

Date & Time: 02/08/2022 @ 6:30 pm (Started 6:38)

:Location: SU Office Boardroom/Zoom

Clár

- Officer Updates
- Partnership/Cooperation Agreement
- Equality Officer
- Suggestions/AOB

Attending: Sai (Uachtarán), Joe (VP Education), Anne Marie (Ethnic Minorities), Malena (Environment), Seanie (Gaeilge), Julia (International), Micaela (Disability Rights), Tom (Arts Convener), Barry (LU Gaeilge)

Apologies: Benjamin (Mature), Jack (Science/Engineering Convenor), Raimey (Postgrad Taught), Tahsin (Clubs Captain), Imogen (VP Equality)

Minutes prepared by: Seanie

- Officer Updates
 - Sai: Working on Partnership agreement, working on reducing repeat fees by 10% each year. Living wage for all SU commercial students. Halal foods, Increasing engagement for social media. In Dublin for free taxi scheme
 - Joe: Meeting conveners, Postgrad taught, will meet postgrad research, will get minutes to everyone tomorrow. Met with Julia about orientation for international postgrad orientation. Got on to college about mixer events for students. Padlet is up in group chat. Hoodie vote is in the padlet.
 - Seanie: University strategy for gaeilge comparing SU, plans to attend Oíche Ghaelach for Galway Pride next week.
 - Anne Marie: meeting with NCBI next week with Sai
 - Malena: keep social media going, polls on social media, beach clean-ups leaving bags at beach to clean up. Talking with people about rubbish clean-up
 - Michaela: Wonderful idea for beach cleanup, could do it at salt hill or other beaches. Had a meeting with previous Disability officer Niamh, talked about personal experiences with a particular school. Personal experience with sight loss, and couldn't pick modules in time, Niamh said going to campaign around this, feels it isn't acceptable. If anyone else feels other schools are doing the same would love to hear from them.
 - Sai: Completely agree with you
 - i. Joe: Happy to link in with that meeting as well
 - Julia: Hoping to get in contact with international office, currently on annual leave, getting a lot of messages from incoming Erasmus students about accommodation troubles

- Tom: Met with Joe. Setting up an online hub to help students with voicing problems, looked at slack, chose discord
- Partnership/Cooperation Agreement
 - Sai: An agreement which sets up what SU would like to get from the university and what the university would like to get us, some issues: getting funding back, getting reductions of 10% of 300 for repeat fees each year i.e. reduce fees by €30 each year, reading week, ring fencing funding for campaigns e.g. housing, university funding a full time officer, either gaeilge or new events manager vp.
 - i. Anne Marie: agrees with all the points, especially funding for campaigns,
 - ii. Malena: asks for clarification about referendum, will it be about re-allocation and not increase
 1. Sai: Can't have referendum about it unless the SU gets written confirmation about funding, current SU gets €40, if gets funding back will go down to €25.
 2. Malena: Would be a shame if everything goes back.
 3. Joe: We won't see the money this year, the exec next year would get it
 - Sai: Waiting on terms from university, what they want from discussions is more co-operation, e.g. having one mental health week instead 2 separate ones. Hopes to sign agreement in November, funding should get in Marc, for next year's SU
 - i. Anne Marie: Sounds a bit too good to be through, would be interesting to see what exactly terms are.
 - Michaela: All ideas are wonderful, idea that when a student is repeating on medical grounds repeat fees are waved, why aren't they getting an exemption from student levy. Forget to say earlier, there is a relaxation room, that space and maybe another could be made available for students with disabilities to have naps, doing the dots around campus for accessibility is a must, there should be 2 or 3 relaxation rooms around campus, students need naps to recover, and students could book time when they want to be there
 - i. Sai: Socsbox is planning to revive it, sleeping pods was something Sai mentioned last year to library, they are saying it should happen in 2025
 - ii. Michaela: could take one of spaces and get black out curtains. If they want to make it a 2025 thing fair enough, needs to have a get by thing. Every student should have access, Maynooth have it, university is lacking
 - iii. Sai: could have relaxation room this year, there is a massage room and another room for relaxation.
 - iv. Michaela: that's at least 2 rooms, that's good
 - v. Anne Marie: were working on funding last year for sensory room, anything to do with disabilities is hard to get funding.
 - vi. Sai: got a cubie in Áras uí chathail, and also outdoor garden which hasn't been done
 - Barry: what are we talking about, came in late sorry. Will give officer updates at A.O.B.
 - Seanie: Already blue dots around campus, so could be confusing.
 - i. Sai: colour suggested was purple by the university

