



Comhaltas na Mac Léinn,
Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
*University of Galway
Students' Union*

Miontuairiscí (Minutes)

Comhairle Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn 27/02/2023

Comhairle begins at 18:11.

18:00 Introduction to Comhairle

The following member(s) of the Executive were absent: *Tahsin Kamal, Clubs*

Captain ; Holly Leech, Convener of the Colleges of Business, Public Policy and Law ; Rain Puiman Yan, Convenor of The College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences ; Benjamin George, Mature Students' Officer ; Michaela Margaret Joyce, Disability Rights Officer ; Anne Marie Ward, Ethnic Minorities Officer

The Matters Arising are as follows: No matters arising were brought forward

18:15 Officers Updates

- *Sai Gujulla, Uachtarán*
 - Started taking Irish classes on Wednesday
 - Uploaded a "Day in the Life" video to outline Presidential responsibilities.
 - Outdoor pods launched, outlined locations and noted new pod to be erected.
 - Assisted in Campus Clean-up following RAG Week with **Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge, Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer** and *Paul Lynch, Environmental Society Secretary*.
 - Student Registry
 - Take Me Out
 - Traveller Ethnicity Week

- *Joe Mee, Vice President / Education Officer*
 - He is bald now.
 - Student Services Survey closes tomorrow, prizes available!

- New library building feedback has been received; new feedback is always welcome at [su.education@universityofgalway.ie].
 - Hopeful that the reading week will begin in September of the 2023/2024 academic year.
 - Carrying credits forward in cases of extenuating circumstances will be possible beginning in September of the 2023/2024 academic year.
 - 560 study spaces have been added to campus. Hopefully extended to the week before. The study spaces added for the exams will be collaborative study spaces so speaking will be permitted.
- *Baldy Barry Ó Siochrú*, **Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge/Vice President For The Irish Language**

Report taken as read but highlights:

- Attended and assisted in many charity events, including: Take Me Out, Galentines, Sex Toy Bingo with €16,000 raised. Expresses thanks to all involved. Hopeful
- Hopeful €20,000 mark will be reached after Drag Race.
- Seachtain Na Gaeilge
 - 01.03.2023—17.03.2024 / 2.5 Weeks.
 - Many different events organised for new speakers and refreshing language skills. Emphasises all welcome.
 - Collab with BródSoc and SlugSoc.
- Irish language accommodation in Corrib Village established. 16 students housed this year, 32 students starting from 2023/2024 academic year.

Unknown Speaker, **Irish Centre for Human Rights** questions whether any Céilís will be running.

Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge says there are loads! One on first day (01.03), one day after (02.03) and more listed.

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

- Biggest ever dance week events
- Had a very successful Consent Week.
- Emailed every TD in Ireland during Talk to a TD Day.
- Better Nightlife
- Gave a safe talk to 24 class representatives.

- *Vickie Popoola*, **Societies Chairperson**

- Attended USCG
- Gave a speech at Akumakon
- Assisted with Socs Party
- Highlights Part-Time Nominations are open, with the closing date being Wednesday, 01.03.2023 at 17:00.

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

Report taken as read

- Volunteer Programme
- ENLIGHT Glassary — one man's trash is another man's treasure. Collecting stuff for charity, Asks Comhairle to donate their time first week of May as sorters are needed. Can be contacted following Council.
- Activism Training occurring in Cork which she is not fully informed on as she did not organise it. Check *Environmental Society* emails for more details.
 - Global Strike occurring Friday (03.03.2023) at 13:30.
 - Painting happening Wednesday (01.03.2023) 19:00-20:00.
- New pods welcomed
- Biodiversity on campus
 - Ponds/Library
- An Mheitheal Rothar Bike Mechanic Workshop

Unknown Speaker, **ACCESS Class Representative** questions whether a specific charity has been decided for food collection.

Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer states that the Glassary is working with *Simon Community*, especially for housing goods; a charity which provides cooking classes; *Bounce Back* for mattresses; *possibly* working with St Vincent de Paul but uncertain. States that if council has any ideas regarding charities, to please get in touch with her.

Speaker notes they volunteer for a charity named *Shining Light*, which gives food to individuals in Direct Provision. Would be happy to receive surplus.

Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer asks speaker to contact her.

- *Julia Egan*, **International Students Officer**
 - International Students Table Quiz — 19:00 22.03.2023 at SULT. Tickets are €5 Each.
 - Proposed International Student Buddy Programme. To be presented for actual funding this week, would launch September of next academic year.
- *Seánie Ó Gáibhín*, **Oifigeach Na Gaeilge Páirt-Aimseartha**
 - Promoted elections on campus with other people which resulted in people putting their names forward.
- *John Walsh*, **Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer**
 - Has been speaking to SocsBox and BródSoc regarding restarting the T-Fund. Negotiations have unfortunately fallen through very recently and they are trying to start a brand new fund.
- *Jack Reidy*, **Convenor of The College of Science And Engineering**
 - Attended SU fundraiser.
 - Attended science council.
 - Welcomes contact from Comhairle.

- *Tom Forde*, **Convener of the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies**
 - *Cathal Sherlock*, **Chairperson** briefly attempts to communicate with the Convener, who has attended online, to no response.

Comhairle votes to accept Officer Reports at 18:28

18:29: Chairperson outlines Procedural Motion E: challenge to Chairperson and Procedural Motion F: no confidence in Chairperson.

18:15 Full Time Officer Candidates Hustings

Hustings for full-time officer elections took place. All candidates given equal time to speak.

