation of human rights. We already have a strong connection with SIPTU, this motion is to ensure that it is not only SIPTU we strike with but other unions that go on strike in Galway city. Motion is to help students entering the workforce understand the reason behind industrial action and know when industrial action needs to be taken, encourage students entering the workforce to join unions... Motion is to ensure that we do not miss out on helping other unions through industrial action.

Asked council to vote in favour of motion to show support and solidarity to unions through industrial action.

Erin Mac An Tsaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge)

Does this mean that the SU will support unions generally or support unions with specific issues..?

→Answered by Oissine Moore (Societies Chairperson): Support will be provided 'in general', we plan to give support to get support, etc.

Motion passed by majority vote.

USI Update – Marie Lyons

General Election Student Manifesto

Spun Out NYCI, Newstalk, number of live broadcasts and live talks.

Education election hustings.

Seanad Election-for NUI Grads

Solidarity with TUI Strike

USI supported the Teachers Union of Ireland.

Early Year Big Start educators protest

Women Lead

The Power of Disability

Brexit Survey -impact of life and students

TCD Graduate Students Union Protest

Congress 6-9th April Trim Co Meath

Delegate numbers and how to become a delegate.

USI Elections

Upcoming Events-EMpower 24th Feb from 10-

Student Achievement Awards Ireland

No questions asked, written update to be emailed out.

Matters Arising / Nithe ag Éirí Astu:

Deportation Motion Update- Brandon Walsh (Welfare & Equality Officer and VP)

UMT (Universal Management Team) going through the motion. No further information on it until its passed through.

SU Elections Brandon Walsh (Welfare & Equality Officer and VP)

Full-time nominations open on 19th of Feb, part-time nominations open on the 26th.

Nomination forms can be collected in SU Offices. 20 signatures need to be collected, information event held last week...

Election week is held on 2nd -5th of March, do not be afraid to ask question and engage.

Scott Green (SU Council Chairperson) POL:

For the position of SU Council Chairperson election is not in the traditional way, you are voted at council (5 class rep signatures needed). More information to be provided at the next council.

Cameron Keighron (Education Officer and VP)

-Student Survey running till 25th of Feb (all of the colleges need to submit an action plan based on the results of this survey to the dean of students to show that it is taken seriously and efforts will be made to implement positive change).

-Inclusive Teaching and Learning Update

Running interviews (College of Business, Public Policy and Law) for undergraduate students, looking at their experiences, how inclusive they feel it is, etc.

-Symposium will be organised (in June), contact for more information or interest/involvement

-NStep Workshop

-Have been working on getting the ability of students to carry modules they have failed onto next year which they have previously failed.

Erin Mac An Tsoair (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge)– If you fail, you get to carry forward your module from a previous year?

→Answered:If you fail you a non-core module in 2nd year and your average is within percentage range 45-50, you get to carry forward a 5 credit module in to 3rd year.

Pádraic Toomey (Clubs' Captain)

In that case will changes to timetable be implemented?

→It will likely be up to the specific lecturers in question. It won be a perfect system but students will be supported by the academic staff to make it work.

Unknown(Physics)

Is this for when you fail your repeat exam or semester end exam?

→Answered: If you fail your exam and your overall grade is between the above outlined percentages...Otherwise you will not be eligible...

The goal is to align university with best practice that is used in other institutions in the country...

Ciara (3BC1)

Will these exams still be capped?

→Answered: The module you bring forward will not be necessarily capped, it is repeat examinations that will be automatically capped.

P.O.I.:

Clare Austick (SU President)

- Homelessness protest to be held on 29th of Feb 14:30 from Spanish arch.
- An NUIG student is facing deportation order, organised a solidarity gathering to be held on Thursday at 13:00 outside at the Big Yellow Thing, help student, show solidarity and support...
- Uni Strategic Plan Focus Group 18th February 13:00-14:00 in library.

Pádraic Toomey (Clubs' Captain)

Clubs Ball -24th of March

Brandon Walsh (Welfare & Equality Officer and VP)

- Shag Week
- Talk with COPE Galway on abusive relationships on Tuesday 11:00-12:00 in the View
- Sexual experience surveys 2nd-15th of March, encouraged participation
- Rapid HIV testing on Wednesday in the Space (11:00-16:00)
- Drug and alcohol awareness week 23rd-27th March
- Sex Toy Bingo (Thursday 14th of Feb from 20:00-late)
- Marchathon (sign up at Activetravellogger.ie OR email Joanna.Brophy@nuigalway.ie)
- If anyone has any event ideas, do not be afraid to get in contact

A.O.B.:

Cameron Keighron (Education Officer and VP)

Provided details of social.

Brandon Walsh (Welfare and Equality Officer and VP)

Has received numerous emails and casework around people with difficulties around accommodation, landlord issues, etc. If we know anyone who struggles from similar issues lets point them in his direction with confidence.

With no other issues or concerns, meeting is concluded at 19:16 on the 10/02/2020.

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