- ii. Anne Marie: Person working in Shannon university, did up powerpoints that everyone could read with colours that everyone could read, might be good to check with here
- Equality Officer
 - Sai: Nothing decided, Proposal to streamline exec dating back to 2019 and has been brought over every year, currently 19 on exec will be 18 next year, biggest su in the country, position would be there to increase accountability and engagement. Proposed position would combing International, Mature, Disabilities, Ethnic Minorities, and LGBT+ officers into one position
 - i. Barry: Doesn't agree with it personally, students voted against it, only thing would be if it was full time, think it's great that we have all the equality officers increases diversity on the council and bringing in people from different backgrounds, the current situation allows people more representation. Thinks it's a good thing to have a great union, the way we have it now is working. Thinks it is good to have working groups.
 - ii. Sai: Agree with you, just bringing it forward for discussion
 - iii. Michaela: Wasn't aware of this policy, thinks it's a recipe for disaster, people from each background such as ethnic minority background and disabilities bring better voice to students, thinks that it being a full-time position would discourage people to run for it, also if it was one position would limit the diversity. Would be a big mistake to shove all of it in one role. Too much for one person to handle, wouldn't be able to find somebody that has personal experience in all the areas, would be 1 in a million. A lot of people run for these positions out of passion, whereas people would run for just to get paid. Feels its kind of upsetting to hear that it would be pushed into one position. Too big to bring into one position.
 - iv. Sai: Just was something that was brought up for discussion no plans currently
 - v. Malena: Agrees with Michaela, doesn't think that this would solve engagement because it decreases diversity. Other proposals to increase engagement would be to encourage officers to run events like a €20 on their student card. There is interest in students' union, better ways to increase engagement.
 - vi. Anne Marie: Wants to echo what everyone else is saying, our student population is very diverse, can it be guaranteed that one person would not have biases against certain groups, Feels that under current situation that voice is heard at meetings, but if it was person that the voices of those marginalised wouldn't get heard. If it goes to referendum voice wouldn't be heard.
 - vii. Sai: wasn't thinking it would go to a referendum, it was something that was brought up over the past 3 years and wanted to gauge opinion of this years exec.
- Suggestions/AOB
 - Michaela: Something came to mind, in San Francisco they give out free pregnancy tests, could be done here, something that's needed here

- i. Sai: Period products was something the Roisín (previous president of the SU) brought in last year, previously SU funded working on getting university to fund it.
 - ii. Joe: Saw pregnancy tests were in storeroom and already being done by SU.
- Barry: Officer update, going to send Seanie an email to organise a planning day. Meeting with people around the city to do with Gaeilge, met with Gaillimh le Gaeilge, working on citywide committee working on Gaeilge. A load of committee and bureaucratic things. Also working on Coiste Gaeilge, wants to make sure that people Gaeilge is for everyone, sub-committee for people with disabilities, and another one for international students who want to learn Gaeilge. Working with university on running events, wants everything to be 100% student led but would love funding from university. Will publish media plan, to get message out to students and communicating with students. If anyone has any questions, contact that. A couple of other universities have contacted Barry about getting a full-time officer in their universities.
 - i. Malena: look onto the names of animals in Irish and signposting that around the city. Suggestion: Have a brainstorming session on how to increase engagement.
 - ii. Michaela: Follow up on what Barry was saying, sister studied Irish in Maynooth, something that annoyed her was when she went to fleadh ceoil there were native speakers and people who learned Irish competing against each other, work on fleadh ceoil to be separated between native speakers and those who learned it. If you're a native speaker, it kind of feels like you don't deserve it as much or at least say that you're a native speaker. As well as getting Irish speakers into schools to teach. Asks about Irish accommodation.
 - iii. Barry: Had that conversation with someone else about the fleadh ceoil, perfect motion to bring forward to SU Council about what position to take on the Fleadh, working on Gaelchara, connecting people who want to learn Irish with those who can teach it, held interviews with people about Irish accommodation and ground floor of accommodation is fully accessible.
 - Anne Marie: Wants to work with Barry, Anne Marie is on the committee for both Gaelscoileanna in Athenry. Would also love media Training
 - i. Joe: Will put media training down for executive training.
 - ii. Barry: will in contact with Anne Marie about working with each other.
 - Sai: Talked with Chris everyone will have emails on Thursday.

Ended at 19:44