



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

**COMHAIRLE NA MAC LÉINN**

5:00pm, Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021

Venue: Online via Zoom

**Present:**

Pádraic Toomey (SU President), Emma Sweeney (VP/Education Officer), Róisín Nic Lochlainn (VP, Welfare and Equality Officer), Erin Mac an tSaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge , Irish Officer ), Niamh Quinn (International Students Officer), Michelle Mitchell (Mature Students' Officer), Clare McHale (Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies), Aoife Buckley (Convenor of the College of Science and Engineering), Evan O'Flaherty (Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences), Victor Igonin (Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law), Sebastiaan Bierema (Postgrad Research Officer), Martin Smyth (Postgrad Taught Officer), Barry Sugrue (Societies Chairperson), Patricia O'Mahony (Disability Rights Officer), Cheyanne Nwaonukwube (Ethnic Minorities Officer), Fionn Sexton Connolly (SU Council Chairperson).

**Apologies:**

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## **WELCOME/ FÁILTE**

Agenda outlined by SU Council Chairperson.  
Procedural motions outlined by SU President.

## **MOTIONS/ RÚIN**

### **Opposing fascism, Far-Right Extremism, and all Forms of Discrimination**

**Proposer:** Conall Mc Callig

#### Council Notes:

The existence of the USI Motion Deplatforming fascism, which was formulated by TU Dublin SU and passed in 2021.

#### Council Also Notes:

The existence of the NUIGSU No Platform Policy, which was passed by SU Council in 2011, and by referendum in 2013.

#### Council Notes with Concern:

An increase in conspiracy theorism, far-right extremism and discrimination within NUIG.

#### Council Believes:

The NUIGSU No Platform Policy is outdated, and omits several prominent Irish right-wing extremist and discriminatory organisations.

#### Council Also Believes:

USI motion is too narrow and fails to address conspiracy theorism, far-right extremism and discrimination sufficiently.

#### Council Recognises:

That discrimination includes but is not limited to sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, biphobia, ableism, xenophobia, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, casteism, ethnic discrimination.

#### Therefore, Council Mandates:

The NUIG Student's Union Executive to de-platform and challenge the rise of any form of conspiracy theorism, far-right extremism or discrimination and to engage in the rejection of this.

#### Council Also Mandates:

The NUIG Student's Union to reject any form of conspiracy theorism, far-right extremism or discrimination and counter-protest in a situation where conspiracy theorism, far-right extremism or discrimination in any form arrives at any campus of NUIG through peaceful means, where it is safe, as directed by the Executive and/or Council's direction.

### Council Further Mandates:

To automatically oppose any invitation from members to speak at this university, of the following organisations:

- National Party
- Irish Freedom Party
- Identity Ireland
- Pegida Ireland
- Síol na hÉireann
- Anti-Corruption Ireland
- Direct Democracy Ireland
- National Green Party
- LGB Alliance Ireland
- Irish Women's Lobby
- Radicaílín
- Yellow Vest Ireland
- Traditional Unionist Voice
- Irish Democratic Party
- United People
- Renua

as well as any other groups or individuals who espouse conspiracy theorist, far-right extremist or discriminatory views.

### Council Further Mandates:

That NUIG Students' Union Officers shall be prohibited from sharing a public platform with members of the listed organisations.

Signed: Conall Mc Callig, Dan McLachlan, Seán Crehan, Amy Keenan O'Hara, Tom Forde, William Mc Cabe, Ella Ní Cheallaigh, Jake Bond, Norita Bourke, Saóirse O'Neill, Kevin Clarke, Aoife Flaherty, Reece McArdle, Cian Mortimer, Daniel Dwyer, Georgia Walsh, Peter Moylan, Sai Gujulla

### **Ag cur I gcoinne an fhaisisteachais, Antoisceachas an Eite Fhíordheis, agus gach Cineál Idirdealú**

#### Aithníonn an Chomhairle:

An rún a rith I 2021 maidir leis an gcosc ar fhaisisteachas, a chuireadh le chéile ag Aontas na Macléinn, Coláiste na Tríonóide.

#### Aithníonn an Chomhairle chomh maith:

An rún a ritheadh I gComhaltas na Macléinn OÉ Gaillimh I 2011 agus trí reifreann I 2013, maidir leis an polasaí 'No Platform'.

