



Comhaltas na Mac Léinn,
Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

University of Galway
Students' Union

Miontuairiscí (Minutes)

Comhairle Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn 24/10/2022

18:06 Introduction to Comhairle

Chairperson (Cathal Sherlock) welcomes Comhairle and introduces self. Uachtarán introduces the executive council, explains the role of Comhairle, and addresses by-election part-time roles made available: Postgraduate Research Officer & Gender & LGBT+ Officer. Uachtarán then explains the role of the academic council, which will be elected later in Comhairle.

Apologies offered by Disability Rights Officer and Mature Students Officer.

18:11 Officers Updates

- *Sai Gujulla*, **President**

Highlights parts of report including:

- SU funding proposal social space, which will be in the library basement.
- Working with Lit & Deb Society to create forum to express complaints.
- Hybrid Learning

- *Imogen O'Flaherty Falconer*, **Vice-President / Welfare And Equality Officer**

Highlights various aspects of officer's report.

- *Joe Mee*, **Vice President / Education Officer**

Highlights parts of report including:

- Class rep e-module
- Class rep elections, 460 class reps, *woo!*
- Postgrad council, good turnout.
- Attended accommodation protest
- 35 lecture shoutouts for class rep elections and Hallows (Society & SU collaborative event)

- *Barry Ó Siochrú*, **Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge/Vice President For The Irish Language**

Notes new full-time Gaeilge position.

- Sceán gconaithe / Irish language housing
- Irish language week 14-18 Nov
 - Sam McGuire + Liam McCarthy Cup
 - Ghaeilge day for coldvember
 - Queer terminology
- Not possible to make more classes available this semester

Tendai (4th Global Commerce) questioned whether classes would be free. Leas-

Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge confirmed they would be.

- *Tom Forde*, **Convener of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies**

Report taken as reads

- *Jack Reidy*, **Convener of The College of Science And Engineering**

Report taken as read but highlights

- Lab coat drive
 - Seeking donations
 - Attended class shoutouts
- *Rain Puiman Yan*, **Convener of The College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences**

Report taken as read but highlights

- Microwaves
- Collabs with other conveners
 - Julia with buddy system
- College strategy launch
- *Holly Leech*, **Convener of the Colleges of Business, Public Policy and Law**

Outlines officer's report in entirety.

- *Tahsin Kamal*, **Clubs Captain**
 - New award schemes
 - Club of the Month
 - Nov first awardees
 - Discussing Dean's award
 - Charity Cup

- Quarter Finals 8 Nov
- Finals Nov 25 in Pres Lawn

Tendai (4th Global Commerce): What is the difference between Dean's Report & President's award?

Clubs Captain notes Dean's Award is more for clubs is more for societies

- *Raimey O'Boyle*, **Postgraduate Taught Officer**

Outlines officer's report in entirety.

- *Vickie Popoola*, **Societies Chairperson**
 - Attended Socs Forum
 - Attended USCG Meetings
 - Worked w/ SocsBox on Hallows
- *Julia Egan*, **International Students Officer**

Highlights areas of report:

- Working with Rain on Buddy programme
- Planning cultural event in spring, hopeful collab w/ societies.

Malena Thren, **Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer**

Report taken as read but highlights:

- Wasted Week
- Disposable Vape awareness
- Bike fixing day
- Galway City Council Q+A, *free compostable bins!*
- SU Climate Crew
 - VegSoc returns!
- Sustainability on campus
 - 2go cups + bike lanes

- Finals Nov 25 in Pres Lawn

Tendai (4th Global Commerce): How will parts for bikes be subsidised?

Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer: Four mechanics to bring materials. They will fix punctures & brake pads. Will address significant issues but not fix them. Minor issues fixed free of charge.

- *Anne Marie Ward*, **Ethnic Minorities Officer**

Report taken as read but highlights:

- Working w the Equality & Inclusion committee to send out a survey
 - Totally anonymous
 - Includes staff
- Traveller education officer contacted & relationship established
 - *Seánie Ó Gáibhín*, **Oifigeach Na Gaeilge Páirt-Aimseartha**

Report taken as read but highlights:

- Attended various protests
- Contacted Irish equality council

Benjamin George, **Mature Students' Officer** & *Greta Westerwald*, **MPA, Postgraduate Research Officer** & *Michaela Margaret Joyce*, **Disability Rights Officer's** Reports are taken as read.

Reports accepted.

18:34 Elections for Academic Council

Academic Council explained.

Question raised: What are examples of the issues raised?

VP for Education: Talked about hybrid learning and accommodation crisis.

Eimear (Education): Is this only for Undergraduates?

VP for Education: At this time, yes. There is a separate election for postgraduates

Alistair (Science and Engineering): How often is council held?

VP for Education: Twice a semester, one has already been held.

Candidates:

Zhonna Gonzalez Davis (4BCL1): Very passionate about hybrid learning, UoG is not accessible for people with disabilities.

Laura Molly (2nd year) Meets lecturers every two weeks. Took a meeting as CEIM leader to discuss hybrid learning.

Abby – (2nd BA law): Would like to reform exams and push hybrid learning.