19:18 Comfort Break

Comfort break skipped

19:18 Library Services: What Could be Improved

Monica & Evelyn – Head of Learning Services, Support And Engagement.

- Highlights annual library survey. Running from March 8 onwards. All-for-one vouchers available. Asks Comhairle to spread the word.
- Focus groups – now in relation to website. What do users think of website?
- Exams – academic skills hub available online and in person
- Workshops for pre-exam support.
- Reading room. Checking IDs to make sure leaving certs don't come in.

19:22 *Antoinette Peyton*, **LLB, School of Law** claims Printing services are not great & more plugs in library required

Monica

- Trying to put plugs on as many as possible. 45+ this year. Infrastructure limited so not many more can be added.
- Laptop charging lockers in foyer
- Half to borrow laptop, half to put your own in

Evelyn

- Printing in all Uni, not just library. ISS issue. Spyware check means carbon black is on every device, makes printers operate differently.

Mary Tynan, MA Irish Media & Communications:

- Disabled individuals cannot access the above ground floor library toilet or reading room because the doors are too heavy.
- Suggests having automatic doors instead of heavy fire doors.
- DSS is aware of this issue.
- Cannot access lift shaft doors because they are also too heavy.
- Magnets in Bialinn make the university inaccessible.

Diarmuid, 4th mechanical engineering:

- There is no space to take team calls on campus.
- Spaces needed for students.

Monica:

- Included in requirements for new building.
- Suggests reconfiguring spaces.
- Hybrid working means library staff will be looking for this.
- Suggests a large open group study room on the first floor right side, unbookable.

VP for Education:

- Lots of Irish speaking staff.
- Suggests Irish language pins to signify.

Monica:

- Running classes for staff.

Malena Thren, 4EV2:

- Scientific writing classes: any updates?/ too general, not specific to scientific writing.
- Printers: any way to decrease the amount of pages printed?
- If it's being used, is it recycled paper?

Monica:

- Recycled paper: university contract w/ MJ Flood. Continuing, hasn't expired. Recycled paper not specified.

Paulie, Human Rights:

- Dyslexic individuals are not spoken to appropriately by academic writing centers.
- How to make more accessibility?
- Hours for the library.
- Funding mostly comes from DSS, so absolutely welcome to disabled students and primarily for them.

Anna Hamilton, 2nd Science:

- o Brings attention to library opening hours during August exams that are not conducive to working hours.
- o Asks if anything can be done to extend library opening hours during this time.
- o Monica responds by stating that the library usually opens longer for three weeks leading up to exams.
- o Staff refused to extend hours last year but negotiations are improving, and they are hopeful for longer opening hours this summer.
- o Not normal hours but 3 weeks usually longer opened.

Summation:

- Evelyn thanks Comhairle for the feedback and provides an email address for further communication with the library: library@nuigalway.ie.

19:36 Enhancing the Student Experience

VP for Education notes student experience is damaged. President wants to know how to improve student experience.

Barry

- No spaces for students on campus.
- Irish language spaces but spaces in general needed.
- Biodiversity spaces like gardens needed.

Jack Ready

- Clubs and societies
- No supports for clubs

Malena Thren, 4EV2

- There are strong links between mental health, feeling of belonging, and physical and mental welfare.
- Proximity to nature has been found to have a positive impact on mental health.
- Nature can also help with exams.
- Roads and buildings should incorporate green spaces to improve mental well-being.
- The new library building will remove the organic garden.

Gabriel, Erasmus rep

- Covid infrastructure, signs, screens.

Welfare

- Remove barriers and restrictions to running events

Dermot Brennan, physiology

- Lack of any feedback. Comes down to ignorance. Module to lecturers for methodologies to provide meaningful feedback on work

Izzy Tiernan B.A. Connect HR

- Cost of living crisis
- commuting

- *Dean Kenny, 4 BSc Maths*

More diverse events in bar. Techno events. Trad sessions ceilis.

Jenna O'Brien, B.A. Human Rights

- Pods not open on weekends or after 5pm

Unknown speaker, psychology

- Recorded lectures

Molly, 1st ICHR

- No spaces to eat quietly.

Summation:

Training for lecturers. Will bring suggestions forward. Thanks Comhairle

19:50 University Mascot

Smokey the pigeon designs are finalised. Student-designed and submitted to university creative agencies

Rounders match between exec and uni staff

Malena Thren, 4EV2 asks pres to elaborate as to what Smokey means to population.

Sai Gujulla, **Uachtarán** notes it goes back to 90s,

VP for Education amends it goes back to 60s, Smokey Joes original student bar; he existed before covid and will live on forever in our hearts. Will costume be available readily for intervarsity events

Chair said original Smokey from 2012

19:53 AOB/Suggestions

VP for Education

- University should provide free period products and subsidise food.
- Concerns about the university's approach to small issues such as paint on walls and carpets in rooms.
- Suggests providing a baseball inspirational speech.
- Encourages the university to make unions aware of ongoing initiatives and strategies.
- Contact: su.education@universityofgalway or su.president

Mary Tynan, **MA Irish Media and Communications** notes last council, we were in Bailey Allen. Preferred it because accessible.

Sai Gujulla, **Uachtarán** didn't get booking space bc soccs are using it, but have it on March 22.

VP for Education

- accessible + collaborative.
- Hopefully will have a recommendation to book it early.

LU don Gaeilge notes congress approaching

- *Sai Gujulla*, **Uachtarán**
 - Biomedical engineering
 - Explains congress.
 - Clayton in Sligo. 3 April – 6 April.

20:04 End of Comhairle