#### Aithníonn an Chomhairle le himní:

Tá méadú tagtha ar theoiricí comhcheilge, antoisceachas an eite fhíordheis agus idirdhealú laistigh d'Ollscoil na hÉireann Gaillimh.

#### Creideann an Chomhairle:

Tá an polasaí 'Gan Ardán' as dáta agus fágfar roinnt eagraíochtaí idirdhealaitheacha, antoisceacha ar an eite fhíordheis, ar an lár.

#### Creideann an Chomhairle chomh maith:

Tá rún Aontais na Macléinn ró-chúng agus ní phléann sé teoiricí comhcheilge, antoisceachas an fhíordheis nó idirdhealú mar is cóir.

#### Tuigeann an Chomhairle:

Go mbaineann an t-idirdhealú le gnéasachas, ciníochas, homafóibe, seineafóibe, frith-sheimíteachas, ioslamafóibe, claontacht in aghaidh daoine déghnéasach, trasinsneach, daoine faoi míchumas agus grúpaí eitneacha.

#### Mar sin, sainordaíonn an Chomhairle:

Nach dtabharfaidh Comhaltas na Macléinn Gaillimh ardán go a leithéid agus go gcuirfidís dushlán roimh aon saghas méadú a tagann ar theoiricí comhcheilge, antoisceachas an fhíordheis, idirdhealú agus dul I ngleic leis.

#### Sainordaíonn an Chomhairle chomh maith:

Go ndiúltóidh Comhaltas na Macléinn OÉ Gaillimh teoiric comhcheilge, antoisceachas an fhíordheis nó idirdhealú d'aon saghas agus go ndéanfar frithagóid sa chás go sroicheann teoiricí comhcheilge, antoisceachas an fhíordheis nó idirdhealú aon champas a bhaineann le OÉG, ar bhealach sábháilte agus síochánta, de réir mar a ordóidh an Chomhairle nó an Coiste Feidhmiúcháin

#### Sainordaíonn an Chomhairle níos faide:

Dul I gcoinne aon cuireadh ó bhaill de na heagraíochtaí seo a leanas:

- An Páirtí Náisiúnta
- Cumann na Saoirse
- Aitheantas Éire
- Pegida Éire
- Síol na hÉireann
- Anti-Corruption Ireland
- Direct Democracy Ireland
- National Green Party
- LGB Alliance Ireland
- Irish Women's Lobby
- Radicailín
- Yellow Vest Ireland
- Traditional Unionist Voice
- Irish Democratic Party
- United People
- Renua

Chomh maith le haon ghrúpaí eile a tacaíonn le tuairimí cosúil le teoiricí comhcheilge, antoisceachas an fhíordheis nó idirdhealú.

Sainordaíonn an Chomhairle níos faide:

Go mbeidh cosc ar Oifigigh Chomhaltas na Macléinn OÉ Gaillimh ardán a roinnt le baill na ghrúpaí thuasluaite.

Sínte: Conall Mc Callig, Dan McLachlan, Seán Crehan, Amy Keenan O'Hara, Tom Forde, William Mc Cabe, Ella Ní Cheallaigh, Jake Bond, Norita Bourke, Saóirse O'Neill, Kevin Clarke, Aoife Flaherty, Reece McArdle, Cian Mortimer, Daniel Dwyer, Georgia Walsh, Peter Moylan, Sai Gujulla

Procedural motion 9C proposed by Joe Mee.  
(Speaker suggested that all mentions of “far-right” and the last 2 mandates of the total of 4 proposed by the motion be taken in parts and voted upon separately.)

Speaker against the proposed 9C procedural motion: Cian

PROCEDURAL MOTION 9C: Passed

Speaker against the motion: Julia (Masters Student)

Speaker for the motion: Michael (Final Year Student)

Speaker against the motion: Szilvia Nemeth (2<sup>nd</sup> Year BIS)

Speaker for the motion: Georgia

Speaker against the motion: Adam Mullins (1<sup>st</sup> Year Applied Physics)

Speaker for the motion: William

P.O.I.: Fei (Definition of hate-speech offered by speaker)

Speaker against the motion: Seoirse Connolly

Speaker for the motion: Matthew Connolly

Speaker against the motion: Pat Farrell

Speaker for the motion: Eve Regan

Speaker against the motion: Wesley Wilders

P.O.I.: Correction of term used to refer to LGBT+ community offered by speaker.

