



Miontuairiscí (Minutes)

Comhairle Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn 13/11/2023

Time Begins: 18:07

18:00 Introduction to Comhairle

The following member(s) of the Executive were absent: *Adrian Wisdom*, **Mature Students' Officer**

The following member(s) sent apologies: *Raimey O'Boyle*, **Vice President for Education**, *Katie Scrivener*, **Convenor of The College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences**; *Vanessa Frimpong*, **Ethnic Minorities Officer**, *Justin Kossel*, **Clubs' Captain**

18:13 Officer Updates

Dean Kenny, **Uachtarán**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Co-signed letter with Raimey and University President to Minister Paschal Donohue (Public Expenditure and Reform) calling for additional funding to universities
 - Carpark work - successfully got sports vehicles moved out of Kingfisher carpark
 - First Údaras meeting
 - Bus services - Bus Éireann has supplied additional services on Moycullen/Oughterard route and Barna route
 - Plan for indoor/outdoor seating - should be finished by Christmas

Faye Ní Dhomhnaill, **Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Gaelseachtain planning
 - Tog Amach Mé - please sign up

Izzy Tiernan, **Vice-President for Welfare & Equality**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - 2 protests - Postgrad and Palestine
 - Trans Day Remembrance planning with Sava and Bród Soc
 - Shag week - sex toy bingo sold out, all other workshops and events still have tickets available
 - Sexual violence and harassment policy group work

Ruairi O'Boyle, **Convenor Of The College Of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Recorded video for study space
 - Contacted lecturers about assignment feedback
 - Class rep council

Joey Andrews, **Convenor Of The College Of Science And Engineering**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - School forums meeting
 - College Council

Chris Stewart, **Postgraduate Research Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - PGR reps + elections
 - Protest about PG conditions
 - GTA contracts

Fionn Sexton-Connolly, **Postgraduate Taught Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - PG protest - handed out roughly 450 leaflets
 - Meetings with about 40 students about assignments, conditions etc.
 - Wrote motion for tonight (later in comhairle)

Mary Tynan, **Disability Rights Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Working on new Disability Soc
 - Gave talk at workshop organized by university occupation therapists
 - National Disability Conference - attended online

Molly Hickey, **Environmental Awareness and Sustainability Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Climate Crew meetings
 - Attended Sinead Sheenan conference on planetary crisis in university
 - Cleanup in Ballybane

Sava Beekman, **Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Host 2 more T-Spaces since last comhairle
 - Attended PG protest
 - Going Pink Training!

Julia Collins, **International Students Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Attended Internationalisation committee meeting

- Working with Chris and Raimey on visas

Rachel Concannon, Societies Chairperson

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Galway Advertiser Socs column
 - Socs Forum
 - Sexual violence and harassment policy group workshop with Feminist Society

Comhairle votes to accept Officer Reports at 18:27

18:28 *General Updates*

Dean Kenny talks on SU Updates

- Cameron Rose has resigned as Business, Public Policy and Law Convenor - byelection in January
- Gaelseachtain running this week
- Shag week next week
- Pink training on this weekend
- 23rd Nov - Hygiene Donation Day
- If you are graduating in the next few weeks, remember to register for Seanad vote
- Thriftmas 13th December

18:32 *Ciara Meehan, Dean of Students*

- Talks about role - UMT, Student Success, Sports
- Instagram - @/universityofgalwaydos
- *Julia Collins, International Students Officer* - asks about international fees being raised
- *Meehan* - doesn't know answer
- *Rachel Concannon, Societies Chairperson* - questions Meehan on repeat fees
- *Meehan* - had a meeting with Dean about this, hoping for a reduction in fee and a report for end of next week
- *Ruairi O'Boyle, Convenor Of The College Of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies* - asks about continuous assessments, says students have been complaining about either a reduction (e.g 40% to 20%) or complete scrap about CAs when students find it more beneficial than 100% exam
- *Meehan* - will take it to Pól and teaching committee
- *Fionn Sexton-Connolly, Postgraduate Taught Officer* - asks about increased fees in LLB programme despite it not being an "official" postgrad programme
- *Chris Stewart, Postgraduate Research Officer* - asks about PHDs contracts and stipends
- *Meehan* - President, Meehan and graduate studies to have meeting
- *Saige, School of Botany* - asks about Hardship Fund - is there going to be more options for international students
- *Izzy Tiernan, Vice-President for Welfare and Equality* and *Faye Ní Dhomhnaill, Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge* give answers

18:50 Motion - Citizenship

- Fionn Sexton-Connolly explains motion
- Recognizes 7 year stamp, difficult to stay in country
- PGs finding it difficult to obtain more stamps
- Mandates Working Group
- International students to give perspectives
- Meeting 3 times a semester
- Make sure students stay in country
- *Tim Hensen, PGR School of Medicine Rep* - how to incorporate immigration law?
- *Chris Stewart, Postgraduate Research Officer* - Supports, always been visa issues here, comes from 7 year stamp and not being able to finish PHD, working group set to change issues based on stamp
- *Fiona O'Brien, 2BA Human Rights* - Supports, international students pay too much, not given enough info by authorities
- *Fionn Sexton-Connolly, Postgraduate Taught Officer* - answers Tim's question, body for international students to get represented
- **MOTION:** Passed and accepted

19:04 Motion - Student Visas

- Chris Stewart explains motion
- 7 year stamp not good enough, negatively impacts students (see citizenship motion points to basically describe this motion)
- Lobby USI and Government to scrap stamp
- Student denied visas
- *Izzy Tiernan, Vice-President for Welfare and Equality* - Requests 9A, same as last motion
- *Fionn Sexton-Connolly, Postgraduate Taught Officer* - Rejects 9A on basis of any international students attending comhairle wanting to talk about their experience in regards to visas
- 9A: **PASSES**
- *Chris Stewart, Postgraduate Research Officer* - free reign to exercise right to be here
- **MOTION:** Passed and accepted

19:18 Motion - Straitéis na Gaeilge

- Faye Ní Dhomhnaill explains motion
- Strategy for Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge, updated every 3 years, first one to be written around Faye's end of term (May/June 2024), work will be laid out
- *Joey Andrews, Convenor Of The College Of Science And Engineering* - asks about gendered language
- *Faye Ní Dhomhnaill, Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge* - corrects Irish term
- *Rachel Concannon, Societies Chairperson* - requests 9A, Chairperson denies
- *Faye Ní Dhomhnaill, Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge* - Coiste Gaeilge meeting in second semester, going to talk about strategy with them

- **MOTION:** Passes and accepted

19:23 *AOB*

Feedback on Assignments - Dean

- Do you receive feedback on assignments
- How often would you get feedback
- Would you get detailed feedback
- Is the feedback useful
- How would you like feedback to improve
- Do you think detailed feedback would be helpful
- How often should students receive feedback

Fionn Sexton-Connolly, **Postgraduate Taught Officer** - anyone who wants to join Citizenship Working Group, please email Fionn, Chris, Julia or Izzy

Faye Ní Dhomhnaill, **Leas-Uachtarán Don Ghaeilge** - USI campaign structure on Thursday

Anna Sheehy, **PGR Medicine Rep** - Parkrun starting, non profit organization run by volunteers, if anyone is interested in registering for next event (December 2nd) visit website (parkrun registration) to sign up

19:32 *End of Comhairle*