



Miontuairiscí (Minutes)
Comhairle Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn 29/1/2024
Time Begins: 18:03

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**; *Justin Kossel*, **Clubs' Captain**

- Dean Kenny, President requests to extend Comhairle by 20 minutes

REQUEST - ACCEPTED

18:13 *Officer Updates*

Dean Kenny, **Uachtarán**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - November - increased capacity and frequency for buses
 - Microwave in Aras Moyola
 - Lobbied about rent in Dunlin, voter registration
 - Mural under bridge
 - Wasted Week
 - Media appearances
 - RAG planning
 - Men's Mental Health campaign

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

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Conradh na Gaeilge attending Ard Fheis
 - Wrote motion for tonight
 - Caroline, University's Irish Officer
 - Seachtain na Gaeilge planning

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

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Media about accommodation

- Palestine USI protest
- Kink event in DNA
- Reinstate T-Fund
- Multi sensory room open in 2 weeks
- National Women's Council - sex work, self-defense - for women and enby folk

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

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Worked with the SU at the stand on Socs Day
 - Liaised with the Vice-Dean of CASSCS on issues

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

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Board Meeting
 - Student forum in maths

Chris Stewart, **Postgraduate Research Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - PGR
 - Working with USI for a coffee morning on February 8th

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

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Casework
 - UNESCO panel
 - UCC PGs meeting

Mary Tynan, **Disability Rights Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Disability Soc
 - University President and Dean of Students meeting
 - Sensory night

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

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - Wasted Week
 - Planning

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

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - T-Space
 - T-Fund

Vanessa Frimpong, **Ethnic Minorities Officer**

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - African Appreciation Week work

Julia Collins, International Students Officer

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - International Student orientation
 - Welfare Crew on Socs Day
 - Casework

Rachel Concannon, Societies Chairperson

- Report taken as read, highlights
 - RAG planning
 - Discipline training
 - Casework

Comhairle votes to accept Officer Reports at 18:24

18:28 *General Updates*

Dean Kenny talks on SU Updates

- RAG Week - still get involved (Shaveoff, Firewalk)
- Volunteers needed for events - contact Dean
- Tickets for big gig still available
- Opportunity to go to Ghent - Enlight - Wednesday latest to sign up
- Wasted Week - compost bins available
- Consent Week
- SU Elections - PT 7th March, FT 14th March
- SU Info session next Tuesday 6th February in AC201
- Voter Registration 20th February
- Refreshers Fair
- Take Me Out on Wednesday

18:40 *Niamh Tobin*

- Student Success Coaching presentation
- *Izzy Tiernan, Vice-President for Welfare* - who are the main cohort of students who go to these
 - *Tobin* - Boundaries, but across the board

18:50 *Doctor Richard Manton*

- Powerpoint on sustainability
- Explains sustainability within the university
- Highlights opportunities to get involved
- *Sage, School of Botany* - For buildings is there gonna be repairs about heat in the buildings?

- *Manton* - Buildings have plans, needs a legislative requirement, 51% decrease in greenhouse gasses, improving insulation, etc.
- Energy review at the end of the year
- *Chris Stewart, Postgraduate Research Officer* - Priority list for SDGs?
 - *Manton* - No priorities
 - SDG 1 not being met

19:05: *Caroline Loughnane, Secretary for Governance & Academic Affairs*

[Note: Not all questions asked to Ms Loughnane are noted for these minutes]