Speaker for the motion: Cian

Speaker against the motion: Patricia O'Mahony

P.O.I.: Clarification on absence of the word hate speech in the motion offered by Joe Mee.

Speaker for the motion: Erin Mac an tSaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge , Irish Officer

Procedural Motion 9A proposed by SU President.

PROCEDURAL MOTION 9A: Passed

Summation offered by Conall Mc Callig.

VOTING/VÓTÁIL ON 9C PARTS:

-Removal of all mentions of “far-right”: Passed

-Removal of all mentions of “right wing”: Passed

-Removal of the last 2 suggested mandates (highlighted in blue on the shared screen by the SU president): Passed

VOTING/VÓTÁIL ON THE AMENDED MOTION: Passed

### **Sustainability Officer**

The proposed amendment to the NUI Galway Students' Union constitution, as proposed by the SU Executive Committee, if passed, will result in the creation of a new part-time officer position of Environmental Officer and Sustainability Officer

The full text of the constitutional amendment is as follows:

### **Article 7 The Executive Committee**

Insert: The Environmental and Sustainability Officer

And renumber accordingly

Insert: The Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer

1. Shall promote sustainability and environmental awareness amongst the members of the Union.
2. Shall be responsible for developing union policy on environmental and sustainability issues.
3. Shall liaise with relevant societies and interest groups.
4. Shall organise relevant events and campaigns to highlight and address environmental and sustainability issues.
5. Shall represent Union members on relevant university committees.

And renumber accordingly

### **Article 10 Students' Union Committees & Fora**

Insert: The Environmental and Sustainability Forum

This shall be chaired by the Environmental and Sustainability Officer and shall meet at least once per semester. The purpose of the Environmental and Sustainability Forum shall be to discuss any relevant environmental and sustainability issues or campaigns. The Environmental and Sustainability Forum shall, where necessary propose any relevant agenda items to SU Council for discussion. The Environmental and Sustainability Forum shall be open to all members of the Union.

Speaker for the motion: Marlana

No speakers against the motion.

VOTING/VÓTÁIL: Passed

### **Appointment of an External Students' Union Council Chairperson**

### **Article 7. The Executive Committee**

Delete:

7.A

“viii. The Students’ Union Council Chairperson”

And renumber accordingly x

Delete:

7.A.viii The Students’ Union Council Chairperson,

1. S/He shall chair the meetings of the Students’ Union Council
2. S/He shall represent all class representatives on the Executive Committee.
3. He/she shall work with the College Convenors to see that each class in the University has a class representative.

And renumber accordingly

Delete:

7.A.ix

“3. They shall work with the Chairperson of Students’ Union Council to see that each class in the University has a class representative.”

## **Article 5. Authority**

Insert:

5.C. iv.

- a. The Chairperson of the Students’ Union Council shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.
- b. The Chairperson of the Students’ Union Council shall serve for a three-year term and shall be eligible to be appointed for a second three-year term.
- c. The Chairperson of the Students’ Union Council shall not be a member of the Union.
- d. The Chairperson of Students’ Union Council can be removed by two thirds of a quorate Students’ Union Council.
- e. In the absence of the Chairperson at a meeting of the Students’ Union Council, the Council shall elect from one of its number an acting Chairperson for the duration of that meeting.

And renumber accordingly

Speaker against the motion: Tom Forde

Speaker for the motion: Joe Mee

Procedural motion 9A proposed.

Questions asked by:

-Marlena

-Erin Mac an tSaoir (Oifigeach Na Gaeilge , Irish Officer) inquired about the costs that will be incurred if the proposed motion is passed and external chairperson is hired

-Fei

Questions answered by SU President.

PROCEDURAL MOTION 9A: Passed

VOTING/VÓTÁIL: Passed

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/MÍREANNA PLÉ**

- Coca-Cola Deal
- SUSI

**POINTS OF INFORMATION / POINTÍ EOLAIS**

- Student Levy Referendum
- ENLight Presentation

**A.O.B.:**

- Manoj Kataram inquired about current status of motion passed on recording of lectures for the forthcoming semester.

Answered by Emma Sweeney (VP/ Education Officer)

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Special Comhairle na Mac Léinn meeting is concluded at 19:08 on the 31/03/2021. Minutes were prepared by Szilvia Nemeth, SU Council Secretary for the record of council.