Mia – (4th Zoology): Wants to be part of conversation. Class rep for small class.

Transition back to campus still occurring & hybrid learning still happening.

Alexandrau Sortok (2nd Math): believes he can push hybrid learning

Scott Bushell – (4th Computing): Small class. Hybrid learning is a massive issue. Paid tutors currently paid 13€ despite the magnitude of issues they face.

Jakub Jaworski (2nd General Nursing): Wants to advocate for improving college especially nursing. Forced to work with no break, then sent back to college. Wants to improve accessibility. A class rep for 2 years and involved in many societies.

Matthew Carty (2nd biotech): Hybrid learning is important. Registration means we can take any class, so we should be able to take them how we want to.

Speakers reintroduce themselves.

18:53 Comfort Break

19:02 Academic Council Elected

Council elected in no particular order:

Scott Bushel 4th Computing elected

Laura Molly elected

Mia 4th Zoology elected

Zhonna Gonzalez Davis 4BCL2 elected

19:03 Dream House

Polls ran through Vevox to determine various standards of living of students titled:

(1) Rent amount?

(2) Where you commute from on a daily basis?

VP for Education attempting to secure commuter buses.

(3) What is the most important thing to you regarding accommodation?

Affordability and Location Primary results

Welfare mentions the cost of living protest November 12 2pm to show collective anger at the rising cost of living.

19:14 Hybrid Learning 2.0

VP for Education outlines the difference between hybrid and blended learning categories. Questions council:

1. What is your preferred method of teaching, in-person, online, blended or hybrid?

a. Hybrid, then Blended, then In-Person, then online

2. What are the advantages of Hybrid/Blended Learning?

a. Primary responses: Revision, Flexibility, Accessibility & Commuting

Speakers taken. Speaker 1 suggests providing lecturers with recorders. Speaker 3 highlights the fear of students in medicine who require attendance and PowerPoints not containing information.

3. What methods of blended learning would you like to see?

a. bbq bacon burger, recorded lectures, podcasts

Speakers highlight once again highlight how helpful podcasts and recordings are. VP for education highlights importance of Education forum.

19:31 Keeping Galway Moving

Presented by **Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer.**

Addresses Galway Ring Road. Claims Galway City Council believes we should be able to reach anywhere within 15 minutes.

Vevox on ideal transport mode (bus) & what is stopping you from using it? (weather, no gluas, no safe cycle lanes) & what are potential alternatives to the ring road?

(gluas)

Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer outlines alternatives to ring roads & highlights detrimental nature of ring road to the environment. Argues ring road unnecessary. Welcomes alternatives to ring road.

- Chris MA Public Policy raises option of car share registration. Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer concurs.
- Anon Speaker suggests more frequent + greater number of commuter trains. Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer says they are looking at increasing the frequency of trains and highlights commuter buses.

- Zhonna Gonzalez Davis, Final BCL Law comments on City Direct bus service not showing up.

Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer concurs.

- Anon Speaker requests access to letters Environmental Officer is sending to Galway City Council.

Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer agrees and requests comhairle informs her of issues and sends letters to Galway City Council.

19:50 Carparking

Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge discusses issues with parents parking on campus; Mature Taught Officer suggested *Parent Parking Permit*. Requests for students to email about parking to his email.

19:53 AOB & Suggestions

- Majek Psych (BMS) notes dip in WiFi quality & requests why this happened & why main university WiFi has not returned.

Uachtarán has contacted ISS. EDUROAM crashed in lots of universities. Still working on it.

- Jakub Jaworski 2nd General Nursing. Temperature not regulated in lecture halls. Microwaves shut down when smokies closes. No kettles available. Hub kitchen closes early especially considering reading room closes late.

Uachtarán: Regulated heating will be present in all lecture halls from now on. Microwave and hot water issue *will* be solved but may not come into effect until easter period.

- Tendai (4th Global Commerce): Hygiene issue raised. Cairnes Building taps have hot water but Arts Science Concourse has cold water.

Uachtarán: Water stations being implemented on campus.

- Peter (Science and Engineering): Class representative for an online course. Most students take course online and therefore told exams will be online; now told online exams not possible. Students scared and don't know who to speak to.

VP for Education said to email him for further assistance.

- Michéal Cahill (3EV2): Outdoor seating especially during rain, no adequate facilities.

Uachtarán states meeting pods are being set up. WiFi enabled shelter being set up. Tents being set up (under new name?). Restricting cars from going under the concourse & supplying benches.

- VP for Gaeilge reminds Reps of town hall meeting being held on Wednesday in The Space on Wednesday to express small/big issues. Highlights Hallows event.

- Question raised as to whether there will be BBQ bacon burger there

VP for Gaeilge: Maybe

- Question raised as to the purpose of the speak out tool: What is it? Does college get data?
VP for Welfare notes that the university does collect the data but that data may also be used to substantiate complaint.
- Akshay Kul... raised question as to access to vending machines in Cairnes since Friars closes at 3pm.
Uachtarán says yes as well as hopefully vending machines for condoms.

20:03 End of Comhairle



Comhaltas na Mac Léinn,
Ollscoil na Gaillimhe

*University of Galway
Students' Union*