- HEA System performance framework 2023-28
- Consultation with students for
 - Performance Framework Matrix
 - Focus on progression, aim 92%
 - Spike in full rate
- 20% of student body to be international students by 2028
- Progression rate for underrepresented students
- Staff diversity campus wide (race and gender)
- *Izzy Tiernan, Vice-President for Welfare and Equality* - 20% international students - which cohort? Which ones pay the fees- not looking at third world, all rich students
 - *Loughnane* - Yes 20% - higher bracket, focused on finance, sorry about lack of third world countries in the university
- *Unknown* - Flexible learnings opportunities, not for internationals
 - *Loughnane* - predominantly domestic
- *Fionn Sexton-Connolly, Postgraduate Taught Officer* - passing rates, 12% high, CÉIM good, postgrads need a buddy system
 - *Loughnane* - PGT buddy system wouldn't work because its only a year
- *Chris Stewart, Postgraduate Research Officer* - emphasize any student living in poverty cannot reach, researchers metrics not recommended, biased don't match actual activities
 - *Loughnane* - agrees, bibliometrics anti humanities
- *Fiona O'Brien, 2nd Year BA Human Rights* - fees are huge, will there be change with how information goes (repeats in June)
 - *Loughnane* - fair point, trying to improve situation
- *Sage, School of Botany* - housing before students move in, no vets (scams), international students fault, grad students are not prepared for later interviews (GTA)
 - *Loughnane* - look into housing situation, trying to balance
- *Mary Tynan, Disability Rights Officer* - underrepresentation in physically disabled, PHD in Irish - no one with Akadva
 - *Loughnane* - Concerted efforts, supports haven't followed

19:30 *Motion - Climate Crew*

- Molly Hickey explains motion
- The Environmental Officer to manage, organize, and chair the Climate Crew meetings each academic year

- **MOTION:** Passed and accepted

19:37 *Motion - Lóistín*

- Faye Ní Dhomhnaill explains motion
- The Leas-Uachtarán don Gaeilge will be responsible to act as a representative for Scéim Cónaitheachtas to be developed for newly built student accommodation buildings in Galway, which will start with the new accommodation in Terryland
- **MOTION:** Passed and accepted

19:42 *Motion - March 8th Referenda*

- Izzy Tiernan explains motion
- For the union to support the March 8th referenda, standing to advocate Yes Yes
- *Fionn Sexton Connolly*, **Postgraduate Taught Officer** - For, based upon marriage, considered 'bastard' children if parents aren't married, very Catholic definition
- *Unknown* - Question on durable relationships
- Izzy - Bringing in the idea of carers, spouses who aren't married, etc.
- **MOTION:** Passed and accepted

19:50 *Motion - Sports Centre Operation*

- Faye Ní Dhomhnaill explains motion
- The SU President to create a working group to investigate the possibility of alternative management of The Sports Centre with a view of reducing costs for students and clubs. Members should include members of the Executive Committee, up to seven clubs captains or committee members, and seven members of SU Council
- *Izzy Tiernan*, **Vice President for Welfare and Equality** - Against, working with sports at the minute, Kingfisher is going up for tenor, to investigate alternative, we don't have any say on it and the working group wouldn't either
- *Dean Kenny*, **President** - For, it's a start, there's an appetite to take back, the working group would only operate for 24 weeks (term time), gives us lobbying
- *Izzy* - The word "lobby/ing" is not used
- *Unknown* - Can it be amended, student rep for tender? External use for week, amend to recommend?
- *Izzy Tiernan* requests a 9D, *Mary Tynan*, **Disability Rights Officer** speaks against a 9D
- **9D - REJECTED**
- *Joey Andrews*, **Convenor for Science and Engineering**, requests a 9A, *Rachel Concannon*, **Societies Chairperson**, speaks against a 9A
- **9A - PASSES**
- **MOTION:** Passed and accepted

19:23 *AOB*

Feedback on Assessments - Dean & **Irish Feedback** - Faye

- How are you assessed
- Do you think you have too many assessments
- Do you think you have too few assessments

- At what point in the semester do you have the most assessments
- How would you like to be assessed
- Have you heard of studentsurvey.ie
- Where did you hear about studentsurvey.ie
- Have you completed studentsurvey.ie
- Why did you complete it
- Why didn't you complete it
- Would you change studentsurvey.ie? If yes, what would you change
- Is your college taking part in the pilot reading week starting February 12th
- Do you think a reading week is beneficial
- Do you want a reading week
- Thoughts on reading week pilot
- It is easy to use Irish on campus, agree or disagree
- What did you think of Gaelseachtain in Semester 1
- What would you like to see in Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Have you ever used Caifé na Gaeilge
- Why do or don't you use Caifé na Gaeilge

20:14 *End of Comhairle*